

Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

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C.W.U. Newsletter January 2021 No. 1

XX

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

XX

February 5, 2021

10:00 am

Kindness during COVID

via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83563646407>

Meeting ID: 835 6364 6407

Prayers for the USA

We pray for safety and peace, knowing that so many stand these days with open arms and hearts filled with pain.

We doubt and we wonder. But are refreshed and renewed in our belief that you are our shepherd and you will lead, if we will follow.

We pray for people who will be forever damaged in body and spirit because of injustice and tyranny. We pray for men who have used power and position for self-gratification.

You have called us to be peacemakers. Bless us as your children. Make us responsive to your purpose.

Written by Ann Sowaske, revised writing of Gail Menzl from the Circle of Prayer 2006

CWU Madison Forum, February 5, 2021 10:00-11:30 am

Kindness and COVID: Sharing Stories

The program will be guided by family stress theory—in which multiple build-up challenging events can push over the resilience of any family, into a crisis. This was from the Great Depression, sociologist Professor Reuben Hill, University of Minnesota.

Two protective factors can get a family through this multi-stress load: social support and hope.

Churches and centers of religious practice have always offered both--as have communities rich with social capital, and despite the closing of these settings, things are going on to provide social support and hope.

Please mention a kindness you did for another person or describe a kindness you received, an offer of help or listening or money when you needed it.

Please mention an event that made you laugh or mention an event that gave you hope over the holidays.

The host and cohost will share stories and then allow participants to share their stories. Stories should be limited to 4 minutes.

On Feb 5, Friday morning, at 10:am there will be a hosted zoom discussion amongst ourselves.

The CWU-Madison Forum will have no speaker and no award winner, no music, and no formal program. It will have no food and no drink. Instead it will be a time of building community, in which we will share stories amongst ourselves of Kindness we have observed or experienced during COVID. This past year from February 2020 until February 2021 has been the biggest pandemic in the history of our nation. We have all behaved in ways we never expected to do (wearing masks, social distancing, and washing our hands, and staying safe at home).

Despite this, 400,000 Americans have passed away during this time.

It was probably a relief for everyone to see that our newly elected President and Vice President created a national ceremony at the National Monument and the Reflection Pool, honoring those who have died of COVID in our country in the past 12 months. The losses are profound and are many. We have all been touched by this. Because of the vaccine, there is now new hope that this will be curbed and will be beaten.

Meanwhile, on a personal level, the CWU-Madison Board thought we should recognize the stress this has had on us, by sharing stories of kindness with one another. We will take a bit of time to focus on this.

I will begin by playing a piece on the piano and singing the words in German, by Schubert called An Die Musik. It speaks of "the darkest hours" and how music and art can lift us and grab our hearts into warmth and into a better world. That is what we hope to do on Friday Feb 5, by "Kindness during COVID: Sharing Stories."

All are welcome. Lynn McDonald (call for questions 608 347 4437) [See the link below.](#)

Lynn McDonald is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: CWU-Madison Forum 'Kindness and COVID: Sharing Stories' Zoom Meeting

Time: Feb 5, 2021 09:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83563646407>

Meeting ID: 835 6364 6407

Upcoming CWU-Madison meetings

Friday, March 5: World Day of Prayer via Zoom

Build on a Strong Foundation, Matthew 7:24-27

Friday, April 9: Forum: Mental Health and Social Isolation; grieving

Friday, May 7: May Friendship Day

Susan Becker Memorial

Church Women United - Madison would like to acknowledge the generous bequest of \$1500 we received in memory of Susan Becker from her brother James Lawson. The funds will support our website in reaching out and informing others of the work of Church Women United. "Many of you will remember the time, energy, and wisdom Susan shared with Church Women United over many years, and the gift that she herself was to us."

Building Unity for a Just Wisconsin Budget

Dear Church Women United Readers,

Thank you for all that you do to amplify the voices of those who work with you for peace, care for all creation, and beloved community, grounded in justice.

With this letter, we invite you to embrace with us a sacred “Call to Action.” As we are all too aware, our nation, and our world have come into a very dangerous period in human history. Our democracy has been under attack, our economy is crumbling, we are in the midst of the most deadly worldwide pandemic ever known, and all around us we witness racial and economic injustice that could be remedied, if we only came together and followed that prophetic wisdom of groups like yours.

As we’ve shared with you before, Building Unity is a project that is working to pull us together, that we might unite in one common call for justice. Last year our main focus was to increase voter turnout. With that job behind us (for the moment), we are now wanting to make sure that our elected leaders are tuned-in to the needs of the people, and that they pass a budget that is grounded in restorative justice and love.

In partnership with many local and statewide groups, the Building Unity has helped to assemble the Coalition for a Just State Budget. We hope that you will sign on and help us to make sure that the 2021-2023 biennial state budget is grounded in the values that unite us. We’ve identified six budget areas and compiled them into what we are calling the “Call for a Just Wisconsin Budget” (Summary and supporting documents hot-linked here.)

Health/Safety

Worker/Economic Justice

Criminal Justice Reform

Legalize/Tax Marijuana

Climate Action

Public Education

*** We ask you to sign on to this “Call for a Just Wisconsin Budget” by going to this link: <https://forms.gle/hpjPLcAs1if4hFcx5>

You can do so as an organization and/or as an individual. You can endorse the entire Call or only the individual areas that align with your or your organization's mission.

And, we encourage you to ask everyone you know throughout Wisconsin to join you in signing this call and to reach out to our representatives and ask them to do the same. If we UNITE, we can shift our state’s priorities away from padding the profits of the ultra-rich and towards meeting the very urgent, life and death human needs of all people.

And, we must transform our society so that we can offer our children a hope for a livable planet. We can no longer ignore the needs of future generations for us to do right by them today.

As we write this, President Biden has already stopped the Keystone XL pipeline by the executive order he signed today. But Keystone XL isn't the only pipeline. The rebuilding and moving of Enbridge's Line 3 in Minnesota on the way to Superior, Wisconsin threatens our land and water. Indigenous people and environmentalists are calling on President Biden to also stop this dangerous pipeline. Our Building Unity Video Project has just produced a videoed interview with Indigenous activist and journalist, Paul DeMain. Click here to view: <https://vimeo.com/501521414>.

In this interview Paul explains the background of Enbridge's efforts to move the corroded and frequently leaking Line 3 to a new pristine location on ceded territory of the Ojibwa People. He explains how Enbridge is risking pandemic spread and winter hazards to bring over 4,000 workers from around the continent to get as much pipeline in the ground before the court cases to stop Line 3 have hearings in 35 to 40 days.

Today, with President Biden's withdrawal of Keystone's permit we have increased hope for stopping Enbridge's Line 3. Please contact Rev. Mary Kay Baum at 608-935-5834, if you want more information on this.

In closing, let me share a quote often attributed to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "A Budget is a Moral Document!" Let us honor Dr. King and all that he lived for. Let us unite and build a movement for such a moral document that cannot be ignored.

Please sign on to the "Call for a Just Wisconsin Budget!" You can find out more about our efforts to Build Unity at BuildingUnityWisconsin.org.

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/buildingunitywi>

For Unity,

Rev. Mary Kay Baum, ELCA

Tim Cordon, Soc. Justice Coordinator, First Unitarian Society - Madison

Announcing the 2020-2022 Madison Area Religious and Human Resources Directory.

The Directory has a new look. It is now 8 1/2 by 11 size sheets, so the print is a little larger, and for future editions we will be able to send inserts for the updated copy. There are about 300 faith communities listed and 300 human resource agencies, as well as special listings for Emergency Community Resources for Food, Shelter and Clothing; an Emergency/Hotline/Crisis-Stress/Information Chart; and a page on End of Life Services. Any Questions, phone Ruth Hein-Church Women United and Madison Ecumenical Center Outreach at 608-347-4724.

2020/2022 RELIGIOUS & HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORY ORDER FORM

I WISH TO ORDER _____ COPY(S) OF THE MADISON AREA
2020/2022 RELIGIOUS & HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORY @ \$15 EACH

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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.

FROM: _____

Name of church/organization or individual donor.

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

For church or organization.

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PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please make your check(s) payable to: Church Women of Madison and send to:

Marleen S. Lippert, Treasurer, CWU of Madison
6329 Scandia Lane
McFarland, WI 53558

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 & MEC
P.O. Box 44814
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53744
MEC 608-347-4724
Email address: cwumadison@gmail.com