



Editor: Phyllis Hockley



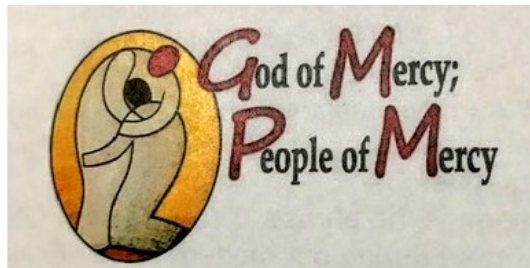
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

MAY 2024

**MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY CELEBRATION 2024**



**THE CREATOR'S  
BLESSINGS REST ON  
THE MERCIFUL**

We will meet Saturday, May 4, at St Jude's, 4330 Willamette, to observe May Friendship Day's call to Love Mercy. Our speakers will be Joe Clig of Hosea Youth Services who will show us their program and Sara Wolk of EqualVote who will teach us about STAR Voting, which is on the Eugene May ballot.

Hosea Youth Services is being added to our Summer Fun Fund recipients list and envelopes will be available for donations.

Come for fellowship and coffee at 10AM. The program will begin at 10:30. Do come. Bring a friend. Let's celebrate our church women friendships.

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

Our June Forum will be held on June 7 at Central Presbyterian Church, 555 East 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, Eugene. Our speaker is Alejandro Queral, executive director of Oregon Center for Public Policy. The mission of OCPP is to "achieve economic justice for all Oregonians through research, analysis and advocacy." Alejandro will be discussing public policies and economic justice as part of our series on transformative justice.

Please join us for fellowship at 10-10:30 with meeting beginning at 10:30. Do you have a friend who is concerned about the inequalities our economic system? Please invite them to join us too.

*Inside:*  
April Forum  
Page 2  
Word from our President  
Page 3  
Celebration  
Page 3  
Creation Care  
Page 4  
Breakfast at Brails  
Page 4  
Local Issues Updates  
Page 5  
Remembrance  
Page 6  
Did you Forget?  
Page 6  
Obituary  
Page 7

**BREAKFAST AT  
BRAIL'S**

Wednesday, May 8th, 9am  
1689 Willamette St.  
(We meet in the building on  
17<sup>th</sup> St. behind Willamette  
building)  
Food and discussion of May  
Forum  
Please join us!



**APRIL FORUM**  
**Dr. Allen Buck:**  
**Indigenous Perspective on**  
**Transformative Justice**  
**by Nancy Vrijmoet and**  
**Charlotte Maloney**

Our forum was held on April 5<sup>th</sup>, at Wesley United Methodist Church, Eugene. Fellowship began a little before 10:00 and included several friends from Wesley United Methodist Church and First UMC, Eugene. We enjoyed cornbread, deviled eggs, fresh fruit, croissants, and other delicious breakfast foods, plus warm beverages and choice of juices. There were 35 in attendance including Rev. Buck.

President Mary Sharon Moore called the meeting to order about 10:30 and introduced Rev. Dr. Buck. He is an elder and co-pastor of Great Spirit United Methodist Church in NE Portland and Director of the Circle of Indigenous Ministries, a Pacific Northwest outreach of the United Methodist Church. He is a member of the Cherokee Nation, grew up in Oklahoma and attended graduate theology school in Atlanta. He and his wife have four children and two dogs. Rev. Buck explained that he was trained in seminary to become a "church planter." This planting began straight away when he relocated with his family to the Pacific Northwest. Seven years ago, his first placement was at Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship in Portland, which was on the list to be closed. He joked his family joining nearly doubled the size of Sunday attendance!

Rev. Buck's first task at Wilshire was to help that faith community define its identity. Did the name "Wilshire" have meaning to the individuals making up that community? Changing the name of the church to Great Spirit was a process which taught him to listen, be open and to be flexible based upon the listening. Rev. Buck asked participants what they wanted. He did not tell them what he thought was best. The Great Spirit invites everyone to explore, reflect, discern, and pray, which leads to empowerment and transformation.

In their congregation's example, they adopted a name reflecting their shared values. Next, in a radical move they removed the pews, replacing them with chairs positioned in a circle. Finally, this community's most significant act was the result of collective reflection: they brought in the large drum. Taken on by church elders, selection and installation of the drum was the crucial step proving that Great Spirit United Methodist Church was launched anew.

After drumming became an integral part of this community's faith practice, step by step, the pieces fell into place: selection of songs was a six month long process. Great Spirit United Methodist Church was now a spiritual family. Currently there are 50 people attending Sunday services, with more than a hundred connected within the community. [

The process of "decolonizing," an attempt to address the lasting harm to Indigenous people caused by centuries of misguided acts, is the path Reverend Allen Buck walks and helps others walk. Over the course of these last two centuries, a scar was burned across the country as settlers moved west, wiping out the franchise of First Nations peoples. Much of this colonization was carried out in the name of Christianity. Now is the time to repair that harm. And Reverend Buck is doing his best to help others carry out this work.

He described examples of transformations similar to that of Great Spirit, happening throughout the Pacific Northwest. These included land near Wallowa Lake in the process of being returned to the Nez Perce. A struggling Chiloquin church kept open, with its name changed to "The Strong Hold." Keeping open a church near Yakima. - In White Swan, Washington, congregants are working through the process of potentially removing "Wilbur Memorial" from the title of their United Methodist church. The church elder named in that title left a legacy of hate, a legacy calling out for repair in these modern times.

Building deeper meaning into land acknowledgement events is a work in progress for Rev. Buck, who partners with others in this important work. Rev. Buck discussed how, as descendants of colonists and Christians who took children from families to boarding schools, we need to become givers instead of takers. We need to partner with Indigenous communities, return land, acknowledge the trauma, demythologize past stories of "adoption" and other trauma, and tell the truth. He invited us to join the truth telling. Step one being research what has taken place in our area, followed by step two, write up the research in order to repent and lament, then move forward. Reverend Buck declared that the women of the church are often the most effective changemakers. He described how women lead the United Methodist church to make steps toward decolonization in Alaska. In Seattle. In Eugene. Could the people of Church Women United make a commitment to reparations, too? True to form, last month, forum participants enthusiastically accepted Dr. Buck's invitation to join in this work. The board of our unit of CWU will discuss how together we can do this. Stay tuned.

**WASTE** Wise Lane County has 2 new publications to help you recycle, reduce waste and live more sustainably. One is geared towards adults and the other is a school edition for youth. Information available at [LANECOUNTYOR.GOV/WASTEWISE-SCHOOLS](http://LANECOUNTYOR.GOV/WASTEWISE-SCHOOLS) and [lanecountyor.gov/wastewise](http://lanecountyor.gov/wastewise)

I have eliminated plastic bottles for laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent, hand soap, and dish soap. I now purchase from We Re Refill It, a Eugene company which delivers these and other products to your door in glass containers. You exchange empty containers when you use all the product and buy again. They had a pick up station at a small business for free instead of the \$5 delivery fee; the business down-sized to new location and no longer offer this. If you know of a business owner who might consider offering this, contact them and we'll all save \$5. I've tried some of their personal care products, too. Details at their website: <https://www.werefillit.com/>

**Good-To-Go Meal Kit. Total Cost: \$Zero!**

**Oops! The event's snack table has paper plates and napkins, single-use cups, and plastic utensils? Pull out your Good-To-Go Meal Kit:**

- 1 lightweight, or St. Vinnie's used plate; cloth napkin; and lightweight stainless steel flatware from your kitchen drawer
- Pack it in a small canvas shopping tote, zippered tote, used gift bag, or decorative pillow case
- Store it in your trunk, or on the shelf near the door
- Solemnly commit to **NEVER AGAIN USE SINGLE-USE MEAL WARE**

**You are not a throwaway. The sacred gift of food is not a throwaway. And if you are hosting an event, remember: Hospitality is not throwaway. It's all sacred!**



**APRIL BREAKFAST AT BRAIL'S**  
Eleven of our members met April 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the points made by Rev. Dr. Allen Buck at our April Forum.

We came from over 7 faith communities. Stephanie Jackson led us in an opening prayer. We talked about what actions we can take to respond to Rev. Buck's invitation to join efforts to decolonize our thinking and repair harm done to indigenous people. We shared many resources to educate and act. Cindy Kokis shared that she bought "An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament," which Mary Sharon recommended at the forum. Cindy ordered several copies for 20% savings; contact Cindy (541- 434-4144) if you'd like to buy one at \$16 (\$4 saving). Cindy also distributed copy of an interview with Robert P. Jones, the author of "The Hidden Roots of white Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future." Carolyn Thurman suggested a book about messaging "The Persuaders," available in paperback in many places. Several of us took on a task to find out more information and share at our May Breakfast.

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Mary Sharon Moore

Imagine: Transformative Politics!

I continue to dive deeper into this year's theme of Transformative Justice. The deeper I go, the more I discover. So I'm imagining Transformative Politics. What would this look like?

Politics is the work of "the body politic," the people, the *polis*, who, together and through representation, form a unit of governance (think: city, state, nation). The body politic discerns how we be a people together, and then leans into the task. Which means: Politics requires individual and collective work! This feels like an impossible task today, as courses in social studies, including how government works and why civic engagement matters, are on the wane.

What would Transformative Politics require of people like you and me? It's not about "persuading them" to "think like us." I propose that Transformative Politics first of all requires a *nonviolent heart*. Not someone else's heart, but mine, starting now, with my next conversation, my next opportunity for civic engagement.

I feel fortunate to be part of a group engaging in a better conversation with local governments on coordinated proactive responses to emergency situations, especially emergencies that land hardest on vulnerable folks. I agreed to participate only when I was assured that the group was committed to nonviolent collaboration. Our proactive, collaborative tone is opening doors to fruitful action.

Because of our collective nonviolent stance, guided by some among us who understand "how government works," we are being heard and included in regional emergency response planning. Transformative Politics is possible! Not easy, not quick, but possible!

Ask yourself: What conversations will I have this week—with spouse, neighbor, a group I belong to—on issues I feel strongly about? *What shift of attitude or response pattern must I intentionally make now* to prepare for a conversation free of violence—toward them or toward "a mutual enemy.

## EUGENE WEEKLY CELEBRATIONS

Shirley Kingsbury



What a week I've had celebrating my 95th birthday with my heart-and-home full of gifts of love and caring from family from four states and friends from near and far including my 2 month old great grandson. Wow!!

Now I am celebrating with members of Health Care for All Oregon the news of our governor's appointment of 9 persons for the Universal Health Plan Board. Their task is to design our affordable, equitable and simplified health care system and have it ready for us to approve in 2026. In our present broken system, we pay twice as much, have poorer health outcomes and are certainly not happier people than those folks in other developed countries.

I may not be alive to celebrate our state becoming the first in the union to have health care a human right, but I am hoping that during these chaotic times more of us can share kindness, be good listeners and celebrate a state and country that provides equity in housing, jobs, education and health. I want that sweet new great grandson to live in the happiest, healthiest country, The USA!!



## LOCAL ISSUE UPDATES by Charlotte Maloney

### Divest Oregon

Divest Oregon hosted Treasurer Candidates Forum on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Portland. Watch the recording; the candidate statements start at 15 minutes: [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/187DphgM1swuf-Cp9d\\_G0wr9uF4hqZnmWWtSG0fU-Ys4/edit#slide=id.g2691298240f\\_0\\_257](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/187DphgM1swuf-Cp9d_G0wr9uF4hqZnmWWtSG0fU-Ys4/edit#slide=id.g2691298240f_0_257)

Following the forum, members gathered to celebrate the governor’s signing of the COAL Act. The coalition will continue providing public testimony at each Oregon Investment Council meeting, as well as monitor the council’s compliance with the COAL Act. Divest Oregon published a 95 page critique of the current Treasurer’s “Oregon Net-Zero Plan.” Read it or the summary here: <https://www.divestoregon.org/NZPCritique>



### Oregon Universal Health Care Governance Board

The Governance Board held its first meeting for 2 hours on April 16<sup>th</sup> in the Salem capitol complex and virtually. Future meetings are scheduled from 9AM to noon the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. The website of the board is: <https://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/uhpgb/Pages/index.aspx>

From this page you can sign up for email updates, then at the bottom of the page click to read short biography of each member, see the staff members, read materials and agenda, and submit public comment. The over 2 year process has begun.

### Increased Funding for Day Care

The state’s short session ended with little new money for education programs, and less for day care subsidies that advocate and the governor requested. Oregon’s 197 school districts got \$30 million to fund summer school – \$20 million less than Gov. Tina Kotek had requested – and \$171 million for a program to help working parents afford childcare – \$50 million less than what advocates had hoped. However, as described in this 3/29/24 Oregon Capital Chronicle article, Oregon is receiving funds for Head Start and day care for working families, which Merkely and Wyden worked on: <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/congress-allocated-21-billion-for-early-and-postsecondary-education-in-oregon/?emci=f1f4eb59-f9ed-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&emdi=b06981ca-9dee-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&ceid=435969>

### Make War Visible and End



The on-line event “Teach-In with Norman Solomon” took place April 2. The recording is no longer available. However, you can watch an interview of Norman about his book on YouTube; it’s less than 40 minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9gYNChLJk4>



**RUTH DUEMLER**  
passed away peacefully  
Sunday, April 14th.

A ceremony was held in her memory April 28 at 3:00pm at the Unitarian Universal Congregation located at 1685 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. Eugene. Reverend Jen (Jennifer Youngsun Ryu) led the service. Ruth was a long time CWU member and Board member. She was known for her long time activism.

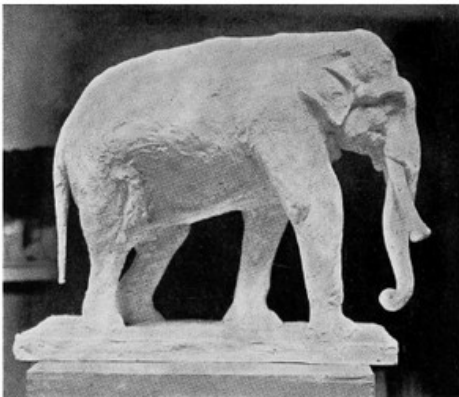
### WOMEN OF IMPACT

On Thursday, April 18, Encircle Films, which shows a documentary film once a month at the Art House (former Bijou). , honored 13 Women of Impact.

Three of them were from Church Women United of Lane County: Ruth Duemler-in Memoriam-, Phyllis Hockley and Anne O'Brien. We get things done at CWU. And we have lots more women of Impact than just three.

Here's the link to more information about the evening.

<https://www.encirclefilms.org/women-of-impact-awards/>



*Did you forget?*

*Your unit membership is waiting for you, here at Church Women United. Send your check today.*

*P.O. Box 5824, Eugene, Oregon 97405  
Sixty-five dollars if you're able, less if not.*

*Don't miss out! Join your friends. Let's make 2024 the best year ever.*

## JANE HEIDEGGER OBITUARY



Jane Bliss Bowie Heidegger, of Eugene, left this world at age 88 on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023. Jane was born on May 14, 1935, in Baker, Oregon, to Stuart C. Bowie and Esther B. Bowie.

She met her beloved husband, Sterling, in Klamath Falls. They married on Sept. 4, 1954 and raised five children together in Portland and Medford before retiring in Eugene.

Jane showed her mettle as a mom in the trenches. One day while teaching her youngest to drive, she stayed cool as Tom turned in front of an oncoming car and skidded to a stop with inches of daylight between vehicles. Mom looked at Tom, whose blood had drained from his face, and spoke coolly. "We won't tell your father about this," she said.

She arbitrated frequent fights that broke out in the bedroom shared by Kathy and Carol. She dealt with her son's antics and numerous trips to the emergency room for stitches. She sat through hundreds of concerts, ball games, water polo matches and track meets. She provided a model for how motherhood is done that her children attempted to emulate when they themselves became parents.

Jane exercised her love of the English language by reading thousands of books and doing a stint as librarian at Churchill Estates, where she lived her last years. She enrolled in college late in her life, reveling in the fact that her fellow students were decades younger. She was a great lover of poetry and kept her brain sharp by memorizing verse. Until the end, her day started with a crossword and ended with Jeopardy.

Jane was inwardly impatient with those who were careless with the earth's resources. She recycled before recycling was popular. She had a love of the underdog, championing causes through various civic and church groups that lifted up the poor, especially women and children and the homeless.

She and Sterling traveled the United States and the world. They enjoyed learning together about different cultures and natural wonders from Ireland to Australia to Turkey.

Jane could be stubborn. She rejected technology, insisting on a simple flip phone and refusing to use email no matter how much her children begged and cajoled. She favored traditional paper books to electronic readers. After the 2015 death of Sterling, a wiz on the computer who traded stocks online and set up auto bill pays, mom went full Luddite, insisting her bills be sent by mail and paying by check. She was unapologetic.

Her family loved her anyway and she loved them relentlessly back.

Jane leaves behind two daughters, Kathleen Aney and Carol Stender, three sons, Scott Heidegger, David Heidegger and Tom Heidegger, 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by Sterling and her brother James Bowie.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 13 at Peace Presbyterian Church in Eugene. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Cascade Hospice, 2650 Suzanne Way, Suite 200, Eugene, OR 97408

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

**Katharine EE Hunt**

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