



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C.W.U. Newsletter December, 2015 No. 5

Human Rights Day Celebration Saturday, January 9, 2016

*Experiencing Blessings
at the Table*

The Amazing Expandable Table

9:00 am Gathering and Coffee
9:30 am Welcome and Announcements
10:00 Celebration of Human Rights

Monona United Methodist Church
606 Nichols Road, Madison

Human Rights Day Celebration

Our Human Rights Day Celebration starts 2016 on the positive side. We will meet at Monona United Methodist Church, 606 Nichols Road, Madison, on Saturday morning, January 9, at 9 am. Our service of celebration will begin at 10 am.

The Church Women United theme for the year 2016 is *The Amazing Expandable Table*. Our celebration topic is *Experiencing Blessings at the Table*. Sharing around the table is fresh in our minds after the feasts of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Reaching out, welcoming others, and sharing with them gives a warm beginning to our purpose of promoting the human rights of all people. Come join in fellowship and dedication to our goal—human rights for all.

December—Christmas Tea Party

On Friday, December 4, at 9:30 am, we gathered at Memorial United Church of Christ, 5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, for our Christmas Tea in the Morning, a celebration of holiday customs and family celebrations. It surpassed our expectations as we shared stories, family traditions, and physical manifestations of

our celebrations. Creches, wreaths, advent calendars, carvings, toys, unique items from India, Africa, Japan, made a wonderful display. That special Christmas food you brought to share created a veritable groaning board of delicious treats. We expected we would have “quite enough for everyone to have a satisfying snack.” We had enough for everyone to have a veritable feast, with leftovers going home in exchange for donations to the book project.

Our request for stories about family traditions brought a surprise bonus. A gentleman from Memorial UCC, reading about this in his church newsletter, brought a story that he wanted to share, but needed an audience that could appreciate it. He has carried on his mother’s and grandmother’s tradition of baking a special holiday bread. Every year he makes pear bread, a labor of love involving making a sponge, overnight rising, addition of 14 cups of flour, and cans of pears, peaches, pineapple, dried fruit, nuts, and spices, including anise. He even brought a sample, though he finds most people don’t get excited about this treat. Family members do, and he shares with cousins, aunts, every year. Not a story to share with the hunt club or the bowling league, but women celebrating their own traditions was a perfect fit.

Ecumenical Choir

We meet at noon until 1:30 pm at Bethany Methodist Church, 3900 Mineral Point Road, Madison, 53705, in the 3rd floor Choir Room. We will sing at the Human Rights Celebration. Practice schedule: January 8, 2016; February 12, 26; March 11; April 8, 22.

Board Meeting

Friday morning, January 22, 9:30am, at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison 53705.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Take Joy!

I salute you! There is nothing I can give you which you have not, but there is much, that, while I cannot give, you can take.

No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. Take Heaven.

No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in the present instant. Take Peace.

The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it, yet, within our reach, is joy. Take Joy.

And so, at this Christmas time, I greet you, with the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away.

Fra Giovanni

A.D. 1513