

Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

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C.W.U. Newsletter March 2019 No. 7

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www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

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April 5, 2019

Field Trip
Middleton Outreach
Ministries (MOM)

12:45 pm Meet at MOM

1:00 pm Middleton Outreach Ministries

Tour and Talk

Men are Welcome

Middleton Outreach Ministries
3502 Parmenter Street, Middleton

April Meeting, Tour of MOM

On April 5, 2019, at 12:45 pm, we will gather at Middleton Outreach Ministries, 3502 Parmenter Street, Middleton, for a tour of their facilities and a talk about what they offer, how they reach out, and what services they provide, from food pantry on up. This is an opportunity to see close-up what ministries such as this offer to the greater Madison community. And after this winter, a spring field trip sounds like just what we need.

March Celebration—World Day of Prayer

The ladies of Assumption Greek Orthodox greeted us with a bountiful array of delicious treats. As Helene Georgalan explained as she welcomed us, anything less than bountiful is unacceptable for Greek hostesses. Father Michael Vanderhoef also greeted us, with a special thank-you to the gentleman who opened the church that morning and discovered the elevator wasn't working. Thanks to his quick action, the elevator was fixed in time for our arrival, so our time of fellowship was especially joyful. And any leftover treats went to the River Food Pantry, so this bounty would bless even more people.

Come—Everything Is Ready was the theme of this year's World Day of Prayer Celebration, which was written by the WDP Committee of Slovenia. The women who wrote the program took the scripture, Luke 14:15-24, and turned it into a play, with 10 people taking part in the presentation. The morning included many songs sung by congregation and choir. *Come Along, the Feast is Ready* recapped the story of the scripture. *Celebration! Let's all go to the banquet* had the refrain *So celebrate and dance and sing, the Lord has called us all! Us all! So come along, the feast is starting now.*

What a perfect way to come together in harmony and prayer with each other and with the world.

The call to prayer will give those who could not attend a taste of the beauty and meaning that graces the World Day of Prayer.

God of history, for eleven centuries people in Slovenia have known you. As Christians, we have affirmed your love, so to you be the glory, honor, and praise. We praise you with the sound of waterfalls and of the waves of the sea,

for our fruitful vineyards and fields, green forests and snow-capped peaks. Jesus Christ, Son of God, whose word works wonders among us, you inspire us to loving action. We praise you in nature, in the villages and cities, in birds singing and will game calling, with the sound of the organ, accordion, guitars, and zither. O Holy Spirit, with your gifts you bring us together in unity despite our differences. We thank you for the relationships which you build in us and among us. In your hands we place the future of young people, the hopes of families, and the acceptance of our elders. Welcoming God, in your love you have prepared a table for all. You inspire us to open our hearts and our homes to offer a place to the ones who are not yet at the table. We praise and thank you and proclaim the Kingdom of love, the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Women's Voices told the stories of five women, and each story elicited a prayer. Merciful God, forgive us when we silence ourselves in face of injustices. Loving God, thank you for communities of care. Help us shape systems of equal sharing between women and men. Caring Creator, empower us to reach out to people of all generations and show gratitude to those who have gone before. God, open our hearts, make us more compassionate and understanding, and help those in need find treatment. Lord, have mercy on us. Soften our hearts toward those who are different from us. Thank you, God, for those who learned with Jesus to be respectful and open-minded and do not tire of embracing ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and asylum seekers, and enabling them to develop their self-esteem. Loving Father, stand beside us in our efforts.

A period of small group discussions gave all a chance to further explore the meaning of the scripture and experiences of others as they relate to our lives. We could all sing *Let Our Song Praise the Lord*. And we left the service feeling uplifted and embraced by our sisterhood and faith.

Announcements

May Friendship Day will take place May 3 at St. Stephens Lutheran, 5700 Pleasant Hill Rd., Monona, with the morning celebration followed by Lunch at 11:30. Cost of lunch, \$10. The meeting will be pure fun, so bring friends! Also bring your Fellowship of the Least Coin offering, both individually and your

church's collection, but do convert your coins to paper money for our treasurer's sake.

Fair Share Contributions

Our treasurer, Marleen Lippert, reported that the number of churches participating in Fair Share giving shrank to 13. Fair Share and individual donations supply our budget needs to pay for rent, newsletters, celebration materials, our website, directories. Right now we don't have money for the donations we usually give. Because we are sending most newsletters by email, people don't have the contribution form in hand, so it's easy to forget to download and print it out. We decided to have the forms available at our monthly meetings to make it easier for people to get one for their church.

State CWU Annual Meeting

This year it will be a retreat that takes place on September 7, at Holy Wisdom in Middleton. The theme, *God's Good Creation*, should be a perfect match for that location, and is a great opportunity for us to attend.

Social Action

Lynn McDonald announced that a mayoral debate will take place March 16 at the Goodman Center. MOSES is sponsoring this, with an emphasis on reducing incarceration, disparities, and racism. We will participate in sponsoring this.

Also, Lynn announced a Wisconsin Council of Churches speaker, Austin Channing Brown, on Saturday, March 9, 2019, at 9:30 am at First Baptist Church, 518 North Franklin Street, Madison. Austin Channing Brown is a leading young voice on issues of racial justice, faith and culture, and her new book, *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* is receiving wide acclaim. To purchase tickets, go to austinchanningbrowninmadison.eventbrite.com.

Dialogue on Racism is continuing at Grace Episcopal Church for two more sessions. They begin with lunch at 11:30 followed by small group discussions of racial issues. The next one is March 17. They run about two hours.

CWU Board Meeting Next board meeting is Friday morning, 9:30 am, March 22, 2019, at Bethany UMC, 3910 Mineral Point Road. Coffee and fellowship at 9 am.

CWU Planning Meeting Planning for the 2020 CWU program year will take place at Bethany on August 23. Planning is done for the remainder of 2019.

Flute Concert at First Baptist

Flutes in Flight, the 13th Annual Chinese Orphans Benefit Concert is set for March 31, 2019, 2:30 pm, at First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin Ave., Madison, WI. Free Admission. They will take a free-will offering in support of Chinese orphans. This year, the guest flutist is Marianne Gedigian, a fantastic flute performer and Flute Professor at the University of Texas. She will perform with Madison Flute Club and with her former students—Time Hagen, UW faculty; Dawn Lawler, Madison Symphony; and Gabriela Ruiz, formerly a Powell flute maker and now owner of a Madison flute repair shop. Marianne's solo performances have taken her around the world. She has performed with the Boston and Pittsburgh Symphonies and soloed numerous times with the Boston Pops. (Poster attached)

FLUTE CONCERT PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL FUNDS FOR CHINESE ORPHANS

Come join us for *Flutes in Flight*, an afternoon of lovely flute music, and help us send more than 100 impoverished Chinese orphans to school.

Thirteen years ago, flutist Linda Mintener first learned of the difficult life of a group of orphans in China's Henan Province and decided to organize a flute concert to raise funds for just two of those orphans to go to school and to give them the opportunity to break out of poverty. Twelve years later, 109 orphans ranging from kindergarten to college are currently in school with the help of funds raised in our annual concerts, and many more have finished school.

The original orphans were orphaned when their subsistence farmer parents died of HIV/AIDS contracted from giving blood in exchange for small sums of much needed cash. The HIV-infected equipment resulted in the AIDS death of 10,000 adults who left behind more than 2,000 orphans. As the children orphaned by AIDS finished school, we have supported children who were orphaned by other causes. Elderly and frail grandparents—often in poor health and without the ability to support even themselves—are raising the children. They have little or no cash income to pay for school or even the necessities of life. Our funds provide the children with money for school tuition, dorm fees, school books and supplies, adequate clothing, and a healthy diet. Most of the orphans graduate from high school. Seven have graduated from college and have professional jobs, and nine are currently in college. Most would not have had any educational opportunities without our annual concerts to fund our Chinese Orphans Project.

Concert admission is free with a free-will offering collected. You give whatever you wish, or you can even choose an orphan to sponsor. Our annual concerts of light and enjoyable classical tunes are well-known nationally by flutists. Many of the nation's best flute players have come at their own expense to help raise the funds for these orphans. This year, our guest flutist is Marianne Gedigian, a fantastic flute performer and Flute Professor at the University of Texas. She will perform with Madison Flute Club and with her former students—Tim Hagen, UW faculty; Dawn Lawler, Madison Symphony; and Gabriela Ruiz, formerly a Powell flute maker and now owner of a Madison flute repair shop. Marianne's solo performances have taken her around the world. She has performed with the Boston and Pittsburgh Symphonies and soloed numerous times with the Boston Pops.

If you are interested in contributing to our Chinese Orphan Project or in sponsoring a child, you can write a check to First Baptist Church and mail it to Linda Mintener, Chinese Orphans Project Coordinator, 3976 Plymouth Circle, Madison, WI 53705. Or, better yet, come to the concert and put it in the offering. You may give any amount that will go into the general funds to support the children. If you choose to sponsor a particular child, the amount to support a K- 9th grade child is \$250/year; for high school is \$500/year. For further information, contact Linda Mintener at LMintener@AOL.com or 608/231-1680.

13th ANNUAL CHINESE ORPHANS BENEFIT CONCERT

FREE ADMISSION

Flutes in Flight



March 31, 2019, 2:30 PM

First Baptist Church

518 N. Franklin Ave., Madison, WI

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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 INC
725 GILMORE STREET
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53711
MEC 608-663-8450**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED