

Church Women United Peoria Area April 2024 Information Sheet



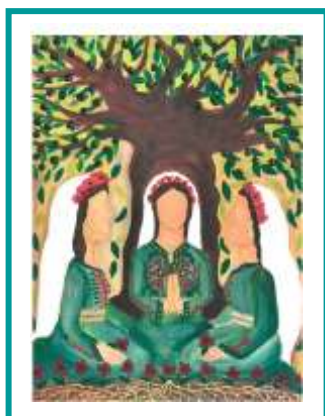
As I was going through a stack of books after Christmas, I found a Daily Guideposts 2016. I decided to use it as my daily devotional this year. I have found that I am enjoying the devotions and that some are very current despite the fact that they were written 8 years ago. A coincidence perhaps? We, as Church Women United, held our World Day of Prayer with women across the world on March 2nd. The World Day of Prayer Organization had asked Palestinian Christian women to write the program 4 years ago. One of the things I found to be the most moving was that Palestine is at war today 4 years later and our program was written by Palestinian Christian women. A coincidence perhaps? As I sat and read my devotional the next day, it was on prayer. A coincidence perhaps? I prefer to think that this was a God Wink. Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. Proverbs 19:21 Renee



The General Membership Meeting will be held on Friday, April 5 at 9:00 AM, at Salem Lutheran Church, 1700 War Memorial Drive. The program will be Carolyn Hendricks to speak on the Faith Community Nursing program from OSF. The Faith Community Nursing program offers a unique partnership between two healing entities; our hospitals and the faith community. Faith Community Nurses partner with clergy and healthcare organizations to advocate for the health and well-



being of the congregation. While the focus of the program is on preventative healthcare, some of the ways members are helped to lead healthier lives is through education, screenings and referrals to community resources.



World Day of Prayer was held on Saturday, March 2 at Glen Oak Christian Church at 10:00AM. The service was well received by those in attendance. We were able to welcome several individuals on this change of day and time from Friday to Saturday and beginning at 10:00 AM. in an effort to increase our participation. An offering of \$257 to the World Day of Prayer was received.



ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81229416360?pwd=Ly9mWIRzS2lQRjhRT2ZsUFNHK3Y3Zz09>



Are you interested in learning more about the National Church Women United or the Illinois State Church Women United? Both have informative web sites that give information, offer webinars to participate in and other programs if you are interested. The Illinois state newsletter *"The Interpreter"* is available on the state web site.

National website: <https://www.churchwomenunited.net/>

Illinois State website: <https://www.churchwomenunitedillinois.org/>

Angella Lewis serves as our West Regional Coordinator and is developing strong relationships with the local units and the State Board. Thank you Angella for volunteering to serve in this capacity. Viola Lewis is on the Illinois State CWU Board and is seeking nominations for several Board positions. Currently open positions include Secretary, Spirit Light (devotion) and Treasurer Assistance. If you have interest in another area please let Viola know. Most positions are for two years. CWU State Nominations VL6511@MSN.-Com



**May Friendship Day, May 3 at First English Lutheran Church,
725 E Forest Hill, 61603**

May Friendship Day dates back to May 1933, when two independent groups planned luncheons to focus on "Child Health" and "Children of Migrant Families." The first event was sponsored by the Women's Council for Home Missions in New York City and the second one, called "Dedication Day," was sponsored by the National Council of Federated Church Women in order to bring the group's dream of unity into full expression in each local community. Under a variety of names, this event continued and expanded until 1939, when they merged under the National Council of Church Women, which called for an annual observance

"to strengthen a growing sense of unity, the joy of Christian fellowship, and the power of Christianity in the day of need." In May 1945, a few years after the founding of Church Women United, the celebration was formalized as May Fellowship Day. In 1999, the movement of Church Women United changed the name of the celebration to May Friendship Day, as we continue to celebrate unity in our journey toward wholeness in all communities.



We will be receiving two offerings during this celebration. One for the Fellowship of the Least Coin and one for May Friendship Day which is shared between Church Women United Illinois State and our local CWU-Peoria Area unit.

Poster on the last page of the INFO Sheet, please post and share

Church Women United Illinois 2024 State Assembly

THEME:
**SOCIAL
JUSTICE**



The Church Women United Illinois State Assembly will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Chicago- Alsip, Illinois 5000 West 127th Street Alsip, Illinois 60803, Telephone Number 708-371-7300, on Friday April 19- Saturday, April 20, 2024. Registration form is available on line at https://www.churchwomenunitedillinois.org/uploads/2/4/8/4/24843118/church_women_united_illinois_registration_form_2024.pdf



Ecumenical Action CWUPA has several outreach ministries that we serve and support throughout the year. Included are activities of Prison Ministry, Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center Adopt-a-School Partner, United Farm Worker Ministry, Fellowship of the Least Coin and Snack Pack (Collaboration between School, Church and Community.) All five will have contribution "jars" for offering at the monthly meetings.



Viola Lewis reports that there are several felons asking for prayers: Steven, Michael, Caylee, Keith, Dalton, Jason, Rico, Earl, Blake, James, Trenston

Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center

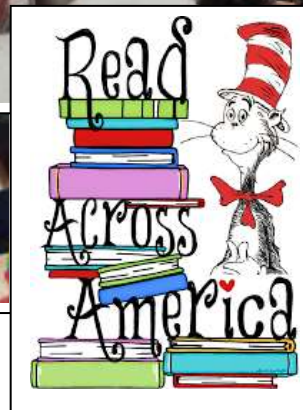
The Little Free Pantry at Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center

The "Little Free Pantry" at Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center is constantly in use and family size meals could be helpful along with some boxes of cereal for the family. It is obvious we could not possibly give more than they can use. All items placed on the table are immediately taken by someone. Thank you for caring about our fellow Peorians who are hungry. Donations can be taken directly to the school from 8:30-3:30, 800 W Romeo Garrett Ave., 61605 or to Glen Oak Christian Church, 1115 E Republic, 61603 on Monday-Thursday from 9:00-12:00 noon.



Please bring a nonperishable food item to our monthly meetings. Ideas might include "meal type" donations such as macaroni and cheese, canned meats, Ramon Noodles, and cereal. All items are appreciated. Thank you

On **Monday, February 26**, we had 16 people read at the two Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center Campuses for Read Across America. There were 12 volunteers in the morning and 8 in the afternoon reading to 37 classrooms. It was a fun event and enjoyable for students, teachers and volunteers.





The United Farm Worker Ministry have alerted the public that the EPA's national ban on chlorpyrifos has been overturned by a Circuit Court. That happened because of strong lobbying from chemical companies and agribusiness interests. This is a neurotoxic pesticide, and it is capable of causing permanent damage to children's brains. The EPA is not going to challenge the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals which means that chlorpyrifos will be back in the fields and on our food this growing season. UFW was asking people to contact the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and tell them to stay with the science that chlorpyrifos are dangerous and must be banned.

Farmworkers are excluded from most federal labor laws. However, in 2019, New York passed the Farm Laborers Fair Labor Act, giving farmworkers the right to unionize. The growers did not like that and they banded together to sue the state and stop the law from going into effect. Many of the farmworkers have H-2A work permits and the growers did not want them to be able to unionize.

In February 2024, a U.S. District Judge lifted most of the temporary stay, thus, restoring the law. The United Farm Workers (union) has quickly gone to work to negotiate contracts with five farms that had voted to unionize. The problem is that most of the H-2A workers were sent back to their home countries and have to somehow be recalled. It is going to be hard for the organizers to start again where they left off.

National Farmworker Awareness Week ran March 25-31. It was a week of honoring and celebrating the essential *work of farmworkers*. *The National Farmworker's Ministry offered an educational webinar on Modern Day Slavery. We all are asked to write to the managers of Wendy's restaurants and tell them it is time to tell Nelson Peltz to join the Fair Food Program, and then deliver the letters.* The Fair Food Program is all about eliminating trafficking/slavery and creating decent working conditions with fair wages.



Environmental Issues #9

This bit of news was aired on NPR on March 18, 2024: "The United States bans the most common form of asbestos." That came as a total shock to me. It has been known for years that inhaling the tiny fibrous strands in asbestos can cause cancer and severe lung problems. I assumed that the Environmental Protection Agency had already banned asbestos a long time ago.

The news article by Joe Hernandez goes on to say that asbestos is a known carcinogen and can cause a number of illnesses including lung cancer, ovarian cancer, asbestosis, and mesothelioma, and it is estimated that more than 40,000 deaths in the U.S. each year are connected to asbestos exposure.

More than 50 other countries have outlawed chrysotile asbestos, but the EPA is just now prohibiting its use. The delay came because of pushback from companies who made or used the product. Now many companies that had produced consumer products that contained asbestos no longer use asbestos in their products. Examples include building materials and household appliances.

Asbestos is still used in the filters for producing chlorine and sodium hydroxide, but that use will now be phased out over several years. Congress has a role in providing stronger protections for our health. Submitted by Pearl Witte

Membership Dues 2024 Have you paid your 2024 membership dues of \$10.00? Please complete the form and send your dues renewal to Sherry Emerick 5812 Sioux Trail, Bartonville, IL 61607. You can also recognize your church support of Church Women United by including a church membership gift on the same form.

2024 Membership form for both Individual and Church memberships

Circle one or both:

Individual membership Dues \$10.00

Church Membership Dues (flexible donation, \$100, \$75, \$50, other amount)



Individual Name _____

Church name: _____

Amount submitted or enclosed: _____

Please send to Sherry Emerick, 5812 Sioux Trail, Bartonville, IL 61607 or pay at the monthly CWU-PA meeting



Glen Oak Christian Church hosts a Monthly Community Meal on the first Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30 at 1115 E. Republic, 61603. Please join us for a free meal on **Thursday, April 4**. All are welcome! Menu will include spaghetti, vegetable, fruit, dessert and drinks.



The much-anticipated sequel to the Oscar-nominated 2008 documentary “Food, Inc.” will hold a nationwide “sneak preview” at 100 theaters across the US on April 9th, ahead of its national theatrical and digital release on April 12 !

Click on this link to see which theaters near you are screening “Food, Inc. 2” on April 9! Major cities hosting screenings include: New York, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Miami, Chicago, and more! **The film will then be available on major streaming platforms, including Amazon Prime, starting April 12.**

In the works for several years after the Oscar-nominated documentary “Food, Inc.” shook consumers and food industry leaders alike in 2008 with its searing look at the many inequities of the US food industry, the long-awaited sequel “Food, Inc. 2” hits theaters next month with an update from the front in the struggle for a more equitable food industry.

“Food Inc, 2” tells the story of an industry nearly a decade later still in dire need for reform — including the now familiar tales of factory farms squeezing workers at the very bottom of the industry and the corporate behemoths squeezing suppliers to their breaking point at the very top. But the sequel also tells the story of several proven solutions that give hope that a more humane food industry is, in fact, possible. Of particular note to the Fair Food Nation, “Food Inc, 2” devotes a significant portion of its 1 hour and 34 minute runtime to the successful efforts of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Presidential Medal-winning Fair Food Program to transform agriculture and empower farmworkers to be the frontline monitors of their own rights, ending generations of exploitation and abuse for tens of thousands of US farmworkers.

The story of the CIW’s struggle is brilliantly told by the CIW’s own Gerardo Reyes Chavez, himself a farmworker for nearly two decades. Through extended interviews, Gerardo walks the viewer through the Campaign for Fair Food, the birth of the Fair Food Program in 2011, and the urgent need to expand this successful worker-driven program as far and wide as possible today. With an eye to practical, proven solutions to the food system’s many ills, “Food, Inc. 2” champions the Fair Food Program as the answer to preventing forced labor and other extreme abuses in farmwork, with a long and documented track record of results. The acclaimed documentary even names those major food giants who have so far refused to join, despite the FFP’s universal recognition as the new gold standard for human rights in the US agricultural industry: Wendy’s, Publix, and Kroger.

For more information about the film, including how you can request a screening in your own community, for more information <https://magpictures.com/foodinc2/home/> Watch the trailer here: <https://ciw-online.org/blog/2024/03/food-inc-2-the-major-new-documentary-featuring-the-ciw-and-the-fair-food-program-is-coming-to-a-city-near-you/>



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.
CWU Celebrations 2024
May Friendship Day

What Does the Lord Require of CW-You?
Celebrations 2024 Theme Scripture
"... the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he
requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk
humbly with your God." Micah 6:8 (NLT)

LOVE MERCY
May Friendship Day 2024
Matthew 5:7



May 3, 2024 at 9:00 AM
First English Lutheran Church,
725 E Forest Hill, Peoria, 61603