



# Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

[www.churchwomenunited-madison.net](http://www.churchwomenunited-madison.net)

C.W.U. Newsletter January, 2017 No. 6

February 3, 2017

February Forum  
Triangle Ministry Today  
Meg Nielsen

9:00 am Gathering & Coffee  
9:30 am Welcome & Announcements  
10:00 am Program

First Baptist Church  
518 N. Franklin AVENUE, Madison 53705

## February Forum

On Friday, February 3rd, we will gather at First Baptist Church, 518 North Franklin AVENUE, for a program on Triangle Ministry Today. Our presenter is Meg Nielsen, outreach coordinator. Triangle Ministry aims to provide a holistic approach to the ministry of the special needs population living in the public housing buildings in Madison bounded by Park, Regent, and West Washington, which forms a triangle. It is an ecumenical ministry of compassionate presence to the residents of this community. The ministry consists of a chaplain, a parish nurse, and an office manager working in co-operation with two nurses provided by Meriter Hospital and two social workers provided by HUD through the Mental Health Center of Dane County, Inc. First Baptist Church is located 1/2 block south of University Avenue. Parking is located behind the church on Shepard Terrace. Two entrances, both with elevators, provide easy access to Fellowship Hall.

## January Human Rights Celebration

We began with a delicious brunch prepared by CWU members and Bethany UMC. Requests for recipes of

the dishes provided were numerous, and we thank the Bethany women for this excellent beginning to 2017. Sandy Brewer, president of the Methodist Women of Bethany, welcomed us. She pointed out several opportunities of mission and action taking place in Madison. Where's My Clothing Made? a program on labor trafficking. Miracle Garden Global Outreach, a response to children orphaned in India by the sunami. Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action, a four-session study of the book of that title edited by Pat Watkins. Four sessions started the week of January 8, meeting at different locations on different days and times. First UMC, Sundays, 1 pm, Wellspring UMC, Mondays, 1 pm, Bethany UMC, Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, and Asbury UMC, Fridays, 1 pm. Contact: Judy Loveless, 608-848-8243, [jcnmp@rit.edu](mailto:jcnmp@rit.edu)

Our topic this year—Kindling New Fires of Hope. As Church Women United, we understand that human rights are the liberties to which every woman being is entitled, regardless of class, race, ethnicity, gender, age, ability, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, place of birth, or citizenship. Expressed another way, human rights are those rights to which we are entitled precisely because we are human. Human rights are the basic standards without which we cannot live in freedom and dignity.

The use of the words “human rights” dates back to 1858 when Frederick Douglass protested the lynching of a Black man as a violation of a person's human rights. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a sermon delivered five days before he was assassinated on March 31, 1968, called for a human rights movement in the United States. He said “...Then there is the human rights revolution, with the freedom explosion that is taking place all over the world.” The call continues today for people of goodwill everywhere.

In December, 1941, just a few days after World War II was declared, Church Women United was formed and human rights have been on our agenda since then. We have been a part of the United Nations as a nongovernmental organization since its formation

as well. We've supported The Universal Declaration of Human Rights since the UN adopted it in 1948, even though the United States took a long time (1992) before it ratified this Declaration. Human rights have been front and center in CWU's witness and service. It must be noted that 2011 is the 22nd anniversary of Hillary Rodham Clinton's Human Rights Speech at the UN Conference/Forum on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995. Fifty-two members of Church Women United joined 40,000 women from all over the world in Beijing to hear very clearly in that global setting what Mrs. Clinton said to the whole world: "Women's rights are human rights, and human rights are women's rights."

With our history in mind, Church Women United began another celebration twelve years ago—Human Rights Celebration—to honor individuals who have made progress in the arena. This celebration has also helped all of us in the movement to become more aware of what human rights mean for all persons around the world so that we begin to make the connections and "link individual dignity with mutual destiny" for all people. We, in the name of Church Women United, expand the meaning of human rights so that we begin to care about health care, homelessness, mass incarceration, environmental pollution, political rights, civil rights, police brutality, and the list continues. A proverb from Nicaragua says, "Eyes that see do not grow old." Through the Human Rights Celebration, our eyes are opened to many challenges. Let us continue growing and kindling new fires of hope for human rights for all of God's people.

With this as our focus, we worshiped together, sang Send Down the Fire and Pass It On, the choir sang The Gift of Love and Let There Be Peace on Earth, and presented the CWU Human Rights Award to Steven Schooler, the retired executive director of Porchlight. He gave us a wonderful and thorough look at this vital ecumenical ministry. The next page gives you a comprehensive view of what he told the 35 plus attendees. Thank you, Steven Schooler, for your presentation and your service.

## CWU Board Meeting

The Madison CWU Board will meet Friday, January 27, at 9:30 am at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road. Coffee hot by 9:00, snacks ready. Shirley Robbins, Enabling Chair, emphasized that all are welcome to come, officers present or past, or future, or members who want to share ideas.

## Ecumenical Choir

Jenny Armstrong invites all interested singers who would like to sing with the choir to join us from noon to 1:30 pm at Bethany Methodist Church, 3900 Mineral Point Road, Madison, 53705, in the 3rd floor Choir Room. Practice schedule: January 13, 27; February 10, 24; March 10, 24.

## Human Rights Award Presented January 7, 2017



**Ann Sowaske presenting the Human Rights Award to Steve Schooler, long term executive director of Porchlight, who retired at the end of 2016.**