

The Spring Gathering: *Ties that Bind*

April 13, 2024

9 AM – 4 PM

Peoria First Christian Church

For generations, women have gathered in sewing circles created both practical and beautiful works of art by piecing together small pieces of fabric. The quilts that they created have warmed babies and provided comfort on cold winter nights as families made their way to new homes on the frontier. They provided a map for individuals seeking freedom from slavery and paths to homes where they could live with dignity. In more contemporary times, women have sewn quilts to provide comfort for sick children, to acknowledge the contributions of a lifetime of senior citizens, and much more. Katherine Bell in her book *Quilting for Peace: Make the World a Better Place One Stitch at a Time* writes, “The act of piecing a patchwork quilt is both utterly practical and powerfully symbolic. It’s an act of reclaiming, saving, mending, and unifying. The result, the quilt itself, solves a basic problem - the need for warmth - but it represents much more: the quilt makers resourcefulness, wishes, and fierce opinions; an attempt to made something beautiful out of what might have been wasted; and a desire to make some kind of peace.”

This year at the CCIW Disciples Women’s Spring Gathering, through our theme **Ties that Bind** we will consider quilting as a metaphor for the spiritual life. In the morning we will consider the history of quilting as well as how the act of quilting helps build community and provides a powerful countercultural message of hope. In the afternoon, we will join in hands on mission to cut, piece and sew quilts that will be donated to the Linus Project in Central IL. The Linus Project provides handmade blankets to children ages 0 - 18 who have been seriously ill, traumatized or experience other needs. These quilts will meet a basic need while at the same time symbolically demonstrate our desire to provide comfort and care. **No experience with sewing or quilting is necessary as individuals of all skill levels can participate as we work together to create a blanket that will be given to others.**

The Gathering: Ties that Bind will be held on April 13, 2024, from 9 AM - 4 PM at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 6400 North University St. Peoria, IL. Lunch will be provided, and the day will conclude with the dedication of the Blessing Box Offering and worship to include communion. Women with all levels of experience with quilting are invited to attend as there will be opportunities to individuals of all skill levels to participate as we make the quilts. The cost of the event is \$60. This will include the cost of batting, thread, and backing materials for the quilts as well as continental breakfast upon arrival, a soup, sandwich and salad buffet lunch and other event expenses. **Each registrant is asked to bring one (1) yard of cotton or cotton flannel fabric with a children’s theme in green, yellow or purple.**

A special offering for the Smoked Fish Microcredit Project of Ghana sponsored by Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This empowerment program provides opportunities for women and families to earn a sustainable income by learning how to cook

smoke fish and run a small business. Through these efforts many families in Ghana will no longer need to make the difficult choice of sending their children to work or sending their children to school as the opportunity to earn a fair wage allow the children to go to school rather than work to supplement parental income. In addition to providing sustainable income, the project has helped to raise awareness of occurrence of child labor and violence against children is being raised and to advocate for policies to reduce child labor and human trafficking.

Our keynote speaker, Petie (Petrae) Filson McLean is a retired Disciple Minister. She is a graduate of Lynchburg College and Lexington Theological Seminary. Petie's professional experiences demonstrate her understanding of the importance of serving and of community. She has served as a Social Worker for Child Welfare in Kentucky for 4 years, a Chaplain at Midway College, taught field placement at Lexington Theological Seminary, and served as part time Associate Minister at First Christian Church, Georgetown Ky for 17 years, worked for Birth to Three Early Intervention Program for 7 years in Mt. Vernon , IL Served as their interim for 1 year in CCIW, and served for 13 years as Associate Minister of First Christian Church, Glasgow, Ky. She has written two study books for the Christian Women's Fellowship including "I am , You are a Gift" and "Children: Loved or Lost" Her experience with quilting as a spiritual discipline led to her creating the Quilt/Knit/Craft Retreat in Kentucky

Petie is married to Jim McLean, a retired Disciples Minister. They have three grown children She officially retired in 2010 and continues to share her gifts with the church through events such as the Gathering .

Quilt Project will be a 9 patch Coloring Square Quilt – Petie will bring coloring squares for women to complete. Each woman will be asked to bring 1 yd. cotton or cotton flannel material in children's theme in green, yellow or purple to complete top with coloring squares. Please indicate on registration if you are willing to bring a portable sewing machine for this event. Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe will follow-up with you and provide details if you are able to help us with this aspect of our mission project.



Registration Form

The Spring Gathering April 13, 2024

Theme: Ties That Bind

Peoria First Christian Church- 9am – 4 pm

Cost of event: \$60.00 pp

We encourage you to register online at www.cciwdisciples.org/events

If you are mailing in a form, it must be postmarked by March 19th to meet the March 22th deadline. This is the final deadline.

Name: _____

Address (include street, city, zip): _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Congregation: _____

(Please check two questions the following if applicable)

I would like a vegetarian lunch Yes _____

I would be able to bring a portable sewing machine to the event Yes _____

If paying by check they should be made out and sent to:

CCIW

401 W Jefferson St

Bloomington, Il 61701-3826