



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

Editor: Phyllis Hockley

cwulanecounty.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2023

Note change to Saturday!!

April 1	St. Jude Catholic Church
Saturday	4330 Willamette, Eugene
10:00	Coffee and Fellowship
10:30	Climate Justice League

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APRIL 1 FORUM

Our April 1 Forum will be held at St. Jude Catholic Church, 4330 Willamette, Eugene. You can also join us on Zoom. Our speaker will be from the U of O Climate Justice League, a gathering of youth activists dedicated to mitigating the effects of climate change. This group was on the front page of the Register Guard some weeks ago.

Note, April 1 is a Saturday. Based upon a poll taken at our last meeting, we will be meeting on Saturdays for the next 3 months and not starting until 10 AM so people who like to sleep a little later in the morning can join us. So, we will gather at 10 for fellowship and the meeting will begin at 10:30.

TUNE IN OVER ZOOM
if you cannot meet in person:
 Meeting ID: 882 3954 5095
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88239545095>
 Attend over the phone,
 alternately: Dial 1 (253) 215-8782 and enter the meeting ID shown above. You will not be asked for a password.
 Call President Anne O'Brien at her cell if you have questions: (541) 554-2646

Labor with Love
A Heart to Care
 Matthew 25: 37-40

LOOKING FORWARD TO MAY
May Celebration, May 6.

Our May Friendship Day Celebration, with the theme of "Labor with Love - A Heart to Care," will be held on Saturday, May 6, at United Lutheran Church. This will also be both live and a Zoom gathering. We will start at 10 in May also.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Anne O'Brien

We are following through with our plan to have youth be our guides in dealing with climate change and saving our planet. Our prayers are with these young people who recognize that it is they who will suffer most from the outcomes of years and years of careless use of our world's resources.

Our prayer for them is that God will guide them as they teach us while they face the challenges in their lives and also the opportunities.

We offer to you, Loving God, the gifts and needs of youth. May they be touched by your love and may they know that they are valued. May they be blessed with the spirit of hope so that they may believe in themselves and know that they are necessary and needed in our world. Grace them with the gift of joy that they may celebrate life and enjoy life. Let us grow in our appreciation of the many gifts of these young people. Let us walk with them in our shared mission as a community called to make this world a better place. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Based on a prayer by Marilyn LaRiviere

Do you ever have trouble praying? St. Teresa of Avila has a suggestion which fits beautifully with nature that surrounds us:

"When we have trouble praying, Teresa recommends that we turn to nature: "Go to some place where you can see the sky, and walk up and down a little." Since God is infinite and everywhere, sometimes we rejoice as much in meditating on creation as in meditating on the Divine. — *Tessa Bielecki*

A LOOK AT OUR MARCH CELEBRATION

2023 World Day of Prayer

Charlotte Maloney

Saturday, March 4th we gathered at Central Presbyterian Church, Eugene. We met in a cozy space, where JoAnne Arnold, her son, and her daughter-in-law provided an amazing spread of food, as well as floral arrangements on each table and an beautiful large arrangement on the piano. We followed the worship service written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan, with the theme, "I Have Heard About Your Faith."

All the songs, beautifully played and sung by Nancy Anderson, were written for this celebration. So, no hymns anyone knew! We were able to learn and sing a one-verse lyric as a response prayer after each story of five women, who have overcome great adversity.

We benefitted from both the Welcoming Prayer and Word of God & the Witness of Life presentation by Reverend Jennifer Martin, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church. Her presentation was titled "One Faith Community's Response: Pushing Back Against the Tide of Climate Change Here in Eugene and Beyond." It was very powerful and ended with each of us sharing with one other person something specific we've found helpful to be more sustainable in our daily life.

Throughout, we enjoyed the readings by JoAnne Arnold, Edie Roberts, Diane Beuerman, Susannah Lustica, Katharine Hunt, Shirley Kingsbury, and Barbara Daté through Call to Worship, Prayer for Confession, Assurance of Pardon, Scripture Reading of Ephesians 1:15-19 with following meditation, Intercessory Prayer, The Lord's Prayer, and then Sending Forth and Benediction after announcements.

Twenty four attended in-person and 4 on Zoom.



THE POWER OF WORDS AND ACTION
Nancy Vrijmoet

A reminder & confirmation: *So happy to be getting the CWU newsletter. I read it from front to back. Am still not able to attend due to health issues and I miss the wonderful meetings. I LOVE the values of CWU! ~~~ A friend who has moved out of the area writes: **I love reading The Vine and following the many activities of Church Women United. Keep up the wonderful, spirit-driven work!** ~~~*

Sending her annual contribution is a joy, not an obligation: *Thanks for your work with the unhoused. Hope this gift helps to create an opportunity for someone. ~~~ If you agree, take the next step. Send your check to Church Women United, in the amount that fits your budget, to Treasurer Nancy Vrijmoet at 42091 McKenzie Highway, Springfield, Oregon 97478.*

And while you're at it, share your joy with a friend. A look at www.cwulanecounty.org is a great way to start. We're happy to add that friend to our mailing list for *The Vine*, too. Email your treasurer at n.vrijmoet@gmail.com or call 541.345.5554. We'll be glad to help.

With a hope that April brings you bundles of inspiration, literary or non-. **Thank YOU for making good things happen!**

Some selections from the treasurer's mailbag:

Thank you for making good things happen!

Such a wonderful organization! Wish I could participate more but I'm glad to support the work you do. ~~~ Thank you for reaching out in so many ways to so many people. ~~~ Your contributions helped us to provide water, electrolytes and hot weather clothing during the excessive heat event to people who needed it most. We could not serve others without you! ~~~

Some advice: *Never take on more work than you have time to pray about. ~~~*



CWU MEMBER VOLUNTEERS WITH EGAN WARMING CENTERS

The front page of the March edition of **St. Vinnie's Voice** has a note about 3 Egan volunteers. One is Mary Sharon. She is featured in a recent video "Why I Serve" which highlights volunteerism with Egan Warming Centers, You can see it on St. Vinnie's YouTube channel (@svdpanecounty)

Also noted is the fact that the 2022-23 year has seen so far 31 activations of Egan Warming Centers opening their doors to welcome our neighbors in for a hot meal and a warm safe place to spend the night. The program's season ends on March 31. Learn more about volunteering at www.eganwarmingcenters.org

LEGISLATION UPDATES
Charlotte Maloney

RENTER PROTECTION BILLS

Good news on one of the Renter Protection bills: HB 2001 (large homeless and housing package) has passed the house and awaits a vote in the Senate possibly the week of March 20.

SB 611 (the rent hike cap bill) is scheduled for hearing March 27 and work session on 29th. It's expected to move out of committee.

SB 684 (limit application fees) looks dead, but the house version HB 3237 has potential to pass out of committee.

SB 799 (change eviction notice to 10 days) still in senate committee.



**DIVEST OREGON
BILL**

As of March 17, HB 2601 is dead in committee. Divest Oregon members are disappointed, but remain committed to working on this issue. The good news is: at the March meeting of the Oregon Investment Council two members demonstrated some movement in understanding the divesting issue.

Proposing the bill achieved two things:

1/education of lawmakers, unions, the press, and the public about what's happening (and not happening) at the Treasury and
2/ broadening Divest Oregon membership. Here are the ongoing activities of the coalition: Release the "Oregon Treasury's Human Rights Problem" report next month; Continuing the Right to Know campaign, because PERS members have the legal right to know what is in their retirement investments; Continuing to speak truth to power during Oregon Investment Council meetings; Promoting a climate-aware Oregon Investment Council appointee to replace John Russell who has stepped down; Continue gathering information about what is being done about climate risk at the Treasury through public records requests; Continuing to pressure the Treasurer to act as a climate champion, as he certainly is not now, and working with the next Treasurer in implementing an effective plan to deal with climate risk.



**HEALTH CARE FOR
ALL OREGON BILL**

TO IMPLEMENT THE PASSED MEASURE 111
At the time of April Vine deadline, SB 704 is still in the Senate Health Care Committee. Some amendments have been made to gain more support. It is anticipated that it will move out of committee the week of March 20 and then be considered by the House Ways and Means. As our dear member Shirley Kingsbury said "This bill is necessary to implement Measure 111- that health care is a human right in Oregon." Next issue of The Vine, we'll have information to email the members of Ways and Means, so we can pass SB 704.

**BILL TO MANDATE TEACHING CLIMATE
CHANGE IN K1-12**

SB 854 had a hearing, as shown on the front page of The Register-Guard Monday, March 13. Next will be a work session, which hasn't been scheduled. We are encouraged to write support email to each committee member. Click on <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Committees/SED/Overview>

To quickly write each member click on first name, which takes you to their individual web page. Click on their email address, write your message of support, and copy it for the rest of the list. Send that message. Then go back to list and click on the next member. It will take about 10 minutes once you compose your message.



A CLEAR AND PRESENT GRIEVING

Mary Sharon Moore

from *Nature Notes: Stories and Reflections on Creation as companion to the Interior Life* (2023)

Reprinted with permission.

From the expansive east-facing windows in my fourth-floor living room I behold the tender light of dawn. Coupled with the quiet of this early hour, the view is stunning.

I see the Morning Star rising now in the east-southeast sky.

Stunning, I say. This clear dawn is the herald of yet another day in a string of days—weeks, really—without spring rains or even overcast. At mid-April, now, the window closes soon on our western Oregon rainy season. And then comes the arid, and likely scorching hot summer.

A heavy dread weighs on my heart, on my soul, as I recall the massive firestorms which sparked on Labor Day, 2020, raged through October, and, in the end, consumed broad swaths of the state's westside forested Cascades.

But today the cool morning air, I notice, is remarkably still. Venerable White Birch outside my windows shows no movement, no sway at all. Quite different from the steady dry winds from the north that arrive each day now—yesterday, gusting at 36 miles per hour. ...

These thoughts crowd into my silence as I prepare the psalms of Morning Prayer. Psalm 77 recalls God's mighty deeds, splitting the sea so that Moses and the people could pass dryshod to safety.

This is what causes my grief, the Psalmist cries, that the ways of the Most High have changed.

And I have to be honest: It's not the ways of the Most High that have changed. *We* are the ones who have changed. We have wandered off course. We—both humankind and human-unkind—have stressed this precious planet beyond its limits, harvesting Earth's riches for all they're worth.

Not me personally, I want to think. Yet my consumer demands, like most everyone's, come at a price far beyond what I am charged on my credit cards.

Humanity seems to have lost the imagination and will to respond in measure to the magnitude of the situation, unable to respond to the magnitude of our beloved Earth's trauma.

So I am grieving, at the dawn of this perfectly lovely, sunny, blue-sky April day.

I try to get on with my work. But the weight of grief presses heavy on my heart, my imagination, my soul. I grieve the foreboding of times to come, times which have already arrived in many parts of the world. This is not the kind of solidarity I was hoping for. But solidarity, eventually, will be asked of us, all of us and each of us, nonetheless.

I would like to say that these disquieting times shall pass. But I cannot escape this clear and present grieving in my heart.

(Email marysharonmoore@gmail.com to order your author-signed copy of *Nature Notes*.)

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