



# Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

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C.W.U. Newsletter March, 2017 No. 8

April Forum

April 7, 2017

Climate Change as a Moral  
Issue

**Ryan O'Connor, ecologist**

9:00 am Gathering and Coffee

9:30 am Welcome and Announcements

10:00 am Program

Community of Hope

7118 Old Sauk Road, Madison

## April Forum

Friday, April 7, at 9 am, we will gather at Community of Hope UCC, 7118 Old Sauk Road, for a program on Climate Change as a Moral Issue. Ryan O'Connor, ecologist and active member of his local church, will talk about how climate change impacts the poor and vulnerable at home and abroad, the scientific facts behind it, and what we can do about it. This fits beautifully with the national priorities of Church Women United-National which designates four priorities for all local chapters to give attention to. Current Priorities:

—Health

—Environmental Care: Promote personal, communal, and governmental decisions that express care for all God's creation.

—Peace with Justice

—Economic Justice

Community of Hope is a wonderful setting for this topic, located as it is on natural prairie. They share the building with Advent Lutheran, making up the Madison Christian Community.

Parking: When you turn into the driveway, go straight up the hill to the upper parking lot.

## World Day of Prayer

Some 40 people gathered in the Oakleaf Cafe at Oakwood University Woods for our World Day of Prayer service. Written by the women of the Philippines, *Am I Being Fair to You?* focused on the story of the harvest workers parable in Matthew 20:1-16. Music provided focus on the issues. Come to the circle and tell your story. Come sing and share the world inside you. Come to the circle; your friends are waiting to listen and share their stories, too.

Voices of Women Seeking Economic Justice gives perspective to the service. "You, God, have heard your people's cry for peace . . . God, you have heard your people's cry for protecting the earth . . . You have heard your people's cry for reconciliation . . . God, you have told us to help the poor and homeless . . . Lord, we have run out of simple excuses and now must face our own sinfulness. We are responsible for not acting on behalf of your people's cries. We need to respond to your call for justice. Forgive, O God, and set us free. Inspire and move us into action.

Meditating on *Am I being fair to you?*, who are the last and the least in our community? Would you invite them to the harvest? Where do you see God calling you, or this group, to actions of justice? How might you respond to God's call? Prayers of Intercession focused on people in need. I am a child. I need health care. God of Hope and Reconciliation, move us to care for our children, to alleviate their suffering. I am an Overseas Filipino Worker. I need just laws. God of Justice and Liberation, we dedicate ourselves to eradicating the causes of injustice that threaten human dignity. I am young. I need education. I want to be in school. God, our Teacher and Guide, ensure that all persons have the opportunity to develop their full potential and become all you created them to be. I am an indigenous person. I want to preserve the legacy of my people and the dignity bestowed on us by God, our Creator. God, our Creator, we dedicate ourselves to building a global community of love, justice, and service. I am

a farmer, I am a laborer. We want to know you more fully and fulfill your call to action, so that we may be agents of change. God of Love, Justice, and Service, help us to be the seeds of change and to be your instruments, to realize your Kin-dom of Shalom.

We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection promising to share our lives with our brothers and sisters, offer our hands to plant, nurture, and harvest seeds of hope. The Holy Spirit sends you to be instruments of fairness and joy. Use us to your will and glory. Amen

The song, Let Justice Roll Like a River, gave a fitting summary of our goals.

Setting the scene for the program, we began with treats related to the Philippines. We had Maja Blawd, a coconut cake that was more like really thick custard topped with light frosting and shaved coconut. Juices were exotic, mixes of orange juice, strawberries, and bananas, or orange juice with pineapple and mango. Table decorations came from the Philippines, mementos of missionary service there of Edith Davison. And the choir sang the songs provided, including the Phillipines Lord's Prayer, differing both in words and melody. "Oh God in heaven, grant to your children mercy and blessing, songs never ceasing, Grace to invite us, peace to unite us O God in heaven, author of love." That was the first of three verses.

We thank our guest accompanist, Lincoln Hartford, for joining the choir for this service.

## **Announcements**

**It's time to produce the new MEC Directory.** We have been producing this creation of the Madison Ecumenical Center for over 40 years. The Madison Area Religious and Human Resources Directory lists churches, synagogues and congregations; emergency community resources of food pantries, free meal sites, shelter, clothing; emergency numbers; alphabetical listing of human resources, advocacy groups and special ministries; alphabetical listing of clergy. Clergy visiting the Dane County Jail only get admitted if their name appears in this directory.

So what we have to do is call all churches, call all agencies, call all pastors to update and verify the information. Many callers make the work easier, so the more volunteers, the better. We have a stack of churches, so you can get calling sheets from Ann Sowaske and bring the finished ones to the next forum or celebration.

**May Friendship Day posters** are ready, and Ruth Hein is giving them out at meetings. MFD is the time we collect the Least Coin offering. This offering is

collected all over the world, and funds projects that help women and children all over that world. Interestingly, the director of Least Coin lives in the Philippines.

### **Fundraiser for Jail Ministry**

Sunday's Madison CWU fundraiser in support of the Jail Ministry at the Dane County jail drew 70 people to hear the Front Porch String Band, a group of eight ukulele instrumentalists and vocalists, seven women and one gentleman who played a bass ukulele. One lady also played kazoo. And yes, they did have people smiling, tapping their toes and singing. Donations went directly to help the Jail Ministry at the Dane County Jail celebrate its 50 years of service. Sheriff Mahoney and Police Chief Koval both attended, and jail ministry thanked Sherif Mahoney for the access and support they receive from the Sheriff's office. They run the jail.

### **CWU Board Meeting**

The Madison CWU Board will meet Friday, March 24, at 9:30 am at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road. Coffee hot by 9:00, snacks ready. 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, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison , 53705, in the 3rd floor Choir Room. Practice schedule: March 10, 24.