



# Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

[www.churchwomenunited-madison.net](http://www.churchwomenunited-madison.net)

C.W.U. Newsletter October, 2016 No. 3

November Celebration

November 4, 2016

## World Community Day Sharing Gifts at the Table

9:00 am Gathering and Coffee

9:30 am Welcome and Announcements

10:00 am Worship Celebration

Orchard Ridge UCC

1501 Gilbert Road, Madison

### World Community Day

On November 4, we will gather at Orchard Ridge UCC, 1501 Gilbert Road, Madison, to celebrate World Community Day. Our theme this year is Sharing Gifts at the Table. World Community Day began in 1943 from discussions at a meeting of denominational presidents and executive secretaries asking that a day be set aside in the fall for the study of peace by church women. Although many denominations were printing their own studies on the new world order, it was determined at this meeting that their unity would be strengthened on one day of united study.

WCE continues to emphasize peace, but has been broadened to include justice, a vital partner of peace. The once clear categories of domestic and foreign were consciously blurred so the global scope of the wide range of problems could be emphasized on World Community Day.

The 2016 CWU celebration theme is Gathered at God's Table. WCD will focus on sharing gifts at the table. Although we come with different cultures, family traditions, religious practices, and are of different ages, those differences provide gifts that we can share with one another. Let us honor and rejoice in those differences, and may they unite us in new ways.

### October Form

Nearly 30 people gathered at Christ Presbyterian Church for our forum on Jail Ministry, Human Trafficking, and the Intersection of the Two. Julia Weaver, Women's Chaplain at the Dane County Jail, led an excellent and stimulating discussion on the plight of women, human trafficking, and the mores and social changes of our modern day life.

Julia has been at the jail for 15 years. Her concerns have focussed on incarcerated women and human trafficking. She has started projects to help women deal with their situation and their future. The Backyard Mosaic Women's Project allows women to share spiritual and creative activities. They are collaborating with Madison Area Lutheran Council's Jail Ministry in a new project that includes a large mosaic installation at St. John's Lutheran Church and the exciting donation of a floor loom for weaving. Check out these web sites for more information.  
[www.thejweaver.com](http://www.thejweaver.com) <<http://www.thejweaver.com/>>  
[www.backyardmosaicwomensproject.org](http://www.backyardmosaicwomensproject.org) <<http://www.backyardmosaicwomensproject.org/>>  
[www.madisonjailministry.org](http://www.madisonjailministry.org) <<http://www.madisonjailministry.org/>>

What is human trafficking? It means a person is taken somewhere, and when they get there, it's not where they want to be, and they can't leave. It's not just sex. It also involves labor. And it's not just strangers. Mothers will do this with kids for payments when they are struggling with poverty. Lack of a living wage presents horrible choices. Julia was shocked when she learned that the largest event for human trafficking is the Super Bowl. Women and children are trucked in for men to have sex while there. Women from poor countries are on a webinar. But a majority are in middle class families in the US. Women are being trafficked at home. They dance at Visions, become escorts. They are paying the rent. Why work at McDonald's when they can make \$600 a crack this way. Something happened to you to

make that choice: birth, accidents, for money, or forced. It's often a combination. Briarpatch provides anytime people that are available for those in trouble. And these women are not usually arrested for prostitution, but for drugs.

So with trafficking, you can choose or be tricked. The women in jail are often victims of incest, rape, domestic violence. They made the choice to survive. One woman in jail is a drug dealer with a 12-year-old daughter.

Sweden is working on prosecuting men. Fond du Lac is working to be prostitution-free. One attendee reported that her daughter had told her she knows women in college who were supporting themselves this way. There are young men with 5 girlfriends.

This led to a lively discussion. What culture is raising sons who would do this? What kind of American man would do that at the Super Bowl? Who are these men? What's wrong with us? Don't do sexual sin, for you will be held accountable. Glamorous women are a standard, and the sense of morality is lost. Years ago men wanted women to be pure. Now that doesn't matter. Prostitution is as old as time. But the attitude of American men is disgusting. Misogynist practices were the subject of a speaker on eco-feminist theology who ranked those with a sense of privilege as white men, men, white women, women. Much to think about, including that our culture's relationship with money is that money determines worth.

There are positive things going on. Fond du Lac is arresting the johns with a six-week program which includes putting names in the newspaper. Truckers have a network where they take down license numbers of trafficking at truck stops and put them on a hot line.

Catholic sisters on a website are asking for a Nordic model to handle this problem Sweden in 1999 criminalize the men engaged in prostitution and reduced the charges on women. There is a push to promote the equality of men and women.

Julia works with women about trauma. She conducts community conversations, hearing from people in the field. The gift of the jail ministry is a consistent presence. Women can find her in the community when they walk out the door of the jail. She is now an abolitionist against slavery of any kind. She conducted a Bible study for a year of understanding women in scripture. She brought watercolors of the women as drawn and painted by the women of the jail. They

looked at Tamar, Hagar, and others. Women were not treated fairly. They were subject to fathers, husbands, sons, needing one of those to support her. And they used sex to do it.

Julia is accessible through sites, blogs, Facebook pages. She loves to see progress of these women. Kara has degrees from UW and while in jail she worked no website design for the jail project. Julia hopes to hire her when she is off probation. Janine, a Latina, is now working at MUM. The women say "Chaplain Julia provide us a safe place to be." Janine an African-American woman, is now doing well at Calvary Gospel. "I'm done, cold turkey, thanks to resource group.

Women need support, but even more they need prayer. Please pray. Pray by name. Think about jail ministry trying to help people.

The Mosaic Project is a place for women to be sober, chance to be normal, experience healing. When you work with you hands, something happens. Doing things are empowering.

A core value of the Dane Count Jail is to serve and protect. The ministry is part of this.

How can you support the Madison Area Jail Ministry? There are fundraising activities, shows, benefits. St. John's has sales of handwork at \$25 or more, and you can pick things out. Lakeside Coffee House has a benefit, music and mosaics, coming up on November 5.

The key concern is how can women move through trauma. Their needs are more trauma-based. They need to take care of this. We have mental health care in the jail, but it is not a safe place to do therapy. Where in society can they go? To schools, parents, churches. We need to sit down, talk to sons, husbands. Children are introduced to sexuality incorrectly. They're taught men are not at fault. Men have responsibility here. One attendee is taking an MATC class on young children. Teach children, be safe, be respectful of other people, be respectful of the environment.

Slave-Free Madison is working to end the demand, but it is vey slow.

A reminder, prostitution and trafficking are not the same. Trafficking is slavery. There is is more slavery in the world today than ever before in history. And trafficking is not just sex. Labor is another huge area.

And for women escorts, it's difficult to do on their own. All this language. "Boyfriends" have more than one baby mother. The entertainment industry thinks it's all right to bring in women, Exploring sexuality, Puritan things sideways. Mothers and sons, mothers and daughters, college dorms with coed floors. A danger? The idea was so that men could see women as people. And culture changes. Daughters report that being nice is taken as consent to sex. It's a different world.

We thank the ladies of Christ Presbyterian for a gracious and delicious welcome to their refurbished gathering space. Pastor Dale Chapin welcomed us and told us they are learning to live into the building, which is designed to be an inviting and welcoming space to families and friends. They support and care for each other. Multigenerational, they have new young families joining them. They are an old church, starting on the square and building on Gorham Street in the 60s. They added to the building in the 80s. Now their new space expresses their character and purpose.

He told us about their mission projects in Africa, supporting children by building schools and digging wells where water before required a 5-mile walk. An engineer at UW-Madison, who is a church member, came up with a design for a solar lamp for a village with no electricity or generators that was using kerosene lamps. Now children study at night without harmful fumes, and school performance there zoomed. World Vision has picked up on this project. Lamps cost \$11, which Christ Presbyterian subsidizes.

Ann Sowaske told about the ARC book project, and the collection basket available for donations. Women fresh out of prison go to the two ARC houses as they reenter society. These are women with children, and the book project allows them to select a book they would like for their children. Audrey Hinger oversees purchase of the books.

Fellowship of the Least Coin was another opportunity to contribute to a good cause. Begun by a woman in India, it takes the least coin offerings to help women around the world make a difference in their lives. In 2015, this funded \$423,000 in grants to women in Africa, Europe, Caribbean, South America, the USA. Give your least coin and say a prayer as you give.

## **Ecumenical Action**

Celebrate the founding of the United Nations on October 23, 2016, at Monona Terrace, 11:45- 2:30 a.m. p.m. with a silent auction, luncheon and speaker. This begins the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent. The keynote speaker, Judge Everett Mitchell, recently elected to the Dane County Circuit Court, will address, Madison: A Tale of Two Cities: Our Humanity, Shared Responsibility. Judge Mitchell is also the pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church. As a religious leader, lawyer, and judge, he has worked in the community with a focus on restorative justice and reducing linguistic. Reservations for the luncheon (\$40) are due by October 16 to UNA Dane County, PO Box 5155, Madison, WI 53705, or can be made online at [www.unamadison.org](http://www.unamadison.org). Be sure to add your entree choice of Roast Turkey or Vegetarian. Questions: Contact Susan Becker at 608-231-1817 or email [sbecker4@tds.net](mailto:sbecker4@tds.net).

## **Westminster Presbyterian Invitation**

Dear Friends

In an effort to continue to put prayer, energy and action into deconstructing racism, Westminster Presbyterian is hosting a follow-up time of conversation and tea on October 23 from 3 to 5 pm here in the Narthex. The discussion will focus on 3 things: actions we have taken, ideas for being an ally and other ideas for action and further education including an overview of NYU Professor Frank Roberts' Black Lives Matter Fall Syllabus 2016 (<http://www.blacklivesmattersyllabus.com/fall2016>).

All are invited—I hope you will consider continuing the conversation and inviting others to join in. Also, as a special feature, Westminster is co-hosting a potluck dinner with Madinah Academy of Madison (the Islamic school with which we share our building) and the neighboring community from 5 to 6:30 pm. If you are able, please stay as our guest for what has become a favorite event here at Westminster.

Grace and Peace, Jess

The Rev. Jessica C. Scholten. Interim Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4100 Nakoma Road, Madison WI 53711, 608-238-3122

## **Also from Westminster Presbyterian Huge Rummage Sale**

Saturday, October 22, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wide selection, including items donated by businesses. Household, sporting, books, clothing, furniture, baby equipment. Coffee shop with 25 cent coffee, baked goodies.

## **Open Doors For Refugees: Helping Refugees Make a Home in the Madison Area**

Over the next year, about 130 refugees from several different countries will come to Madison. Open Doors for Refugees is a group of people who want to welcome them to Madison, ease their transition, and help them make a home here. Open Doors works with Lutheran Social Services and Jewish Social Services (the two refugee placement organizations in Madison). They serve refugees of all faiths and countries of origin.

We in Church Women United can support these efforts. Open Door Teams are forming to find housing, gather furniture and household items, set up apartments, provide transportation, translate, teach English, teach refugees about our culture, and help them find a job. Other teams will conduct public events to raise community awareness and funding, and train volunteers. You can help! If you're interested in volunteering, see the Volunteer Interest Survey included in this newsletter. You can also contact Open Doors by email: [OpenDoorsForRefugees@gmail.com](mailto:OpenDoorsForRefugees@gmail.com) <<mailto:OpenDoorsForRefugees@gmail.com>>, or call 608-438-5240. Find Open Doors on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OpenDoorsForRefugees](http://www.facebook.com/OpenDoorsForRefugees) <<http://www.facebook.com/OpenDoorsForRefugees>>.

If you would like to support Open Doors through a tax-deductible contribution, the not-for-profit group is affiliated with the Center for Community Stewardship, a 501(c)3 organization. Contributions can be made through them at [www.community-stewardship.org](http://www.community-stewardship.org) <<http://www.community-stewardship.org>> (go to Projects/Open Doors). Please share this information with your congregations and help us "to welcome the stranger."  
—Gloria Carter, [carter53597@tds.net](mailto:carter53597@tds.net)

## **CWU Board Meeting**

The Madison CWU Board will meet Friday, October 28, at 9:30 am at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road. Coffee hot by 9:00, snacks ready. Shirley Robbins, Enabling Chair, emphasized that 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, 3900 Mineral Point Road, Madison, 53705, in the 3rd floor Choir Room. Practice schedule: October 14, 28; November 11, 18; December 9, 23. She looks forward to seeing you and for a grand season of singing.