

Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

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C.W.U. Newsletter February 2020 No. 2

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www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

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**Celebration: World Day of Prayer
March 6, 2020**

Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk!

**Prepared by the
World Day of Prayer
Committee of Zimbabwe**

**9:00 am Gathering and Coffee
9:30 am Welcome and Announcements
10:00 - 11:30 am Worship Celebration**

Men are welcome

**First Church of Christ, Scientist,
610 S. Segoe Road, Madison**

World Day of Prayer



March 6

2020



Rise! Take your mat and walk!
Church Women United-Madison Celebrates
Prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Zimbabwe

Friday, March 6 9:00 am Gathering and Coffee
9:30 am Welcome 10:00 – 11:30 Worship Celebration

First Church of Christ, Scientist 610 S Segoe Rd Madison

??'s Contact: Cathy Elwell 563-543-0574 or cathyelwell@gmail.com

World Day of Prayer USA * www.wdp-usa.org * 212.870.2466

March Celebration

On March 6, 2020, we will gather at First Church of Christ, Scientist, 610 South Segoe Road, Madison, for our celebration of World Day of Prayer. CWU-National works with World Day of Prayer USA which is part of the world-wide organization that does this every year. This year the women on the World Day of Prayer Committee of Zimbabwe prepared the worship service, **Rise! Take your mat and walk!**

We will gather at First Church of Christ, Scientist, 610 South Segoe Road, Madison, at 9 am for coffee and conversation before the worship celebration beginning at 10 am. Come and join with your Madison sisters and brothers and others all around the world for a meaningful prayer for peace. Any questions, contact Cathy Elwell, 563-543-0574 or cathyelwell@gmail.com

February Forum

Pastor Chris Gordon welcomed us to Memorial United Church of Christ in Fitchburg. She gave us a brief look at this 102-year church and its 3-legged building, which represents the trinity. They treasure their flexible space, comfortable accommodations, and views of wildlife in nature through windows behind the pulpit area. Congregants are welcome to pay attention to squirrels, chipmunks, and songbirds in the feeders while she is preaching.

Our speaker, Tom Popp, spoke to us about the Malawi Orphans Project, which is supported by the Madison Community Foundation by way of Tom. Malawi is a southeastern African country, largely rural, with a large lake the size of Lake Michigan running its length. Tom discovered Malawi when he responded to JFK and joined the Peace Corps. He went to Malawi in June 1964, and came back home with a life-long interest. The '90s AIDS epidemic caused 1 million children to lose one or both parents. Tom wanted to do something for the orphans, and in 2005 he went back to Malawi, taking his young daughter and the son of a Brazilian exchange student with him. They spent 60 days trying to figure out what was going on. Who were the players? Issues? Kids? There was a local Malawian nonprofit working with AIDS victims. Popp wanted to help the orphans. His kids, Emily and Diego, convinced him to follow their lead and set up support through the local Malawi project, and they designed it. Support from the Rotary Club would supply funds.

Through the Madison Community Foundation, they raise \$20,000 a year which they give to Tom who gives it to Malawi and this supports 60 kids. In Malawi, subsistence living rules out high school, which costs \$50. Kids in high school have to have notebooks, a pen, shirt, shoes. Girls have nothing and marriage at age 14 is the norm. But Tom's kids lead better lives. Education matters. Kids are powerful, especially young women. They learn how to be more productive. They become drivers, doctors, business people. Tom goes over every two years. He urges three things. Work hard and graduate. Support younger kids. Stay in Malawi.

Malawi has been independent since 1964. Their earlier stay in the British Empire makes English their official language, but they have three other tribal languages. There are 14 million people in Malawi. Malawi is peaceful. They don't have ebola, they do have AIDS. Medicine is socialized and free. They have regional hospitals. They have a university, the University of Livingstonia. They have access to Africa University in Zimbabwe, which has students from 27 countries. Malawi is very rural, with some manufacturing, some exports: tobacco, coffee, tea. Urban Africa is very chaotic, rural areas doing okay.

On their recent trip to Malawi, Tom took T-shirts, bed nets, handed out scholarships, breakfast bars and vitamins. Lake Mills gave money for bed nets. They bought them in Malawi and delivered them to families. With FOCUS, they brought them to six villages. (FOCUS—Foundation of Community Support Services.) At a breakfast program, they learned of the successes of the program. One of the kids got to med school in Europe.

The importance of education for girls is enormous. If girls have a real opportunity for a job, health care, education, they go from having 6 to having 2 kids in one generation. Half the scholarships go to girls. Tom showed slides of their recent trip, and invited any who would-be contributors to go to GoFundMe and click on Tom Popp.

Announcements

CWU-Madison has a Contributions Form for those who would like to support the costs of our local organization. Rent money, printing, postage, webpage, materials. Some churches donate as part of their budget. All contributions are welcome. It's attached to the newsletter, and you can download it from the webpage.

MEC Directory

MEC put together a directory of social and religious organizations for 2017-2019. We are presently updating this. The new format, 8 1/2 x 11 in a folder will make future updates much easier, replacing pages rather than reprinting the whole thing. Cost will be \$15 a copy with \$5 to mail. If you would like to help with calling, we have 300+ churches and 300+ agencies to reach. If you can help, call Ann Sowaske (608-203-5392).

Chinese Orphans Benefit Concert

The 14th Annual Chinese Orphans Benefit Concert is set for April 26, 2020 at 2:30 pm at First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin Avenue, Madison, WI. "Have Flute, Will Travel" will be a delightful afternoon of charming flute music from around the world: solos, duets, small ensembles, and a complete flute choir! Free admission. A free will offering will be taken for the more than 100 Chinese orphans the church sends to school each year.

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.

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For church or organization.

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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.

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