



May Friendship Day 2015



“Journey of the Caregiver”

Caregiving is a task entrusted to us by God. As women, we care for others throughout our lives. This May Friendship Day Celebration is for all people and their calling of caring for the needs of others. Caregiving can be a lonely place. Jesus calls all of us to care for the least of these. How can we provide support for our sisters in Christ who give of their own lives in order to care for the needs of others? Like Simon of Cyrene who helped Jesus carry the cross to His crucifixion, how can we help to lighten the burden of caregivers and join them on their journey?

Greetings to you, Church Women United in Wisconsin!!

May you receive the blessing of the Easter story and know the goodness of our God in those you meet and the world around you. It is good to be in the season of Spring and growth!

This newsletter brings news of events and activities for Church Women United in local units ... in the state of Wisconsin ... and in our Central CWU Region. Please read on for details and join your CWU sisters this year for Study - Action - Celebration as Women of Faith.

2015 Events for Church Women United:

April 29: Advocacy Day at the Capital: People of Faith United for Justice, Madison
A day-long gathering to learn, discuss, pray and advocate for social justice issues. CWU is a sponsor of this event. See full description in Gloria Carter's Ecumenical Action report (page 7) for Advocacy Day and other dates of interest to CWU.

May 29: State CWU Board Meeting and President's Luncheon, DeForest (10:00 am)
Local unit presidents are invited to join the CWU board for sharing ideas, making plans for CWU events and enjoying a meal together. Presidents are guests of the board for a Salad Luncheon.

August 28-30: CWU Central Region Assembly: Journeying Together with GPS (God's Protective Support), St. Benedict Center, Schuyler, Nebraska
Women from Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota and Nebraska gather for a time of friendship and inspiration with CWU sisters. The St. Benedict Center is an oasis of peace in the midst of Nebraska's corn and bean fields, an atmosphere that is conducive to prayer, rest, and renewal. (See brochure attached to this newsletter.)

September 26: CWU in Wisconsin Annual Assembly, Presbyterian Church, West Salem
"Journey Together with God's Purpose"
This is the annual meeting for the state unit of CWU. The 2015 Assembly is hosted by the LaCrosse CWU unit, Helen Harold, President. It is a time to learn more about CWU, make decisions for the state unit, and honor our CWU heritage of Faith in Action. See next page for more information.

2015 Dates at a Glance

April 29 - Advocacy Day at the Capital, Madison

May 1 - May Friendship Day: *"Journey of the Caregiver"* **

May 29 - CWU State Board/Presidents Luncheon, DeForest, 10:00 am

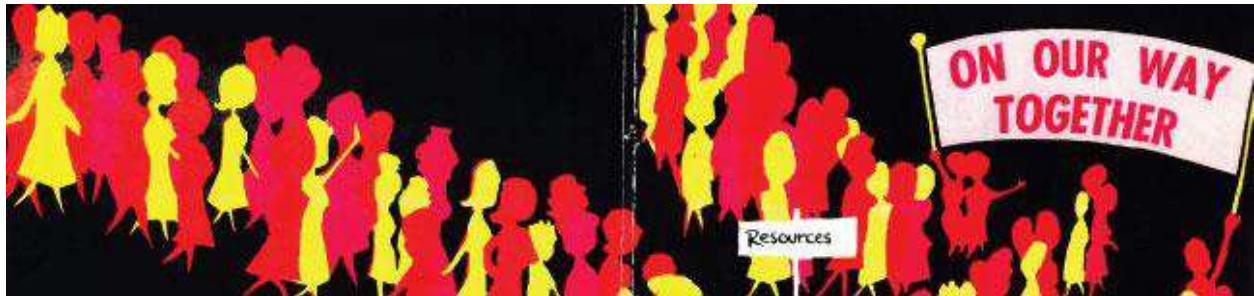
August 28-30 - CWU Central Region Assembly, Schuyler, Nebraska

September 26 - CWU in Wisconsin Annual Assembly, West Salem

November 6 - World Community Day: *"Our Journey Together"* **

Date chosen by local unit - Human Rights Celebration: *"Journey Toward Peace"* **

** Check with your local CWU unit for time and location **



Dear CWU Sisters ...

Please PRAY and PLAN to attend our exciting Assembly !!!

“Journey Together with God’s Purpose”

Scripture: Psalms 139:1-4

*Lillian Johnson,
Vice President and Assembly Chair*

Church Women United in Wisconsin Annual Assembly

Saturday, September 26, 2015
8:15 am to 3:30 pm

Presbyterian Church of West Salem
625 West Franklin Street
West Salem, WI 54669

Hosted by the LaCrosse unit of CWU
Helen Harold, President

Cost: \$25 - Please register by September 5.

Name _____ Unit _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

CWU Unit _____ Denomination _____

Special Needs: _____

Send registration by September 5 to: Kris Clausung, W799 Townline Rd, Ripon 54971
Cost is \$25.00. Check payable to *Church Women United in Wisconsin*.

Directions to the Presbyterian Church of West Salem

West Salem Exit to Garland Street. Go left 10 blocks to West Avenue. Go right one block to Franklin Street. You will see the church, 625 West Franklin Street.

Overnight Accommodations

Rooms are reserved at the Comfort Inn, Onalaska, for those wishing to travel on Friday and stay overnight before the Assembly.

Ten rooms will be held for Church Women United in Helen Harold's name. Cut-off date: August 25, 2015.

Hotel information:

Comfort Inn Phone: (608) 781-7500
1225 Crossing Meadows Drive, Onalaska, WI 54650
(Interstate 90, Exit 4)

Arrival: 3:00 pm - Departure: 11:00 am

Price per night: \$102.16 (includes tax, continental breakfast, pool for pleasure)

Size: 2 queen beds per room

Directions to Comfort Inn:

From South or East: Take Interstate 90 to Exit 4 (157). Go left to stoplight. Then go right to Comfort Inn.

From Platteville Area: Take Hwy 14/61/35 to Interstate 90. Take Exit 4 (157) to the right to stoplight. Then right to Comfort Inn.

MAY FRIENDSHIP CELEBRATIONS

Dear CWU Sisters,

It's hard to believe that our May Friendship Celebration is about one month away, but time does fly even after a rather cold and windy winter. However, these beautiful spring days are cheery and full of hope.

The theme for our 2015 Celebrations is Companions on a Journey. The May Friendship Celebration will focus on the "Journey of the Caregiver." From a personal perspective, it is a journey that needs companions, and is often a lonely one as we watch over our loved ones. The writers of our program say that caregiving is a task entrusted to us by God. They also mention that sometimes caregivers don't take care of themselves, and we need to offer them our support. They conclude that like Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry the cross, we need to help lift the burden of others and asked, "How can we help to lighten the load of caregivers?"

From personal experience, I know it is difficult and sometimes stressful. Sometimes it is full of tears. On the other hand, loving and caring create special relationships. I was Mother's caregiver through recovery from breast cancer and later through declining health. She was able to care for her daily needs, so I continued to teach at UW-Platteville. I think that most difficult part was knowing that she would never be the strong mother I had known. When I retired from UWP, Mother was there. I will always remember her comment, "That's my child." Daily there are special little moments that serve as reminders of her. They are like little gifts. I know that many of you also have stories to tell about your experiences as a caregiver.

Suggestion:

- Earlier today, I Goggled "Caregiving." There are many topics to explore, and there might be ideas that you can incorporate into your May Friendship Program.

Other suggestions are:

- A speaker on caregiving, could be a caregiver or someone from a program on caregiving;
- A panel of caregivers;
- Bake something special to give to a caregiver;
- Write notes or send cards to caregivers;
- Do something special for caregivers, such as relieving them for a few hours, paying for a trip to a beauty salon or for a ticket to a movie;
- Telephone calls or email messages will be appreciated.

The May Friendship meeting will be very busy because we will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. The Leader's manual includes an excellent description of the Fellowship and its purpose. Note that the Aim Packet included a beautiful book, Celebrating the Legacy, Visioning the Future, and Living the Jubilee, containing many stories about the founding, recipients and special celebrations of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. You may want to include some of vignettes in your celebration and also give your members an opportunity to browse through the book.

Be creative as you plan. Supporting caregivers is ongoing, so keep it going. Let me know what you are doing for caregivers, and about your celebration of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. I will send your good ideas to other units.

Happy Easter,

Carol, Lange
Ecumenical Celebrations

News from our Units

Watertown CWU celebrated World Day of Prayer at St. Bernard Catholic Church, using the service written by women of the Bahamas. To portray the washing of the feet of the disciples as told in John, Rev. Todd Iverson of Immanuel Lutheran Church portrayed Simon Peter. Father Scott Jablonski of St. Bernard's portrayed Jesus. Jesus washing the feet of Simon Peter was an example of radical love. After the service there was a time of fellowship, featuring traditional Bahamian food.



Save the Date!

Plan now to attend CWU in Wisconsin's
Annual Assembly

Saturday, September 26
8:15 am - 3:30 pm

Presbyterian Church of West Salem
Hosted by Lacrosse CWU

ECUMENICAL ACTION

Opportunities for Ecumenical Action abound in April. Here are three possibilities:

April 15 - Action for the Fight for \$15 campaign

On April 15 low-wage workers across the country will join together in the fight for \$15 an hour and the right to unionize. They are asking for a wage that enables them to provide the basic needs for their families. The Fight for \$15 campaign started in 2012 in New York with 200 workers and has grown stronger every year. In 2014 the movement became a global campaign with actions in 33 countries. Actions are taking place in Madison and Milwaukee. For more information, visit the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice website (workerjustice.org).

April 22 - Earth Day

Creation Justice Ministries has a great resource for Earth Day 2015, "*Have you anything here to eat?*" *Sustainable Food in a Changing Climate*. Use it to reflect on the impact on us of food concerns and climate and the interaction of the two. How does food production and consumption affect the climate? How does climate change affect growing and accessing food? The resource includes materials for worship, Christian education, and suggestions for action. You can download the resource from their website (creationjustice.org).

April 29 - Advocacy Day at the Capital: People of Faith United for Justice

Wednesday, April 29

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Bethel Lutheran Church and First United Methodist Church

Near the Capital Square

312 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison

Every two years people of faith come from all over Wisconsin for this day-long gathering to learn, discuss, pray and advocate for social justice issues. The morning plenary with speakers and issues briefing is followed by afternoon visits to our legislators. This is our opportunity to speak for justice and compassion to be reflected in the budget. This year's keynote speaker is Hannah Rosenthal, President of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, and long-time advocate for social and economic justice. She has a long history of being active in public policy and building relationships within and between communities.

The keynote respondent is Rev. Everett Mitchell, Director of Community Relations, UW Madison, and Pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church, Madison. His life focus has been to examine the relationship of the church to social issues, such as poverty, war, incarceration and immigration. A graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School, Rev. Mitchell demonstrates community leadership and passion for social justice.

Registration received by April 15 is \$25 and includes lunch. For more information, visit the Wisconsin Council of Churches website (wichurches.org) where you can register online or download a brochure with registration form.

If you have never attended the Advocacy Day before, consider making this year the year you do. It is important that our legislators hear the voices for social justice and compassion as they work on the state budget that affects all the people of Wisconsin, including “the least of these.”

Gloria Carter, Ecumenical Action Chair
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CWU Newsletter and Website

CWU in Wisconsin’s website address is: <http://churchwomenunited-wi.org>

Church Women United in Wisconsin newsletter is published three/four times a year and focuses on issues of concern to Wisconsin women of faith, particularly those related to CWU’s priorities and goals. Stories and photos from local unit events are welcome and appreciated by our readers. Please submit to co-editors Marilyn Verkuilen or Susan Coghill. Deadline for Summer 2015 issue is July 1, 2015.

Email subscriptions: The newsletter is sent by email as much as possible. To receive newsletter by email, send your request to Susan Coghill: coghills@sbcglobal.net.

Paid subscriptions for mailed paper copies of newsletter are \$5/one year or \$10/3 years. Send your subscription to Susan Coghill (4858 Island View Drive, Oshkosh, 54901) with check payable to *Church Women United in Wisconsin*.

Unit presidents who have email will receive the newsletter electronically. Please print off and share with your unit. Presidents who do not have email will be mailed a paper copy of the newsletter.