



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C.W.U. Newsletter September, 2016 No. 2

October Forum
October 7, 2016

Jail Ministry, Human Trafficking,
and the Intersection of the Two

Julia Weaver

Women's Chaplain, Dane County Jail

9:00 am Gathering and Coffee

9:30 am Business Meeting

10:00 am Program

**Christ Presbyterian Church
944 East Gorham Street, Madison**

October Forum

Our October forum topic is Jail Ministry, Human Trafficking, and the Intersection of the Two. Our speaker is Julia Weaver, who is the Women's Chaplain at the Dane County Jail. As a worker in the trenches, she will be able to give us a first-hand look at topics that regularly make headlines and raise concerns among church women far and wide. She works with colleagues to improve the lot of women whom they serve.

We will meet at Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 East Gorham Street, Madison, at 9 am for coffee and conversation in the gathering hall followed by a welcome and announcements in the chapel. Our program will begin at 10 am. There is plenty of parking on the Gorham Street side and on the Lake Mendota side of the church. Accessible entrance on both sides. The meeting space will be closest by entering on the Lake Mendota side of the church, but an elevator is available on the Gorham Street entrance.

September Forum

We received a bountiful welcome at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church as we gathered to begin our program year. They are celebrating their recent improvements and gave us an elegant greeting with bouquets of flowers on every table and a generous welcoming table of refreshments. Pastor Michael Vanderhoef greeted us and provided a short history of the church. The Greek Orthodox bought the building from Bashford United Methodist, which moved to a larger building, in 1955. They added to the building in 1976, and this year created a new entrance, including a drop-off option and an elevator. The pastor himself was born in Madison and is delighted to be back on his beloved East Side after serving in other places.

Our program presenters, Joe and Olivia Ishikawa, moved to Verona, Italy, in 1990 when Joe retired as director of the Arts Museum at MSU. They stayed there 20 years, until their family insisted they come back to the states. They have been in Madison 7 or 8 years now, with a daughter close by and the central

location working for other children on both coasts. Protestant churches are rare in Italy. They found the Waldensian church, received a warm welcome, and worshiped there for their entire time in Italy. They had an impact on the church. The Waldensians didn't celebrate Christmas until the Ishikawas joined them, but they do now.

Joe apologized for his 97 year old voice, but microphones are made for such situations. Waldensians date from the 12th century. Peter Waldo was a silk merchant who sold all his goods to feed the poor and minister to them. He translated the Bible into vernacular French so that people would understand it. He gave a copy to the pope, who didn't like it at all. The Catholic Bible was in Aramaic, Hebrew, and Latin. The pope liked it that way so the church could control the meaning. A council in Verona excommunicated Waldo and his followers in 1184. Many were murdered, and they scattered in the area of northern Italy in villages near Torino (Turin). Until the end of the 19th century, Waldensians were fair game to be killed. The present Pope Francis felt conscious-stricken and went to the Waldensian Church in Turin and apologized.

When Waldensians migrated to the United States, their church urged them to take advantage of the abundance of protestant churches and join a regular Protestant church. They joined Presbyterian churches, which fit their Calvinist reformation ideas. Now they have a partnership with the Methodist church. In Catholic South America, the Waldensian church put down roots of its own.

Olivia gave us a look at their life in Verona and why they so enjoyed their years there. For 20 years they had no car. Trains, buses, stations located next to each other for easy transfer, and closeness of all aspects of living. Verona was around before Julius Caesar and maintained its buildings and bridges from medieval times. What the Nazis destroyed, they rebuilt using original stones and plans.

The Isikawas fully appreciate the ecumenical and welcoming nature of Verona today. The Waldensian pastor met on a regular basis with the Catholic bishop and the Jewish rabbi. The rabbi told the bishop and the pastor that a memorial service was planned at the synagogue to remember all those who were killed in the concentration camps during WWII. Members of both the Waldensian and Catholic churches were present for the service in the synagogue. Another time, when the floor in the Waldensian church needed to be replaced, the bishop invited the Waldensian congregation to worship in the ballroom of a palazzo

belonging to the cathedral. In turn, when a group of Ghanaian Baptists arrived in Verona, the bishop asked for help from the Waldensians, as they were the only Protestant church in Verona. After discussion the Waldensians agreed to accept the Ghanaian Christians, and they are still worshipping together in the Waldensian church.

Announcements

We picked up our copies of the 2016-2017 Directory of Church Women United in Madison, thanks to Gloria Carter. Contact the CWU office if you need one before our October meeting. Faith Bauman brought Circle of Prayer booklets.

Our present financial situation is not that good. The board will welcome ideas for fundraisers to support our local CWU. The offerings we take at celebrations all go to specific ministries. Our May Friendship offering does go half to us, half to CWU national. Our main source of income is provided by fair share donations. When CWU first started, most churches had women's groups, and then the suggestion was 5 cents for each woman in the church. This was budgeted through the women's groups. Now that women's groups are dwindling, we need to get on other budget lines or get support from different groups. One group giving fair share is a book club. Expenses we cover are rent and insurance for the church office, telephone, costs of newsletter production, postoffice mailing permits. Important events coming up include the annual meeting of Church Women United in Louisville, Ky., October 13-15. It is the 75th anniversary. A woman of the Least Coin will be there. The new president of CWU is Patty Polk.

The United Nations Association-Dane County Chapter and Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc. will host their first "Run for Refugees" 5K Run/Walk, proceeds donated to the World Food Programme to support refugees worldwide. Children and pets welcome. Natatorium/Lakeshore Area, 2000 Observatory Dr., Madison, Sunday, October 9, 2016 at 12 noon. Go to their web site to participate. unadane.org

Human Trafficking Seminar

The American Baptist Women of Wisconsin are hosting a seminar on Human Trafficking in Wisconsin at First Baptist Church, 518 North Franklin Avenue on October 15 from 10:00 am to 2:00. Morning speakers are Nancy Irizarry, Social Services Director of Human Resources Center and Chair of Anti-Human Trafficking Consortium of Wisconsin, and

Tyler Schueffner, Street Outreach Coordinator at Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin. A light lunch will be provided and discussions about ways to be involved will be discussed in the afternoon. Registration is \$10.00 at the door starting at 9:30 am. Please RSVP by sending your name, address and phone number to fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org by October 10.

On Behalf of Our Children is a program on racial justice that was developed by the Peace and Justice Committee of the Wisconsin Council of Churches. It consists of 4 study sessions to use in congregations. To get this for your church. To get this for your church, contact Gloria Carter, who served on the committee carter53597@tds.net 608-836-9732

CWU Board Meeting

The Madison CWU Board will meet Friday, September 23, 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.