

Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

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C.W.U. Newsletter January 2020 No. 1

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www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

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February Forum

February 7, 2020

Malawi Orphans Project

Speaker, Tom Popp

- 9:00 am Gathering and Coffee**
- 9:30 am Welcome and Announcements**
- 10:00 am Program**

**Memorial United Church of Christ
5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg**



When the Diagnosis Is Racism

- *Feeling sorry about racism?*
- *Ever wonder what you can do about it?*

Come to **When the Diagnosis Is Racism** for frank discussion in a safe place.

Four sessions—attend as many as you can

January 19, 2020 March 1, 2020

February 9, 2020 March 22, 2020

A Sunday series in the Guild Hall

11:45 am–1:30 pm

Light lunch will be served

No fee—donations accepted

Develop strategies to move from *confession* to *transformation!*

For more information, contact:

Eileen Hocker at eileenchocker@yahoo.com

Tim Schell at tcschell@sbcglobal.net

Grace Episcopal Church

116 W. Washington Ave.

Madison, WI 53703

(608) 255-5147

gracechurchmadison.org



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February Forum

On February 7, 2020, we will gather at Memorial United Church of Christ, 5705 Lacy Road in Fitchburg for a program on the Malawi Orphans Project. Our presenter, Tom Popp, is eager to share the story of this endeavor with us. This should be a positive way to continue our calendar program year.

Human Rights Day

We met at Bethany on January 3 for the 2020 Human Rights Day, **2020 Vision for the Future *United to Serve***. Our opening prayer set the tone for our service. *Lord, Jesus Christ, you are the way of peace. Come into the brokenness of our lives and our land with your healing love. Help us to be willing to bow before you in true repentance, and to bow to one another in real forgiveness. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, melt our hard hearts and consume the pride and prejudice which separates us. Fill us, O Lord, with your perfect love, which casts out our fear, and bind us together in that unity which you share with the Father and Holy Spirit.*

The opening litany looked at tolerance vs. unbelief. One line, *True tolerance means treating with integrity, dignity and humility a person whose opinion I consider to be untrue and invalid.* Concluding this section with *Lord, help me to be tolerant and like people in spite of our differences.*

The 2020 vision for the future is for a world where all of us live at peace with each other. All of us together will praise God and serve one another.

The choir gave us three lovely pieces—On Justice, Truth, and Peace; Let There Be Peace On Earth; and The Gift of Love.

Marleen Lippert presented the National CWU Human Rights Award to Frank Davis for his leadership and service for human rights and justice. He became active in MOSES after serving an extended period in prison. MOSES is Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality, and Solidarity for Criminal Justice Reform.

MOSES works to end racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system; promote alternatives to incarceration; advocate for the human treatment of people in jail and prison with timely release and without the use of solitary confinement; and end crimeless revocation, mass incarceration, and mass supervision.

Frank gave us a strong message about the importance of tolerance and acceptance. He has lived through it. From his experience, he can testify to the horrors and inhumanity present in our world. As a youth, he lived in 13 locations and attended 9 different schools. He maintained an A average, and had a track scholarship, but he needed a mentor, and he didn't have one. He didn't know love. Where he found acceptance was in a gang. He dropped out of school and enjoyed belonging somewhere, until he ended up in prison for 20 some years. After he got out, he ended up back in prison because of a couple of technical missteps. Victimless crimes that put him back in for 60 months.

He says that God has humbled him. Human rights. What does that mean? How do we assess people? How do I change my life? How do I see me? How do others see me? Change life. Accept a person, how he comes into the room.

How to change the prison system. There's no support in prison. He didn't know of efforts to change while he was there. When he got out, he went to MOSES. See people differently, see the system differently. Work with the court system, work with those in prison. Reentry is important. Help is needed at every point. Thousands, ten thousands are affected. Prisoners, their families. MOSES is working on policies, reaching out to those pushing through the crack. How do we change, lifting up people, solitary confinement, rule violations, how get the message out. Come out to something better, need to be treated well while still in prison. Criminal social justice and human rights work gave him purpose as he joined MOSES for several years. Now he is working on getting people registered for the census.

Let people know where the money is going, based on the census. People incarcerated at Waupun get registered there, rather than where they came from. He's working with the Democratic party, the state, to get people registered, have all people recorded, engaging, having voices that are heard. He's going into schools. People who are going to work in the system need to understand the world before they can change it.

Supervision of parolees needs reform. Differences of treatment in women's prison versus men's. What can we learn. It needs to be relational, not transactional. What he went through made it possible for him to see, and change, and tr to change the system. On the whole, mentoring is missing. We need individual social workers. We need to correct the system. We need mentoring connections, to reach out to young people.

James Morgan, who served prison time with Frank, works with MUM as a peer support specialist, mentoring connections reaching out to young people. He was there to support Frank and thank him for all he has done and is doing. He thanked us for Frank's award from CWU. Church Women United proves the lie that we don't care about or connect with others who are different.

Board Meeting

January 31, 2020, 9:30 am,

Bethany UMC, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison.

Invitation from Tim Cordon

Dear Friends of Big Voter Turnouts,

Wisconsin has a very important role to play in the 2020 elections. We will likely be the deciding vote and how well we educate and activate voters will make the difference. We are creating a united plan that will help us find the synergy and shared efficiency needed to build a united non-partisan voting movement!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/445384536347066>

This First WI Voter Engagement Planning Meeting will occur on:

Friday, January 10th from 12:15 – 3 pm (CST) at

First Unitarian Society – Madison – 900 University Bay Drive – Madison, WI 53705
Bring a lunch or some snacks to share, if you want. We will provide snacks and light refreshments as well.

*** Call in option:

12:15 – 3 pm (CST) at

First Unitarian Society – Madison – 900 University Bay Drive – Madison, WI 53705
Bring a lunch or some snacks to share, if you want. We will provide snacks and light refreshments as well.

*** Call in option:

Call: (712) 775-7035

Access code: 507999#

Feel free to call if you have agenda suggestions, questions or concerns, or would like to carpool to the meeting. (608-630-3633). In Solidarity, Tim Cordon, Social Justice Coordinator, First Unitarian Society—Madison 608-630-3633

Healing Racism Workshops

Are you angry about racial inequality? Do you just **feel bad** about racism and seem to be stuck?

Madison's Grace Episcopal Church offers a series of 4 two-hour workshops where you can share your feelings and frustrations, and learn practical strategies to help yourself and your community. We will talk about how racism is learned and how it grows. Come share with others in a safe space, challenge yourself, and practice reactions to real-life incidents.

Using current books and articles, we will guide discussions to help you move from confession to transformation. We provide printed materials for future reading.

Workshops and a light lunch are free, but we gladly accept donations.

The first workshop is January 19 from 11:45 am to 1:30 pm, followed by 3 more workshops in February and March. We are located right on the Capitol Square, 116 West Washington Avenue.

See the Grace Episcopal website: gracechurchmadison.org under Outreach, and click on "When the Diagnosis Is Racism," or visit our Facebook page.

Call **255-5147** for more information.

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: _____

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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.

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