



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

Editor: Phyllis Hockley

[cwulanecounty.org](http://cwulanecounty.org)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**JANUARY 2024**

Jan 5	United Lutheran Church
Friday	2230 Washington St
10:00	Snacks and Fellowship
10:30	Forum: Capitalism

**JANUARY FORUM ON JANUARY 5TH**  
 Church Women United welcomes University of Oregon History and Economics Professor Emeritus Daniel Pope, presenting "Capitalism: Not a Love Story." This will be the first of our 2024 Friday forums exploring transformative justice. How can we move toward climate justice and racial justice? Can we discard or reform prevalent notions of patriarchy, capitalism, and anthropocentrism? Join us at 10 a.m. for coffee, snacks, and fellowship with program beginning at 10:30. We will be at United Lutheran, 2230 Washington St., Eugene. Hope to see you there!

**SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY FORUM**  
 On Friday, February 2, Rev. Nancy Gallagher, Pastor of St. John the Divine, will inform us about a biblical version of economics. Join us at 10 a.m. for coffee, snacks, and fellowship. The program begins at 10:30 a.m. We will be at Rev. Nancy's church, St. John The Divine Episcopal Church, 2537 Game Farm Rd, Springfield. Plan on coming!

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Men work hand in hand with women as Moms volunteers, demanding we build a world free of gun violence. Find your local Moms friends on January 15 when we march in honor of everything Dr Martin Luther King stood for.



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## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Mary Sharon Moore

The Taproot of Transformative Justice “Justice,” a hard-sounding word, is actually a *beautiful invitation* to some deeply challenging work. Its work is to “make whole.”

*Restorative* justice aims to restore to *its original beauty, dignity, and vitality* that which has been ensnared, defiled, crushed.

*Transformative* justice aims to advance the human person, the human community (family, society), and the totality of Creation, *to achieve its fullest, authentic self.*

The *taproot* of transformative justice is a deep *intuition* that this human and creation-al project is worth pressing for, with all our might, because the powers of *resistance* to human and creation-al flourishing are well-entrenched, monied, organized, powerful.

Transformative justice seeks to *liberate* the potentiality in each person, in society, in each element of Creation, through particular acts, through policies, with particular care for the weakest, the most vulnerable, or hidden, or excluded; the most wounded physically, emotionally, spiritually, morally.

This deep-rooted intuition of wholeness is not merely the Christian claim but the taproot of the world’s great spiritual traditions. Jesus prays “that all may be one,” *now*. On Earth, as in Heaven. The yearning is divine. How it comes about is our work.

In our mess-of-a-world, where does transformative justice begin? Not “out there” but “in here,” in the spaces of attitude, heart, conscience, and courageous action. We know—by the fierce, coordinated, constant pushback it receives—that it’s *prophetic* work.

This challenging work is why we call ourselves Church Women *United*—dedicated to the fierce, coordinated, and constant push *forward* toward a world that works for everyone.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU,  
ANNE!

Ten years of enthusiastic giving.  
You are one of the reasons CWU is still living.  
So our gratitude does surely flow.  
This we do want you to know.  
And we’re glad you will still be around.  
So your loving energy can still be found!!!

## OUTGOING PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Anne O’Brien

My dear women of Church Women United of Lane County:

This is my farewell president’s message. I’ve been your president since 2013. That’s 10 years! So it is time to pass the gavel. I had no idea I would grieve the loss of the office. I’ve been so looking forward to retiring and now I feel a bit sad.

Through the years, I’ve remarked “I hate to admit it, but I really enjoy being president.” Even though it was quite demanding until Nancy Vrijmoet and Charlotte Maloney swooped in and took many responsibilities off my plate and made it quite doable.

I do get to remain on the Board as the chair of Ecumenical Development which is responsible for recruiting and communicating with as many local churches as possible. If you know of a church that might be part of CWU Lane County if they were asked, let me know. [aob-dob@gmail.com](mailto:aob-dob@gmail.com)

I’ll also remain as NW rep on the National CWU Nominating Committee until summer and then our own Nancy Vrijmoet will be voted in.

So, I say good bye to being president and I leave the position knowing that you are in the best of hands with Mary Sharon Moore- Spiritual Director, Elder Guide, author and pretty special person - and the rest of the Lane County CWU board. Thank you for all the wonderful times and God bless you all. I leave you with a positive thought: “May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

## DECEMBER ANNUAL MEETING

Charlotte Maloney

Our annual meeting was held on Friday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, at Friends Meeting (Quakers), Eugene. The ladies of Friends Meeting provided a generous table of delicious continental breakfast treats at 10:00. About 20 members arrived and socialized. Anne began the meeting around 10:30, opening with a prayer. Katharine then read our land acknowledgement. Anne then introduced our final climate activist speaker, Aya Cockram, who is the coordinator of Fossil Free Eugene.

Her presentation was titled “Building a Fossil Free Future: Eugene’s Campaign for a Just Transition.” She showed how over 50 cities across the nation are working to restrict the use of natural gas infrastructure in new buildings as part of the transition to eliminate methane and other pollutants contributing to climate chaos. She explained that Fossil Free Eugene is a coalition of over 20 climate action groups, including several organizations of our local youth climate activists who presented to us this year.

The coalition is asking the Eugene City Council to:

- 1/ Mandate that new construction in Eugene be built all-electric.
- 2/ Transition all utilities in the City to 100% renewable energy by 2030.
- 3/ Facilitate a just transition for low-income and historically marginalized communities through the creation of a Justice Fund to support whole-home retrofits among other critical steps to move from fossil fuels to clean renewable electricity.

The council passed a ban on new construction of homes with natural gas appliances. This ordinance was modeling an ordinance passed by the Berkeley, California, city council. However, in appeal it was struck down as parts being unconstitutional. After NW Natural Gas spent \$1 million dollars on a campaign to place reversing the Eugene ordinance on the May ballot, the Eugene City Council rescinded the ordinance in order to prevent costly litigation.

If you would like more background information, there are two webinars and a recording at <https://fossilfreeeugene.org/webinarsrecordings/>

If you’re reading the printed The Vine, you can access all the links in this article at the website Fossil Free Eugene. Click on Resources and select what you’re looking for. For a yard sign, click Actions.

If you would like to support the campaign’s future actions, you can:

Order a Fossil Free Yard Sign at <https://fossilfreeeugene.org/fossil-free-yard-sign/>

Send email to UO boiler task force from <https://fossilfreeeugene.org/action-alert-urge-uo-to-go-from-major-polluter-to-climate-leader/>

Pass a resolution at your neighborhood level to support the Fossil Free Eugene platform

Email [fossilfreeeugenecoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:fossilfreeeugenecoordinator@gmail.com) to join email list and/or or ask for more ways to get involved, including letting Aya know you’re willing to testify at future city council meetings. Her phone number 541-912-1667, if you prefer.

Next we completed the nomination and election of our 2024 board. Susannah Lustica performed the installation .

### Officers (two years)

President: Mary Sharon Moore (2024-2026)

Vice President: Charlotte Maloney (2021-2023)

Treasurer: Nancy Vrijmoet (2022-2024)

Recording Secretary: Katharine Hunt (2024-26)

### Committee Chairs (one year)

Ecumenical Action Chair: Sarita Lief

Ecumenical Development Chair: Anne OBrien

Celebrations Chair: Jo Anne Arnold

Communications: Phyllis Hockley

Hospitality: Sara Michener

Finance Committee Chair: (No nominee)

Nominations Committee Chair: (No nominee)

Anne next presented the report of all activities and forum programs of 2023. (This is available in the 2024 Yearbook, which is provided to all who join and available for \$5 for those who don’t join.) Nancy provided the report of our community partners, followed by the 2024 proposed budget. Then Sarita, as Ecumenical Action Chair, presented the 2024 calendar of monthly programs, which included her explanation of our theme for the year, “What is transformative justice?”

After announcements, we said the Prayer of the Least Coin and sang “Let There Be Peace On

THE MOVEMENT KNOWN AS CHURCH WOMEN UNITED  
Finding a Place for Everyone in 2024  
Nancy Vrijmoet



January has arrived!

I'm pleased to return in 2024 as your treasurer. Your phone calls and the notes you tuck in while mailing your checks to Church Women United are endearing beyond measure. It is clear that the movement known as Church Women United means a lot to you.

Here is evidence of that commitment. Let's look back on 2023.

We hit the ground running, with donations totaling more than two hundred dollars to help homeless women in need of menstrual supplies.

You donated triple that amount to help Indigenous and Latino students in Eugene and Springfield, whose families occasionally need help covering expenses.

In June your checks rolled in for the Summer Fun Fund. June through August activities for kids at eight local nonprofits happened *because of you*.

After we were invited by SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), you sent in generous donations for Juneteenth.

You made possible American Sign Language interpretation at that event.

In September you stood with local school kids demanding actions for the health of our planet when you contributed to make their Climate Strike a success.

Note how this outreach matches the goals of our partners nationwide.

The four national priorities of Church Women United are:

- Health and Wellness
- Climate Stewardship
- Social Justice
- Hunger and Poverty.

Scan our website to learn more: <http://cwulanecounty.org/>

Yes, our donations last year were great, and made a great difference in people lives.

I must, however, inform you of a fiscal reality faced by our organization. Alas, dues to organizations working toward goals parallel to the priorities of Church Women United, honorariums to our fabulous speakers, our unit's contributions toward good work done locally, and increased printing and mailing costs for *The Vine* put us "in the red" last year. In fact, we fell approximately a thousand dollars short of what was needed. I know you'll want to know how you can help balance our budget in 2024.

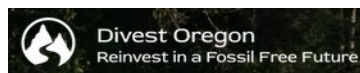
Here's how. I encourage you to send your unit membership to Church Women United today. And, do consider sending just a bit more than last year. If you will join me in sending \$65, in return, we'll be pleased to send you ten times, monthly, either paper copies or the electronic version of this newsletter. Plus, you'll receive a 2024 Church Women United Yearbook, including a directory of members and faith communities, a calendar of the forums and celebrations we'll hold in 2024, Church Women United National priorities, information about our group's history, a listing of the many organizations we partner with, and much, much more.

And, as always, your contribution of a smaller amount is most welcome. *Please take advantage of the sliding scale, if sending less is a better match for YOUR budget.* I'll watch for your unit membership check at my house at 42091 McKenzie Highway, Springfield, Oregon 97478, or you may mail it to P.O. Box 5824, Eugene, OR 97405.

Keep your friends and priorities close in 2024. Expand your horizons. Together, we are part of a movement.

May the new year fill you with hope.

## ISSUE UPDATES Charlotte Maloney



### DIVEST OREGON

PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING THESE PETITIONS  
Petition to Support No Longer Allowing  
Concealed Carry on UO Campus

<https://forms.everytown.org/a/sign-university-oregon-letter-oregon-moms-and-students-demand-action?emci=53e52e9d-ee96-ee11-8925-002248223f36&emdi=6a3a148f-7798-ee11-8925-002248223f36&ceid=242406>

Link to read the petition: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o1wIwPUe4C89807n1derGs78u-rlyqPbqIpfjNq0/edit>

Petition to support 4,500 University classified workers throughout Oregon

There are 4,500 classified workers at Oregon's public universities in their campaign to win working conditions that help students succeed, and wages that allow them to support themselves and their families. Classified staff work at all seven of Oregon's public universities: University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Western Oregon University, Southern Oregon University, Eastern Oregon University, and Oregon Institute of Technology. These workers keep campus buildings open and clean, ensure people on campuses are fed, make sure buildings are heated and cooled appropriately, keep labs and libraries running and available to students when needed, provide student health and housing services, admissions, and so much more. Without the work of classified staff, Oregon's public universities literally could not operate and students would not be educated. Over 25% of classified staff at Oregon's public universities *make less than the food stamp eligibility level for a family of 3.*

<https://docs.google.com/forms/u/1/d/e/1FAIpQLScw4Ef6SDMPQ24oRQNeFBIUcBNIAoisa0VJGDx7sqcw0v7H4g/formResponse?pli=1>

Letter of Support to the UO Task Force Considering Replacing Natural Gas Boilers with Electric Boilers

<https://fossilfreeeugene.org/action-alert-urge-uo-to-go-from-major-polluter-to-climate-leader/>

This impressive coalition continues to meet monthly with task forces meeting more frequently, plus presents testimony at every meeting of the Oregon Investment Council, which is every 6 weeks. At the last council meeting on December 6, Treasurer Read and the commission were presented with a petition signed by 1,000 Oregonians asking the commission for a climate risk action plan. Coalition member, Nancy Yuill presented statistics on the under performance of investments in coal companies. Internationally respected climate scientist, Dr. Bill Ripple (on Zoom) and Portland Youth Strike leader, Naomi Merkel, presented on the urgency of the climate crisis. The coalition has confirmed that two expects for the January OIC meeting will each make a presentation continuing to push the issue. Coalition leaders met with Treasurer Read in a roundtable format: treasurer Read said he "was not ideologically opposed" to the COAL Act.

The 2024 short session will include introduction of the Clean Oregon Assets Legislation Act 2024. It's being called the COAL bill and if passed would direct the OIC to phase out investments in coal, stop all new investments in coal, and require council to report to legislature on the phase out.

Ongoing actions: Continuing to speak at Investment Council meetings; Continuing the Right to Know campaign, because PERS members have the legal right to know what is in their retirement investments; Continue gathering information about what is being done about climate risk at the Treasury through public records requests; Continue preparations by supportive legislators who introducing the COAL bill in 2024 short session; and planning a Lobby Day to support the COAL Act Jan. 10.

Since last Vine update, the council issued an audit, which meets one of the original coalitions demands of increase transparency. .

Eugene's Hospital and Emergency Department PeaceHealth closed the University District facility December 1, as previously announced. The inpatient Behavioral Health (formerly known as the Johnson Unit) is still open. PeaceHealth has committed to it operating for 9 months. A group has formed to research how we can again have a hospital and Emergency Department in Eugene. There are representatives from Oregon Nurses Association, HCAO, Democratic Socialists of America, Teamsters, Eugene Solidarity Network, CAHOOTS, Fire and Rescue, and others.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

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## A PRAYER:

“PLEASE, LORD,  
KEEP CALLING ME BACK TO YOU,  
BY DAY OR BY NIGHT,  
IN JOY AND IN SADNESS,  
DURING MOMENTS  
OF SUCCESS AND MOMENTS  
OF FAILURE.  
NEVER LET ME LEAVE YOU.”

- HENRI NOUWEN -