

Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

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C.W.U. Newsletter November 2019 No. 12

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www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

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December Forum

December 6, 2019

Christmas Memories

- 9:00am Refreshments and Fellowship**
- 9:30am Welcome and Announcements**
- 9:45am Sharing Our Memories of Christmas**

Men are Welcome

First Baptist Church

**518 North Franklin Avenue
Madison**

December Forum

We will gather at First Baptist Church, 518 North Franklin Avenue, on December 6 at 9 am for a time of sharing “Christmas Memories”. Our idea is share the rich treasures of Christmases past that we carry within us, from childhood memories to recent celebrations. In October, Martha Nack gave us glimpses of her mother, Mary Nack, a strong member of CWU. And we realized that our CWU members are treasure troves of experiences past and present, and that includes Christmas memories, traditions, worship.

So let us share these memories as we enter the Christmas season. We will remain seated around our fellowship tables and tell each other our favorite stories, richest memories, funniest episodes. After this intimate sharing, we will have some speakers who will address the whole group, as well as invite tables to select which shared memory they would like to share with all of us.

The ladies of First Baptist will provide refreshments, but you may choose to bring some special Christmas treat to share. There will be room on the serving table for your contribution.

The parking lot is at the back of the church. There are three doors. The one on the far right is handicapped accessible.

World Community Day

We had an excellent turnout for our World Community Day. Fifty-three people, 20 of them new, came to Mt. Zion for ***The Time Is Now! “Resolve to Love”*** celebration. And they had a great celebration indeed! The Rev. Marcus Allen welcomed us to Mt. Zion and encouraged our active participation, joined by the Rev. Margaret Irwin of Grace Episcopal. Leatha Stanley’s prelude started the music, followed by Miranda Kettlewell singing *This Is My Song*, and later Bea Hubbard singing *It Is Well*.

Our opening prayer for the world was composed by Rabbi Harold Kushner and was read line by line with congregational response of Amen. “Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations. . . It was a lovely and peaceful prayer.

Rabbi Bonnie Margulis introduced us to Faith Voices for Justice. Established eight years ago, “Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice draws on the wisdom, courage, and strength of our various faith traditions to advance the common good. United as progressive people of faith, we move people and government through education and advocacy to raise the dignity and address the needs of the hungry, poor, and marginalized, to care for the sick, and to lift up all voices. Who we are. We are congregations, social justice committees, clergy, religious leaders, people of faith.

We come from all over the state of Wisconsin and from many different faith traditions.”
“We join together to educate ourselves and our communities about the import issues facing our state and to advocate for policies and programs that address the root causes of poverty, hunger, homelessness, and economic injustice. We do this because our faith traditions teach us that it is incumbent upon each individual, and society as a whole, to see to the needs of all our people.” [From brochure]

For more information on how you can be a part of our mission, please contact Executive Director Rabbi Bonnie Margulis; wifaithvoices4justice@gmail.com

Immigration was our next focus. CWU’s national president, Patti Polk is excited that Wisconsin CWU proclaims that we of CWU Wisconsin advocate for women and children at the Mexican border.

Toni Rivera, Executive Director, Families and Schools Together (FAST) spoke next. She looked at immigration from a personal point of view. Her father immigrated from Puerto Rico when he was 17 because he wanted a better life for his family. They moved from New York to New Jersey to Philadelphia to Cleveland to Milwaukee to Madison. When she was 16, her father took her to Puerto Rico for a family visit. They went to his home, a 10x10 cement shack where 11 people lived, cooking outside and carrying water from a distant well.

Her husband is a Mexican immigrant, and he can’t go home again. Family separation is a big concern for her. She appreciates that women in church provide a safe place. They are nurturers, understanding mother/child bonds. Separating children from families at the border and putting them into a system that is already broken is so destructive. She is dedicated to making a difference in how we treat migrants.

Jane Henning of Grace Episcopal presented the CWU Community Leadership Award to Representative Shelia Stubbs, who gave our keynote address. Shelia’s education in political science, criminal justice administration, science and management have prepared her for participation in government and community service. She is a co-founder and ordained pastor of End Time Ministries Intl. As representative to the 77th Assembly district, she represents the west side of Madison, the west campus, and Shorewood. She has been in Madison since 1993, and lives on the south side. She is concerned for access to clean water, justice, and equality, and embraces our theme, **The Time is Now—Resolve to Love.**

Freedom is under attack. Galatians 5 talks about being steadfast and free. Freedom is not free. Freedom requires courage. We must rebuild character. Freedom is a choice, it must be earned. In 1619, the first slaves arrived in Virginia. 250 years!

Freedom requires self-examination. We must assume the responsibility of being free. Today is an unsettling time. Black people make up 14% of our population. Wisconsin is the worst state for racial disparity. Madison has added 100,000 people in the past 10 years. We can change something. Madison is a tale of two cities. We are powerful, resourceful. It is time now to choose. Think of Barack Obama's words. Change will not come if we wait. We are the change we seek.

We closed with a Muslim prayer for peace.

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful. Praise be to the Lord of the universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations, that we may know each other, not that we may despise each other. If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust in God, for the Lord is the one that heareth and knoweth all things. And the servants of God, Most Gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility, and when we address them, we say "PEACE."

Benediction

The peace of God be in your heart

The grace of God be in your words

The love of God be in your hands

The joy of God be in your soul

And in the song that your life sings

"One's philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one makes . . . and the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility." —Eleanor Roosevelt

Our thanks to Grace Episcopal and Mt. Zion for this meaningful celebration. We remembered Jacqueline Miller and Dr. Fannie Hinkley as we joined together for inspiration and insight.

Ecumenical Choir Rehearsal

We meet at Bethany UMC, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison 53705 from 12 noon to 1:30 pm on the following Fridays: Nov. 8, Nov. 22. Come join us.

—Jenny Armstrong, director

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.

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Marleen S. Lippert, Treasurer, CWU of Madison
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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
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