



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

Editor: Phyllis Hockley

cwulanecounty.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2023

Dec 1	Eugene Friends Meeting
Friday	2274 Onyx Street
10:00	Snacks and Fellowship
10:30	Annual Meeting

DECEMBER ANNUAL MEETING

We will be meeting at the Friends Meeting (Quakers) on Onyx and 22nd in Eugene. Parking on Onyx may be a problem due to construction so come early and park behind the building or on 22nd or 23rd. Our program will be: Report regarding programs for 2023, activities in 2023, partnerships/ endorsements in 2023.

Budget past year and next year proposed.

Installation of Officers,

Some Christmas music.

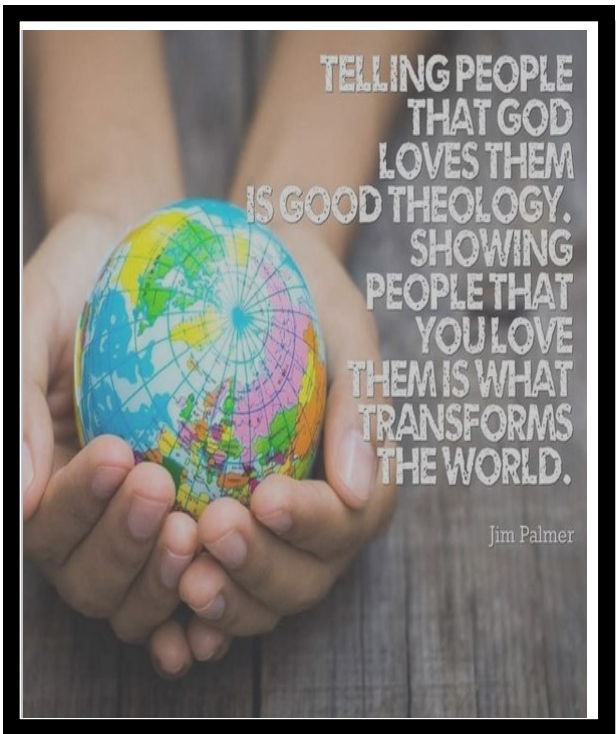
PLEASE BRING NON-PERISHABLES FOR FOOD FOR LANE COUNTY.

LOOKING FORWARD TO JANUARY -- SAVE THE DATE!

On January 5 Church Women United welcomes University of Oregon History and Economics Professor Emeritus Daniel Pope, presenting "Capitalism: Not a Love Story." Let's kick off 2024 with another fabulous Friday forum. Join us at 10 a.m. for coffee and snacks, 10:30 a.m. for the program. We will be at United Lutheran, 2230 Washington St. See you there!

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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Anne O'Brien

In times like these we might get to feeling that we are getting too much "stuff" placed upon our shoulders. These are times that may bring sadness and fear and anxiety at every turn.

Max Lucado (In Daily Thoughts about God) suggests we need to "guard our thoughts. Today's thoughts are tomorrow's actions. Today's jealousy is tomorrow's hate crime."

Lucado refers us to 1 Corinthians where Paul writes "Love keeps no record of wrongs." He advises us to store up sweet thoughts rather than storing up sour thoughts. Think of all God's mercies and the many times you have been blessed and forgiven. Maybe then you can find your thoughts leading to happier times.

Most of us have lived long lives so we have plenty of good thoughts and times to remember. Let's use those to get us through these, what I would call, hard times. Pray for peace. It is one thing that we CAN do... Let there be Peace on Earth...



A CALL FOR PEACE
Poor People's Campaign Leader
shares her Message
By Nancy Vrijmoet

Willamette University hosted its 34th annual Salem Peace Lecture on October 18. The Reverend Dr. Liz Theoharis, co-chair of the national Poor People's Campaign: a National Call for a Moral Revival, shared her riveting message: *"Peace, Peace When There is No Peace: Addressing Poverty, Racism and Militarism from the Bottom Up."* You can catch this entire event online here: <https://vimeo.com/876251145>

Also, those working to repeal the death penalty locally and nationwide were honored at this event. Ron Stein and Frank Thompson were presented with "Peacemaker of the Year" awards.

Email your responses to what Reverend Theoharis had to say [here](#), or mail us a response with the subject "Church Women United Collects Ideas About Peace" to Church Women United of Lane County, P.O. Box 5824, Eugene, Oregon 97405. Watch this space for what others had to say.

Reverend Theoharis says "We can build a moral movement." Do you agree?

"LABOR WITH LOVE - HANDS TO HELP"

World Community Day Celebration Culminates
Our Year Dedicated to Supporting
Young Climate Change Activists
by Nancy Vrijmoet

World Community Day 2023 found Church Women United of Lane County sharing inspiring new ideas, scripture, prayer, and song in the charming Guild Room on November 4th. Delightful hospitality provided by members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Eugene lovingly enveloped the friends assembled. A prayer of dedication by Reverend Nancy Crawford, deacon of St. Mary's, centered us and reminded us why we were there.

"Labor with Love--Hands to Help" What will be the future of our planet? And what about the young people, who deserve a sustainable existence, clean air and water, a fossil-free environment, in short, a future? How can we help them?

Oregon Green Schools is ready with answers.



How lucky we were that a truly insightful and downright luminous young educator, Joshua Frankel, took time to be with us at World Community Day. Joshua coordinates regional activities for Oregon Green Schools. He builds teams of kids and adults dedicated to finding out how "green" their school can become.

All aspects of school operations are on the table. Should the cafeteria rethink milk in cartons? How can the school cut in half the waste stream leaving the cafeteria each day? The "spark" Joshua shares with these teams, along with the tools they need, time and space to analyze and plan—these are the elements that build momentum. To "think out of the box" is Joshua's specialty. The chance to transform their school is a huge opportunity. Kids learn and do. Adults assist and commit. Everybody wins.

What's next for these youngsters? How and where can they collaborate and grow these ideas? Joshua has still more answers.

OUR FUTURE

Oregon's Youth Leadership Network for
Climate Action and Climate Justice

We are Oregon high school students (and adult supporters) working on climate & climate justice.

Our Future, a project of Partners for Sustainable Schools, offers paid internships to high school kids, collaborating on best solutions for a greener Oregon.

So what is the mission of these young activists? To create a student-led network—that amplifies student voices in addressing climate change and climate justice—in Oregon schools, communities, and beyond.

A high school student who takes on a regional leadership internship with Our Future can earn a stipend in the amount of one thousand dollars. Teams of these leaders build equitable climate action plans in their school districts. They work to eliminate waste. They join together to take action in legislative and civic arenas. Twenty-one high schools spanning twelve Oregon school districts join fifteen partner organizations and agencies to make this happen.

Joshua was asked how we could help support these projects and he suggested you could best propel his work with high schoolers by supporting Our Future, a project of Oregon-based Partners for Sustainable Schools. Visit ourfutureoregon.org online to make a donation.

Alternately, you may send your contribution directly to Our Future in care of Director Mel Bankoff at 49 W. 26th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97405.

Or, if you prefer, just send your check written to Church Women United to treasurer Nancy Vrijmoet at 42091 McKenzie Highway, Springfield, Oregon 97478. Write "Our Future" in the memo line, and your contribution will be sent directly to Our Future, where Joshua is project coordinator.

Our time at World Community Day was made special in so many ways. We loved welcoming Nancy Anderson at the piano. "Where earth's fragile web is raveling help us mend each broken strand," new words to an old familiar tune, what magic she shared with us!

A special visit from Christine Zeller Powell of the Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County capped the event.



Christine Zeller-Powell, RISP Director and an Immigration lawyer shared the latest news about RISP/RRC.



On October 1st the Federal Government granted the program full Refugee Resettlement Agency Status. It is now an affiliate site!

Also RISP is able to offer immigration legal services through the state funded Asylum Seekers. As the program has grown new office space was needed! The program is now housed in a building downtown near the library and good bus service making it more accessible for people.

A number of CWU women are volunteers with the Refugee Resettlement Coalition which began resettling refugees in 2016. Dedicated to welcoming our newest neighbors, we gave half of the World Community Day Collection to the Refugee Resettlement Coalition. It will be a start.

Well, with our young people in the hands of dedicated folks like Joshua, and those new to Lane County in the loving hands of Christine and friends, and with all the joy surrounding us as we enter this season of Advent, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude. A sense of hope is ours.

ISSUE UPDATES
Charlotte Maloney



**OREGON UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE
GOVERNANCE BOARD**

Slow progress toward establishing the governance board: The Executive director position has been posted. The deadline for applications was November 17. Will report on the board member appointments once Governor Kotek announces them.

**MOVEMENT TOWARD US SINGLE PAYER
SYSTEM**

A bill which would empower states to create universal health care plans has been introduced November 8. The text of the HR 6271 is here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6270/text> There were 26 co-sponsors, including our Representative, Val Hoyle. Other Oregon co-sponsors: Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, and Andrea Salinas. To learn more go to: https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/urge-congress-empower-states-to-build-us-stronger-health-care-systems/?link_id=1&can_id=0ce06fa51d52a22e18ac483ab49b43f5&source=email-launch-the-state-based-single-payer-bll-today-8&email_referrer=email_2099786&email_subject=launch-the-state-based-single-payer-bill

**PHYSICIANS FOR NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN
FILM ABOUT OUR BROKEN HOSPITAL
SYSTEM**

To view the film, use passcode PNHP112023 at: <https://vimeo.com/user45498180/review/879523174/0ebd48e60c?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=271d250a-e099-4ddc-9db6-e6fba2da3b89>

**PEACEHEALTH UNIVERSITY DISTRICT
HOSPITAL CLOSURE**

PeaceHealth administration gave University District Emergency Department staff notice that the department will close as of 7AM December 1. The only good news is that the staff of the Rehabilitation Outpatient Clinic were told that their clinic will stay open. Local legislators are working on some possible alternatives, but nothing has been announced. Next issue will include any developments.

DIVEST OREGON



As The Vine goes to press, there is no new information because the monthly meeting is next week.

**SENATOR MERKLEY SPONSORED BILL
ADDRESSING PLASTIC POLLUTION**

Senator Jeff Merkley is one of the lead senate sponsors of the [Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act](#) (S. 6053) to address and prevent plastic waste.

To read the text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6053/text>



Photo credit: Dan Villani

Thoughts for Advent 2023 by Mary Sharon Moore

Advent is an *invitational word*, with a Latin root: *ad + venire*. *Advent invites us to come close, to approach, to advance.*

So, when we are attuned to it, Advent carries the urgency of Light, precisely when world situations seem most bleak.

Advent defies the logic of evidence embedded in our world's present narrative. Advent offers, instead, the logic of *grace, and hope, and possibility to all who are courageous enough to embrace it.*

Humankind and all of Creation *groans—whether knowingly or not—to live its original loveliness, and to remember its original blessing of justice, generosity, joy, and peace.*

We celebrate Advent because we know we have it in us to yearn as Creator yearns, to cherish what Creator cherishes, which is every *thing, and every one.*

Advent is our season of spiritual pregnancy, so necessary to the proper celebration of Birth.

We are women of the Hidden Holy One, seasoned now to embrace the expectancy of new life *stirring already within the shell of an old and exhausted world.*

We can and must do this Advent right. We must honor this season of waiting, hoping, trusting, and yes, even grieve the spaces where Peace is not. It takes time, intention, and holy quiet.

We can and must offer the full maturity of our hearts as balm to a broken world, starting close in, in our hearts, attitudes, families, community.

We must love our world with new urgency, yearn for its healing, and keep watch for the Hidden Holy One who walks amid the rubble and the cries, even now.

Send your thoughts to marysharonmoore@gmail.com. Mary Sharon blogs at marysharonmoore.com.

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