

Women at the Well celebrates fifth anniversary

3/9/2012

The Women at the Well United Methodist Church celebrated its fifth anniversary with a celebration worship service on Thursday, February 23, 2012. Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble was the preacher and Rev. Arnette Pint, founding Pastor, was among those recognized.

Women at the Well is the only United Methodist congregation existing within prison walls. It is located at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville.

Pastor Lee Schott welcomed a full "sacred space" of women who are incarcerated at ICIW as well as a number of volunteers from beyond the walls. Rev. David A. Weesner, Conference Superintendent for the Central District, and his wife, Cheryl, accompanied Bishop Trimble.

The celebration service began with a sacred dance to the song, "Never Would Have Made It." The Praise Team Choir sang, "You are More." Bishop Trimble's message, based upon Psalm 25, was entitled, "Lift Up Your Hearts." Remembering baptism preceded the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The congregation gathered in a prayer circle around three of the women who were being released from ICIW within the week. "Go Now in Peace" was sung as a round, led by the Praise Team Choir, to close to service.

from the back of the worship program: "The Women at the Well cannot even begin to express how thankful we are to every person who contributed to who and what we are today. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to The United Methodist Church and to the Administration here at ICIW for recognizing the need and hunger we had for a congregation to call home. It is our hope that we will continue to grow, in faith, and members, for many years to come."

[Click here to see a photo gallery](#) of the Celebration Service