



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C.W.U. Newsletter March, 2018 No. 8

April Forum Playing Field Tour and Talk April 6, 2018

Abbi Kruse, Executive Director

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

Bethany United Methodist Church
3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison

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April Forum

On Friday morning, April 6, we will gather at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, for a program on The Playing Field, an early education program housed at Bethany Methodist Church. Abbi Kruse founded this program with the aim of minimizing the disparity that exists in Madison between white and minority children, based on her belief that all children deserve access to the highest quality of early care and education. They take children from 6 weeks to 6 years old.

In January, we presented the CWU Human Rights Award to Abbi for this endeavor begun in 2015. The Playing Field serves children experiencing homelessness right alongside those from far more advantaged families. The program intentionally addresses the barriers children from low income homes face in accessing high quality early education. A grant from Early Head Start funds children experiencing homelessness and provides transportation. The school raises scholarships so no low income family is asked to pay fees. It provides a safe, nurturing space for children.

So come to Bethany on April 6. Abbi Kruse, founder and director, will give us a close-up look at this exciting program. We will tour this facility and see what dedicated child care workers can achieve with church and community support.

World Day of Prayer

We met at First Baptist Church on March 2 for our World Day of Prayer service. Twenty five people attended, a group somewhat decimated by flu so pervasive this year. The American Baptist women treated us to a delicious breakfast buffet and a time of fellowship before we went upstairs to the sanctuary for the service. Twelve people, plus choir, presented the program. The theme: All God's creation is very good! Let's say it in the Sranan language. Repeat after me: A heri grontapu di Gado meki bun doro, doro!

The women of Suriname wrote our service, and they shared their stories. Alina, an indigenous woman; Muyinga, of African descent; Mei Ling, of Chinese descent; Carolina, of Creole descent; Shanti, of Indian descent; and Kartini, of Indonesian descent. After each story, we all responded God, we thank and praise you!

The bedrock of our service was Genesis 1: 1-31 and the repeated line, And God saw that it was good.

Our thanks to the women of Suriname who blessed us with this service.

CWU Board Meeting

The next CWU board meeting is March 23 at 9:30 am at Bethany.

Publicity Opportunity

Do you like to get the word out?

We are looking for a few good women to work on the publicity team to publicize the monthly CWU gatherings.

If interested contact:
Mary Malischke 608 238-8976
mmalischke@tds.net

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, dates: 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.

Lyons Lecture

First United Methodist Church of Madison presents the 2018 Lyons Lecture, Saturday, April 21, 2018. J. Kameron Carter will discuss Postracial Blues.

For many of us, theology helps us understand and talk about the world around us. But what if instead of better informing us, the only theological framework we know actually sets us up for a flawed understanding of race and the sacred?

J. Kameron Carter believes it does. In an era rife with racial strife, violence, and trauma, Carter suggests part of the problem lies in theology's complicity in racism and its limited racial imagination. His case begins with the separation of Christianity and Judaism and sends reverberations into our modern theological understandings of race. In a time when we can't afford to not listen, Carter offers us a new way to engage theology and race.

This year's lecture will be on Saturday, April 21. Doors open at 9 a.m. The first lecture begins at 10 a.m., followed by a lunch break, and the second lecture. This year, we are pleased to welcome back Working Class Catering at Goodman Community Center as our lunch provider. Their program to employ at-risk teens, and to provide meals using entirely compostable packaging, lines up well with the social justice and environmentally responsible mission of FUMC.

J. Kameron Carter is an Associate Professor of Theology and Black Church Studies at Duke University Divinity School. Dr. Carter's first book, *Race: A Theological Account*, is available now.

Monthly Newsletter

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.

FROM: _____
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
725 GILMORE STREET
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53711



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