



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C.W.U. Newsletter November, 2015 No. 4

December Forum **Friday, December 4, 2015**

Christmas Tea in the Morning

9:30 am Tea Party and
International Christmas Customs

Memorial United Methodist Church
5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg

December—Christmas Tea Party

On Friday, December 4, at 9:30 am, we will gather at Memorial United Methodist Church, 5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, for Christmas Tea in the Morning, a celebration of holiday customs and family celebrations as we share how we celebrate and observe Christmas in our families and churches. As you can see, the program depends on us. We will share stories, family traditions, and physical manifestations of our own. Bring crèches, wreaths, advent calendars, carvings, toys, unique items that warm your homes and hearts during this season. Special Christmas food is an important part of the holidays, so please bring some special Christmas food to share. You don't have to bring enough to serve everyone there, but putting our offerings of food together should be quite enough for everyone to have a satisfying snack.

November Celebration

We celebrated World Community Day at Dale Heights Presbyterian Church with a worship service on the theme of "Our Journey Together."

Beginning with a time of fellowship with delightful treats provided by Dale Heights. Kate Dooley welcomed us with a brief look at their church. The congregation is small, but dedicated. They share their building with a Korean congregation. They reach out

to their community, and recently installed a terraced area with a peace pole and benches to welcome passersby or visitors to rest and meditate.

The worship service began with this invocation. "Oh God, our helper, our strength and our redeemer, we your people are gathered to worship You in Spirit and in Truth. You created all of us, yet we are different. We were all created in your image, yet we are different. Thank you for our differences. Thank you for bringing us together despite our differences. Thank you for allowing us to give praise and honor to you in our differences. Bless our worship time together and allow this time to be the beginning of anymore worships experiences together. In the Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen!"

Our speaker, Ellie Jarvie, is a Consumer Engagement Coordinator for people with physical disabilities. She works for the Bureau of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. She proved to be the perfect one to discuss differences as life changing and life affirming. Tourette's Syndrome made her well acquainted with differences. For her, being in community needed to happen. She grew up in a small connected Presbyterian church that accepted her as she was. She saw the importance of accepting others, handling one's own biases, seeing that everyone can be vibrant members of community. She is thankful her church met the challenge, provided her with that community, and offered community to those with other differences as well.

As she attended school and explored choices, she became dedicated to dealing with problems of exclusion, stigma, oppression. Experiences at places such as Luther N Street Village in Washington, D.C., which provides day care for the homeless, wellness support, convinced her that we are more connected than disparate. In her state job, she works with con-

sumers of services to find the help they need. There are eleven peer-run organizations that provide help for people with mental problems. People can stay for a few days, get support, and go back to their lives. A Peer-run Respite Center is opening in Wisconsin. Ellie works for the state, but she knows that she is doing the work of God.

Orange Day: Unite to End Violence Against Women

Launched by the United Nations, this multi-year campaign by the United Nations is aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls world-wide. One in three women and girls experience violence in their lifetime. More than half of sexual assaults are against girls under age 16. Education is a tool that goes beyond teaching girls and boys to read and write. It can help them challenge gender stereotypes and discrimination, and prevent violence against girls and women.

The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, has proclaimed the 25th of every month to be ORANGE DAY, a day to take action to raise awareness and prevent violence against women and girls. We can all do that by wearing something orange on the 25th and telling our friends and co-workers about why we are wearing orange. CWU will have orange ribbons at the next forum. Find additional information at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-can-do/ending-violence-againstwomen/takeaction#sthash.HQOqCR3G.dpuf>

Adopt A Mad-CityPak Program

SlaveFree Madison, a community action group that builds awareness of human trafficking in Dane County, is teaming up with Briar Patch, a Madison crisis intervention agency for teens. We are launching the I Adopt a Mad-CityPak program. Other groups can help to purchase sturdy and large backpacks and fill them. The Briar Patch outreach workers will give them to the many homeless teens who are on the streets in Madison year-round. Briar Patch estimates that on any given night 300 homeless youth are on the streets. Sadly, 74% of homeless youth do not know of safe and legal housing.

The Mad-CityPak program will provides homeless teens with a backpack filled with supplies needed to live on the streets of Madison. This helps to decrease

the risk that these vulnerable teens will succumb to human trafficking in order to survive. "Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. Traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to control other people for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex or forcing them to provide labor services against their will." (Polaris Project) To see the realities of this problem in Madison, go to Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPoDCoZLF-s>

Perhaps your church, women's group or your community group could help.

1. You can buy a backpack from a place that sells sturdy and large ones. The best backpacks that Briar Patch has found are CityPaksR (<http://www.citypak.org>). Provide \$150 or more for a backpack and all of the supplies and bring it to the next CWU Forum.
2. Provide money for the backpacks and supplies and SlaveFree Madison will buy the supplies and fill the backpacks. Checks may be made to Church Women United or to SlaveFree Madison, putting backpacks in the memo line.

A list of what can go in the backpacks is on the following page. If you have questions, you may contact Brenda Boehm at boehmbl@gmail.com or call 608-520-2226.

Thank you for being willing to help with this project. *[Note: our CWU board sent a check to Slave-Free Madison for \$150.]*

Fair Trade Holiday Festival

Madison's 19th Annual Fair Trade Holiday Festival, featuring hundreds of Fair Trade gifts from around the world, is set for December 5, 2015, from 9:00am -4:00pm at Monona Terrace. FairTradeMadison.Org is joined by Wort 80.99 and Just Coffee Co-op in bringing this event to you in time for Christmas shopping.

Ecumenical Choir

We meet at noon until 1:30 pm at Bethany Methodist Church, 3900 Mineral Point Road, Madison , 53705, in the 3rd floor Choir Room. We will plan to sing for the programs in November and December. Practice schedule: November 20; December 11; January 8, 2016; February 12, 26; March 11; April 8, 22.

Board Meeting

Friday morning, November 20, 9:30am, at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison 53705.

Key Women Meeting

Friday morning, November 20, 11am, at Bethany.