



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C.W.U. Newsletter May, 2016 No. 10

CWU Planning Meeting May 27, 2016

Program Planning Meeting

9:00 am Gathering and Coffee
9:30 am Board Meeting
10:15 am Planning Meeting

Bethany United Methodist Church
3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison 537705

CWU Madison Board Meeting and Planning Meeting
On May 27 we will gather to plan our 2016-2017 Forum schedule. ALL CWU members are invited to help plan the programs and places for our forums. The Board meets and 9:30, with planning meeting beginning at 10:15. You are welcome to attend the board meeting as well.

May Friendship Day

We had a good turnout for May Friendship Day. Some 40 people came for the meeting and luncheon. Several people brought guests, including a pastor's wife from a church new to us. The lunch was particularly tasty. Thanks to our caterer, Steve Nelson, and thanks to the welcoming members of Plymouth UCC who greeted us.

Officers elected at the annual meeting are Ann Sowaske, President; Carolin Pounds Fletcher, Vice President; Barbara Eggleston, Secretary; Marleen Lipert, Treasurer; Ecumenical Development Co-Chairs, Ellie Metzloff and Crystal Betterley; Enabling Services, Shirley Robbins; Nominations Committee Chair, Shirley Alexander; Rita Honnold, Treasurer, Madison Ecumenical Center. Our immediate Past-President, Kate Dooley.

Our worship service theme, Finding Grace at the Table, was a lovely and meaningful conclusion to our program year. Included in this newsletter is a choreo-

poem written by Bettie J. Durrah, an active CWU member from Atlanta, Georgia. Listeners were so impressed that they requested we publish it in the newsletter. You will find it on the following pages.

The choir, led by Jenny Armstrong, led the music provided by the celebration packets, and added special music. Lift Thine Eyes, from Elijah by Mendelssohn, and program pieces not printed in the program.

Looking back at our program year, we celebrated our projects that reach out to help others. Our ARC Book project provided new books for each child and women in the ARC houses. These are living places for women released from prison and working on reentry into the community. We participated in the Book bag project of Slave Free Madison, connecting with Briarpatch to provide supplies for homeless children. The book bag contains personal items like shampoo, soap, sleeping bags, food. We gave \$100, which pays for bag and contents. Other individuals gave to this project also.

We are affiliated with the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice, Fellowship of the Least Coin, ARC Community Services, The Road Home, Coalition for Wisconsin Health, Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, and Wisconsin Democracy Campaigns.

One of the values of our forums and celebrations is the opportunity to gather at one of our sister churches and to learn more about the church and its vision of service. The Rev. Leslie Shank welcomed us and provided a thumbnail sketch of Plymouth's history.

Plymouth began meeting at First Congregational Church about 1903. Seeing the need for churches in the hinterlands, they established a chapel on Atwood Avenue, in 1904, and built a chapel at their present location for \$75. In 1916 they dedicated their new building, with 4 churches backing them. In 1961, the Congregational and Christian churches formed the United Church of Christ, and Plymouth became

Plymouth UCC. In 1968, there was a fire in the sanctuary. They rebuilt. In 2000-2001, they added the narthex and a lift. And they carried on the tradition of making new churches. Plymouth birthed Lake Edge UCC, which in turn birthed a church in McFarland.

The weekend of our celebration, Plymouth was participating in Gallery Week, and they had artwork of students of Lowell Elementary School displayed in the entryway, the narthex, the sanctuary. The prints were beautifully done, black and white designs so well done one would think professional artists had done them.

And they have a Personal Essentials Pantry, stocked with those items you can't buy with food stamps. The young people of the church are leading a drive for disposable diapers, complete with a drop-off locker outside the back door.

We look forward to visiting nine churches next year for our programs. Do come to the planning meeting to offer churches as well as ideas for our forums. And have a good summer before we meet again in September.