

Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

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C.W.U. Newsletter March 2020 No. 2

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www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

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April 3, 2020

April Forum

Making Health Care More Accessible

**Allison Espeseth
Managing Director of *Covering Wisconsin***

**9:00 am Gathering and Coffee
9:30 am Welcome and Announcements
10:00 - 11:30 am Worship Celebration**

Men are welcome

Christ Presbyterian, 944 E. Gorham Street

April Forum

On April 3, 2020, we will gather Christ Presbyterian, 944 E. Gorham St., Madison, for a program on ***Making Health Care More Affordable***, presented by Allison Espeseth, Managing Director of *Covering Wisconsin*.

This is certainly an area that will figure prominently in the year before us as we go through this election cycle. Join your CWU sisters for a refreshing spring gathering. Brothers also welcome.

March Celebration

On March 6, 2020, forty-two of us gathered at First Church of Christ, Scientist for our celebration of World Day of Prayer. Cathy Elwell welcomed us to First Church of Christ, Scientist, as we joined with churches all around the world to celebrate World Day of Prayer, the worship service prepared by World Day of Prayer Zimbabwe. Cathy pointed to objects on the organ that came from Zimbabwe, including the basket plate they will use to receive the World Day of Prayer offering.

Bill Kilgour, organist, gave us a brief history of First Church. They focus on prayers of affirmation. There are Christ, Scientist churches in 70 countries. Mary Baker Eddy was born in Boston, was a Congregational member, a Biblical scholar, and had a bad fall. She worked to understand the principles of how things work, prayer, science, health. The paper, Christian Science Monitor, appeared in 1893. The Christ Scientist Church came to Madison in 1895. They got their first building in 1927 on Wisconsin Avenue. They moved to their present building in 1990.

Their focus is on prayer and humanity. It's not a healing system, but a way of life, how prayer can work, how prayer can join us around the world.

Rise! Take your mat and walk! was the theme of this year's service. Tapes of women of Zimbabwe singing hymns featured *Jesu I dwala* (Jesus Is the Rock), *Jesu tawa pano* (Jesus We Are Here), Holy, Holy, *Aadaisai Chirevo* (Fill Your Promise), *Uyai mweya wakachena* (Come Now, O Holy Spirit), and *Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk*.

We began with a prayer of praise, with leaders and response. God of peace and freedom, we welcome you in our midst. We praise you for love, which surpasses all understanding. We praise you for who you are, now and forever. All: You are an amazing God. Leader: Creator God, we praise you for the natural resources we are called to care for, like the vegetation, minerals, big animals, waterfalls, and forests of Zimbabwe. All: You are a gracious God. Leader: Jesus, we praise you for the gift of respect, the dignity of human life, love for one another, and for the friendliness of Zimbabwe's hardworking people. All: You are the Bread of life. Leader: Holy Spirit, we praise you for enabling us to gather in worship in Zimbabwe and around the

world. All: You are the Spirit of truth who unifies us in prayer and action. Next came the prayer of confession. Leaders: Merciful God, we come before you as a nation, recognizing that we need a change. We have sinned against you and your sisters and brothers through our negligent words and actions. We have disobeyed you and done things that we should not have done. All: We confess our wrongdoings and ask you for courage to change. With your forgiveness, in your grace, hear our prayer. Leaders: We see women and children suffering in poverty, hunger, and violence. All: Grant us compassion to help those who are suffering. Leader: There is a lack of integrity in our lives. We fail to love and unite those who are divided for reasons of ethnicity language, or political views. All: Forgive us and heal our hearts and minds. Leader: Jesus asks: "Do you want to be made well?" All: We use so many excuses avoid charges. Have mercy on us and sustain our searching for healing and forgiveness. In your grace, listen to us. Leaders: Let us take a moment for personal silent prayers of confession. Leader: "Give thanks for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever. Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times." Ps. 106:1,3

Then it was our turn to reflect on our world. We were invited to list the problems we face in this country. Leaders wrote them on large tablets. Under CONTEXT, children who live in poverty; power or willpower; spiritual dormancy; we are still part of the problem, racial disparity; compassion and unity; no connection to rural WI; lack of healthcare; homelessness; hunger; mental health; addiction; patience; climate change; corporate power, finance vs. cooperation.

Under OBSTACLES, hopelessness, feeling powerless; attitudes—Me First; imbalance of resources; fear of "the other"; defunding government; unequal treatment of women; no concern for others; don't know neighbors; civics not taught; not reaching out to others; lack of respect for education; teaching to test; busy with our life; complacency; problems too big; law is unequal.

ACTIONS: Love Peace Reconciliation Spirituality in decision-making. Individually: Love your neighbor as yourself; vote with knowledge; get involved; be passionate about giving; volunteer in schools. In church congregation, partner with churches of different ethnicities. As a community, see fellow citizens, reach out to people different from us; talk to elected officials; vote every time; meet people in malls, libraries; help get ID's, drivers licenses; speak up for change. (Careful, words can hurt.)

Then we had small group discussions, put ideas on note cards, and passed them in. We closed with a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession, vowing From our corner of the world, we rise and walk. We are caretakers of God's creation. Help us learn to love one another. Give us wisdom and grace to be peacemakers. May we carry on the legacy of courageous women in our communities.

Ideas on the Note Cards

- *Individuals working together in volunteer organizations that combat hunger
- *Prayer—Action—Thought
- *thought and faith to get prayer to get action and get into local elections—action group in Madison is MOSES helping jailed people whine society again.
- *Volunteer in schools. Pray for our community with the conviction that nothings too hard. Love thy neighbor (Samaritan). We are all God's children. Treat everyone with love. Do things for your neighbor—express love.
- *Voting at every elections, not just at the (BIG ELECTION) (every 4 years)
- *Affirm to my county board members the importance of housing for men 18-25. Buy/serve meals to hungry youth. Help young people obtain drivers licenses.
- *Help build “community”. Know yourself—build on my power. Meditate—“live the moment” Learn to love loving kindness Practice gratitude.
- *If you see something, speak up. Engage yourself and speak for change. Be aware of others' feelings.
- *Individual—Support causes or efforts: money, volunteer in things we are passionate about. Church—Support justice issues and support community needs, i.e. food pantry. Community—talk to city leaders, politicians, to help make changes.
- *CWU-Madison is supporting The Road Home, Democracy Campaign. Keep doing this.
- *Being part of the community. Vote every time. Got to libraries and malls and meet people.

Churches of different ethnicities can partner on a one basis to address and discuss issues that needed resolutions, develop some and apply.

- *Actions—Individual: join Building Unity, local, specific acts.
- Congregation: educate the people, financial contribution.
- *Individual: Outreach to agencies that meet needs; Membership in those groups; Advocacy and donations; Volunteering. Church and international agencies: prayers, contributions, raise awareness of needs ex. UMCOR.
- *Food Pantry. Hawthorne School. Porchlight. Men's Shelter.
- *In church congregation—going out in the community, Holding neighborhood events in the church parking lot.
- *Speaking out when you recognize faulty reasoning. Join hands in prayer. Spirituality in our decision-making.
- *Addiction. See fellow citizens as in need of healing, not condemnation. Take action community groups.
- *Reaching out to people different than us.
- *Learning about refugees. Taking action to help or advocating for refugees.
- *Individually—Prayer, Faith, Discipline. Community—Action in local context. Church—People out of prison—help.
- *Let people in nursing homes know that they can reach out to those around them

MEC Directory

We are presently updating the MEC Directory. If you would like to help with calling, Out of 300+ churches and 300+ agencies, we have about 150 to reach. If you can help, call Ann Sowaske (608-203-5392).

Chinese Orphans Benefit Concert

The 14th Annual Chinese Orphans Benefit Concert is set for April 26, 2020 at 2:30 pm at First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin Avenue, Madison, WI. Have Flute, Will Travel will be a delightful afternoon of charming flute music from around the world: solos, duets, small ensembles, and a complete flute choir! Free admission. A free will offering will be taken for the more than 100 Chinese orphans the church sends to school each year.

CWU Madison Board Meeting

Bethany UMC, 3910 Mineral Point Road., Madison
March 27, 9:30 am (coffee/fellowship, 9 am)

Huge Spring Rummage Sale

April 4th, 8 am to 2 pm. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4100 Nakoma Road, Household Goods, Books/Games/Toys, Clothing all Ages. Donations from Pink Poodle, Orange Tree.

PLEASE NOTE:

The phone number and address has been CHANGED for

Church Women United and Madison Ecumenical Center of Madison

P.O. Box 44814

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53744

Phone - 608-347-4724

Email address: cwumadison@gmail.com

**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, 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 office rent, and the cost of producing and mailing the CWU newsletter, and miscellaneous supplies needed throughout the year.

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 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 & MEC
P.O. Box 44814
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53744
MEC 608-347-4724
Email address: cwumadison@gmail.com

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