



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C.W.U. Newsletter February, 2018 No. 7

World Day of Prayer ALL God's Creation is Very Good! March 2, 2018

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

**First Baptist Church
518 North Franklin Avenue, Madison**

All Are Welcome!

World Day of Prayer

On March 2, we will gather at First Baptist Church, 518 North Franklin Avenue, to celebrate World Day of Prayer. This year's celebration was prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname. Our theme, ALL God's Creation Is Very Good!, should lead to a joyful celebration of the good that is in this world and our unity with people all around the globe who join us in this worship service.

First Baptist is located just south of University Avenue and just west of where Campus Drive ends. The parking lot is behind the church off Shepard Terrace. Bring your friends and fellow church members. Remember, our invitation to all includes men.

February Forum

We had an excellent turnout of over 30 people for our Interfaith Day at Holy Wisdom Monastery. And if ever there was a more information-packed meeting deserving of a large attendance, this was it. Sylvia Adrian, an Oblate of Holy Wisdom for 10 years, welcomed us the monastery, told us about Holy Wisdom and its ecumenical community, and what it means to be an oblate. Thanks to Rhea Schultz of Westminster

Presbyterian Church, we had five speakers from five different faiths: Islam, Christian Science, Bahai, Zen Buddhism, and Unity Church. All speakers ran over their 15-minute allotment of time, so it was noon before we adjourned, and people were still asking questions to keep the meeting going.

Selcuk Altuntus, raised as a Muslim from birth, attends worship at any of the 3 mosques in Madison. He gave us a comprehensive look at Islam. Islam is a religion of peace, submission to God, relationship to God. The five pillars of Islam are profession of faith, prayer five times a day (am, noon, afternoon, evening, night, while facing Mecca. In Madison, that is facing northeast.), fasting (Ramadan), journey to Mecca, and giving to charity (give 1/40 or 2.5% of wealth). Articles of faith are belief in God, belief in angels (spiritual beings), belief in prophets (almost all of the prophets in the Bible). Their belief in divine books covers the Torah, the Psalms, the Gospel of Jesus, and the Gospel of Mohammed. The Qur'an is the literal word of God given to Mohammed by Gabriel over 23 years. It was completed 15 years after Mohammed's death. It has 114 chapters, 6666 verses. The 3rd caliphate commissioned its writing. The people of the book include Christians, Jews, Sabeans. Mohammed lived from 570-632 c.e. There are 4 schools of Islam, Hanafi (liberal), Shafi'i, Maliki, and Hanabali (conservative).

Our next speaker, Cathy Elwell, is a lifelong Christian Science member and is currently clear at 1st Church of Christ Scientist on Segoe Road in Madison. She told us of Christian Science. The principle of one God is central. Mary Baker Eddy, founder, had a strict Puritanical upbringing, was a lifelong Bible student, and developed a method of healing. In 1866, she was called to the bedside of a dying man, and the person was immediately healed. The doctor treating him was present and urged her to write a book on her method of healing. Initially she had lots of students and she thought churches would take it up. No. So she founded the Church of Christ Scientist in Boston in 1879. She wrote more books, Bible

lessons, and at age 87 began the Christian Science Monitor. At that time, the average age of women was 35 years.

Key to the Bible are the seven principles: mind, spirit, soul, principle, life, truth, and love. There is a scientific statement of being. We are to carry on with the healings of Jesus. Miracles are fulfillment of laws and principles. They do not have a monopoly on how God heals. They practice a short prayer daily. God governs all mankind. They accept the first chapter of Genesis. Christian Science believes God is love. Love is the power of healing. The Sermon on the Mount is important. There is one God, love your neighbor as yourself. Rely on principles of healing. There is no rule against medicine. It is a personal decision. And in answer to questions. Transgender is accepted, equality of all genders. And rituals include baptism and communion, but these are spiritual and do not involve wine or bread.

Our next speaker, Nancy Korn, became Bahai in 1977 while living in Alaska after first learning about Bahai Faith in 1966 in Michigan. She is involved with the Bahai Center on West Lakeside Street in Madison. The Bahai faith began in Persia in the mid 1800's. Its leader was exiled from Tehran to Baghdad, and 10 years later exiled to Constantinople. They believe in Allah, that mankind is one human family, that differences add to beauty, that there is one religion eternal, that the central goal of all mankind is peace, there is a divine power, that men and women are equal (like two wings of a bird), that there is a harmony of religion, science, and reason, that all are from one source. We should eliminate extremes of wealthy and poverty, there should be a universal language, earth is one country, and universal education to allow access to genius within us.

Their leader was beheaded in 1892, but he had written a plan for local, national, and international bodies. Local delegates elect national representatives, who every 5 years elect the Universal House of Justice which meets in Haifa. Bahai's are spread throughout the planet and are the 2nd largest religion. They are active in the UN. They practice equality, respect the status of women and children, have love for fellow members. They have children's classes promoting spiritual and moral growth for ages 11-14 to tap into their capacities, tap into desire to serve. The youth gathering in 2013 paid off in 2014 when they organized and rescued those affected by the disaster in Vanawatu. They have started many high schools that are open to all castes in India.

Rick Smith spoke to us of Zen Buddhism. He is a

practicing Zen Buddhist for 14 years and is the group leader at the Madison Zen Center. The religion began a thousand years ago in India and moved to China. It is a mystical school with a desire to understand how suffering arises in the mind and how to get rid of it. There is a lot of ritual, mostly time facing a wall on a cushion in silence. Awareness is the focus, universal consciousness, that all beings be free, awake, and love. Violence is a result of conditioning. Their idea is serve others, recognize when you can help. There are 5 zen buddhist groups in Madison. The word zen refers to meditation in India, China and Japan. On a mat you can let go, explore, face one's own death, let go of all these things. Rahaitsu, the 12th month, 8th day of the year begins one week of meditation. The answer, I don't know.

They welcome all beings to come to that space. The Zen Center has about 25 members who come together. After meditation they have a ceremony of aid, offer donations when disaster occurs, have a changing ceremony, plant seeds. They pray every day and chant twice a week. Do everything with full presence. Be aware of what this moment is. Be free of what holds, restricts us in a moment of quiet presence.

The Rev. Judy Pilat is pastor of Unity Church. Unity Church owes its existence to Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. In 1886, her husband, a real estate developer, had TB, and only a short time to live. He was urged to leave Kansas City. D. S. B. Weeks told him, You are a child of God and do not inherit sickness. Myrtle saw a different possibility to sickness—daily meditation on health and wholeness. Over two years, they got well. When asked, what is your secret, her answer, change your thinking. Her husband was studying how this could be and focused on metaphysics. Charles had chronic pain all his life, but with his own meditation his dreams shifted to creative solutions and possibilities, opening his mind to divine wholeness. In April 1889 he published Modern Thought, Society of Silent Help, which became Silent Unity. Focus was prayer ministry.

Five basic ideas. We have the power to do good. Our true nature—all are divine by nature, original blessing. Thoughts and meditation create our reality. Prayer and meditation are essential, and we must pray affirmatively. And we must live in truth. Practical Christianity is that Jesus is our way-shower, fully human, fully divine, and our example. The Bible is the history of a people's relationship with God. Baptism is a cleansing of mind. Unity

believers are Christmas Christians, the birth of Christ consciousness in us. God within us is more powerful, and every situation is a lesson or a blessing. Rituals include the Burning Bowl, when each person writes down a word or two on flash paper and lets it go in the flame. White stone ceremony is when you give yourself a new name and write a thought on stone. They write letters to God. They celebrate World Day of Prayer on September 9 or 10 and all over the world have a time of prayer. Daily they read from The Daily Word. They celebrate freedom.

This is only a sketch of what we learned and experienced at Holy Wisdom Monastery.

Announcements

Plymouth Church to Host Conversations with Immigrants and Dreamers

Come to hear stories, concerns, and hopes of our immigrant, refugee, and dreamer neighbors at Promised Land, A Conversation on Sunday afternoon on February 25th at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 2401 Atwood Avenue. Our time together begins at noon with a light lunch, and then we will hear from people in our community most directly impacted by the uncertainty of changing immigration policy. Conversation and brainstorming about what we as a community can do next will follow, with things wrapping up by 3:00 p.m. All are invited to participate. RSVPs (to lschenk@pcucc.org) not required, but helpful for planning.

Open Doors for Refugees

Gloria Carter announced that Open Doors for Refugees, partnering Jewish Social Services, has helped resettle four families since shortly before Christmas. We're glad to continue to receive the new families. It also means there is a need to continually replenish supplies. If you would like to help support these efforts, there are items that are currently needed. Items needed include drinking glasses (sets of 4 or 8), pillows (new), children's comforters for twin beds (to be used for bunk beds), and consumables: toothpaste, bar soap, men's and women's deodorant, razors, shaving cream. For more information, email OpenDoorsDonations@gmail.com.

CWU Board Meeting and Key Women Meeting

February 23, 2018

Bethany UMC, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison.

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, on the following dates: 2/9/2018; 2/23/2018; 3/9/2018; 3/23/2018; 4/20/2018; We will sing on March 2, 2018; April 6, 2018, and May 4, 2018. Please note all of these dates on your calendars.

Let me know if you have any questions. JENNY Armstrong, Director, Church Women United, Ecumenical Choir, 1114 University Bay Drive, Madison, WI 53705, Home Phone: (608) 233-1253; Cell Phone: (608) 238-8424.

Our Newsletter by Email

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.

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Name of church/organization or individual donor.

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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
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