



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C.W.U. Newsletter April, 2018 No. 9

May Friendship Day May 4, 2018

10:30 am Annual Meeting
11:30 am Lunch (catered)
12:15 pm

Mount Zion Baptist Church
2019 Fisher Street, Madison

May Friendship Day

For our May 4 Friendship Day celebration and luncheon, we will meet at Mount Zion Baptist Church, located at 2019 Fisher Street. The annual meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. The Steve-Nelson-made lunch costing \$8.00 will be at 11:30 and the celebration will be at 12:15.

To reserve your place at lunch, please send a check for \$8.00 to Marleen Lippert at 6329 Scandia Lane, McFarland, WI 53558, by April 29.

Menu is chicken salad croissant, Waldorf apple salad with cashews and bars. —Ann Sowaske, bsowaske@sbcglobal.net

Directions: From the east or west, take 12 & 18 to the Park street exit. Go north on Park Street to Buick and take a right at Buick (by the Walgreens). From the north, take a left at Buick. Turn right onto Fisher Street; turn right onto Dane Street at the end of Penn Park, turn right onto Baird Street. The church parking lot, which is at the back of the church, will be on your left.

Board and Planning Meeting

On Friday, May 11 (not May 18), the CWU Board, plus all other members who can come, will meet at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Rd. After a short board meeting, we will plan our programs for September 2018 to May 2019. If

you have ideas or wishes for the year's programs or activities, please come, or let another member know.

Coffee and snacks — 9:00 a.m.

Short Board meeting — 9:30

Planning meeting — Immediately after.

Bring a sack lunch, you may be hungry before we finish. Bring your hopes and ideas, it's your last chance!

—Shirley Robbins, Communicator - 233-3581 - [<robbnest@sbcglobal.net>](mailto:robbnest@sbcglobal.net)

The Playing Field

We gathered at Bethany UMC on Friday, April 6, to meet Abbi Kruse and learn about The Playing Field, an early learning center housed at Bethany UMC. Abbi received our Human Rights Award in January, and we were all excited to learn about the program and get a first-hand look at this exciting project. They take children from 6 months of age to six years. The first five years create the foundation from which a child will operate throughout a lifetime. An investment in early education benefits not only the individual child, but the community as a whole. Every dollar spent on early childhood education has been shown to reduce costs related to special education, mental health and incarcerations. At the Playing Field, we provide care and education to children experiencing homelessness right alongside those from far more advantaged homes. Our teachers are specially trained in mental health and early trauma. Through an approach called Conscious Discipline, we meet the basic needs of safety and connection for each child so they are ready to learn and build problem-solving skills.

All children deserve the best, and at The Playing Field, they commit to making the highest level of quality available to children from varied backgrounds. They seek to care for all children in our diverse community. They have very low child-to-teacher ratios, educated experienced teachers, focus on early attachments and brain development, engag-

ing interactions and environments. As part of this commitment, enrollment spaces are reserved for children based on three specific funding sources. One-third are funded by their parents, one-third are funded by Early Head Start, and one-third by scholarship and private funds.

This means that homeless children, poverty families, have access. And those who have jobs, places to live, but not the resources for childcare, and children whose parents can afford this service can all benefit from this diverse and supportive learning place. Why it's important. By the age of five, a child may have spent over 10,000 hours in a child care setting. During this time of rapid brain development, there is no room for anything less than high-quality early care and education.

They have a bus that provides transportation for homeless and low-income families, they welcome each child warmly, individually. They do not allow birthday treats so that no family or child will feel excluded because they can't reciprocate. They have improved accommodations by adding bathrooms, and a laundry. Children can get baths and clean clothes. Homeless children living in a car don't have that luxury.

The biggest barrier to learning is bad behavior. Some of the children have been so traumatized that they can't see or feel the good around them, so teachers give trauma-informed care. Next year they are converting one classroom to a trauma room to give a stressed child a safe place to work through their pain and experiences. A staff member is with the child, and over time the child will spend less time out of their regular classroom. One of the problems that Abbi experienced in other programs was that bad behavior could get a child expelled because of liability issues involving the other children, so those in most need could have no way to get the help they needed. The trauma room will have stages: soft toys, a rage station, concentrating on consequences, performing simple tasks. A trauma room keeps others safe, and it allows a child to make connections with staff.

This work has attracted the attention of Tonette Walker, who has visited twice, once with a delegate from Norway.

In addition to adding the trauma room, they want to improve the play ground, do repairs, and increase administrative structure. They have tripled in size since they began. They would like to expand to a second location, probably on the east side.

The Playing Field rents space from Bethany and is independent. It operates on weekdays from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. There are 15 on staff, 9 lay teachers and 4 assistant teachers plus the administrator. Mental health consultants are paid for by other agencies until a child is 3. Their teachers make about \$35,000 a year, which they would like to raise, and they give retention bonuses.

They have a family night with parents once a month or so, and discuss how you parent. Many parents are doing things the way they were parented, and not happy with the results. Sharing with each other, both other parents and the teachers, gives an opportunity for growth.

We got a tour of the classrooms, looking through doors, but getting into the four-year-old room while kids were on the playground. All rooms have a rich abundance of toys, art supplies, and teaching material. They use Amazon shipping boxes in creative ways (a pet-grooming station), and they teach children how to make their own toys from cardboard and other throwaways. And what we saw was a warm and supportive staff involved with their children. It was a great day to visit a great program.

Announcements

Bring your Least Coin offering to the May Celebration. And please bring it as a check. Many banks no longer have counting machines, and Marleen doesn't need that task, not to mention the weight of all those pennies. Also be aware of Nickels for National, contributions that go to CWU's national office. They have had to lay off staff, and need financial support from around the country.

Ecumenical Women's Choir

We will be practicing from 12:00 Noon- 1:30 P.M. in the third floor Choir Room at BETHANY Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI 53705, dates: 4/20/2018. Singing May 4, 2018.

Flute Concert

First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin AVE., Madison, is hosting the 12th Annual Chinese Orphans Benefit Concert, April 22, 2018, at 2:30 pm. Admission is free, with a free will offering opportunity that provides education for Chinese orphans. Come for an afternoon of lovely flute music and support a worthwhile cause.

The concert begins with a short piccolo solo from the balcony, followed by a newly composed antiph-

onal piece performed by the Chamber Ensemble of the Madison Flute Choir with sounds echoing around the sanctuary. Then, the entire Madison Flute Club of more than 20 flutists and its array of C-flutes, low flutes and its rare contrabass flute, plays a piece entitled “Umoja,” which appropriately means “unity” in Swahili.

Our guest flutist, Dr. Teresa Beaman will play several pieces, including catchy and interesting versions of American folk songs; a beautiful piece by Doppler accompanied by 6 Madison flutists; and some virtuoso themes from the opera Mignon with piano accompaniment. Dr. Beaman is the flute professor at California State University, Fresno. She is known internationally for performances in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Concert admission is free with an offering collected for the Chinese Orphans Project of First Baptist Church. The Project is currently sending 108 orphans in China’s rural Henan Province to school. Many were orphaned when their subsistence farmer parents died of HIV/AIDS contracted from giving blood in exchange for small sums of cash. Elderly and frail grandparents—often in poor health and without the ability to support even themselves—have become the sole supporters and caretakers of their orphaned grandchildren. They live in crushing poverty.

Twelve years ago flutist Linda Mintener organized a flute concert to raise funds for the orphans to go to school and to give them the opportunity to raise themselves out of poverty. The annual flute concerts have continued and provided educational funds for more than 200 of the orphans. Currently 108 orphaned children, ranging from kindergarten to college, are attending school with funds raised in last year’s concert and from individual sponsorships. Six orphans have graduated college and have professional jobs. Nine are now in college, and many more have graduated from high school. Most would not have had educational opportunities without the Chinese Orphans Project’s support.

Bethany Invitation

United Methodist Women invite you to the Spring Salad Luncheon, May 5 at 12 noon, Bethany United Methodist Church, Tickets are \$8, available at the door. Child care available from noon to 2 pm.

The entertainment is What Is Genealogy Anyway? George Findlen, a certified genealogist, author and speaker, will present an introduction to genealogy; answering what genealogy is. Learn how and why to do genealogy and where to find family records. He volunteers at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library where he helps visiting genealogists.

Donations requested for United Methodist Children’s Services—items needed: bar soap, facial tissue, feminine hygiene products, women’s and men’s razors and shaving cream, school supplies, toilet tissue, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. Thank you for your generosity.

Monthly Newsletter

We are now sending our monthly newsletter by e-mail. If you know of someone who would like to get the CWU Newsletter via e-mail, have them call the CWU office (608-663-8450) and leave their e-mail address. —Ruth Hein

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, insurance, bulk mail permit and the cost of producing and mailing the CWU newsletter, and miscellaneous supplies need 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 INC
725 GILMORE STREET
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53711



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