



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

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

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

OCTOBER 2024

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER FORUM**

Save the Date! It's time to get informed.

On Friday, October 4,

our friends from Rural Organizing Project will focus on November's election at our **FRIDAY FORUM** at **CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**. The coffee will be on at 10:00, and we'll look for you.

Pick up your copy of the helpful *2024 STAND Election Guide, packed with information for voters from rural and urban areas alike - a gift to you from Church Women United of Lane County. See you there!*

**What Does the Lord Require of CW-You?**

Celebrations 2024 Theme Scripture

"... the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8 (NLT)

**LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER**

It's not too early to circle **November 2** on your calendar, when Church Women United Of Lane county joins with women from around the world to pray for peace at World Community Day . (Note: Celebrations are always on Saturdays.)

This year Mary Sharon will guide us as we delve deeper into what it means to be peacemakers.

Save the date; we look forward to our CWU fellowship.



**COFFEE WITH MARY SHARON!**

If you're new to Church Women United, or thinking of joining, or just want to get to know our president better, reach out to Mary Sharon to schedule a chat over coffee!

Email her at [marysharonmoore@gmail.com](mailto:marysharonmoore@gmail.com).

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Mary Sharon Moore

### LIVING A LIFE OF

#### ACTIVE NONVIOLENT NONCOOPERATION

When I was a child, my father taught me how to spread jam on my morning toast. "Just a thin spread," he said, "enough to get a taste." Well, this made sense to me!

Since then, our consumer culture's march toward unboundaried appetite and endless shopping have held no appeal. Madison Avenue and Wall Street's colonization of the mind for our maximum spending and their predatory profits has never set right with me. So as best I've been able, I've resisted buying in to it.

My Oregon forebears five generations back lived a much simpler life, connected deeply to the land, agricultural life, community. They lived prudently, sustainably, knowing that they had to rely on themselves, their family, one another; on honest labor, and on their care for farm and forest lands and what the local economy could supply.

I did not rely on public transit until I was 40. Today I have no car, no toaster, no microwave; no TV nor blow dryer. I use a communal washer and dryer. I seem to be doing OK.

And more than OK. I feel free to live simply, away from the consumer highway. I hike weekly, which makes all the hoopla around vacations seem ridiculous.

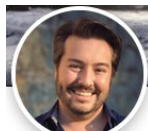
This is what nonviolent noncooperation can look like amid the "gospel of unboundaried appetite." How do *you* express nonviolent noncooperation with consumer culture? I welcome your stories!

[\(marysharonmoore@gmail.com\)](mailto:marysharonmoore@gmail.com)

## A LOOK AT OUR SEPTEMBER FORUM

Charlotte Maloney

We gathered at First United Methodist Church, Eugene, on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> to resume our monthly schedule after our summer recess. As usual, at 10:00 we began fellowship and enjoyed an exceptional spread of fruit, cheese, baked goods, deviled eggs, and hot beverages- thanks to the women of First United Methodist Church. We only numbered 17, which we attribute to later learning that many members didn't receive the September issue of The Vine until after our forum- probably due to Labor Day weekend delaying delivery. Mary Sharon brought us to order at 10:30. After leading a prayer, she introduced our knowledgeable speaker, Karsten Kazcmar, presenting "Bring the Kingdom to Your Portfolio."



Karsten educated us about intentional action using our investments to advance the kingdom of God. He discussed how capitalism is systemically violent, and

how we can make choices to prevent investing in companies that act opposite of their investors' values. Interesting history included that Torah law had governing structures to use capital resources for divine reformation. Methodists in the 1800's invested in companies that made a social difference. In the 1960s more Americans began intentionally investing in socially responsible companies.

The typical investment portfolio is 22% in companies that advance global warming (coal, oil, gas), 8% in companies supporting state sanctioned violence (weapon manufacturing, prisons), and 20% in companies creating inequality (discriminatory pay, abuse of woman, and minorities). Wealth management systems are opaque and intentionally confusing- designed to keep everyday people ignorant.

After working several years at larger companies where the "ESG investments" had not been 100% ESG investments, Karsten created Real Hope Investing, to help investors find funds, which are truly environmentally, socially, and governmentally responsible.

We will have a handout at the October forum with more details of his points of the presentation. After announcements, we read the Prayer of the Least Coin together and coins were dropped into the cups on the tables. We ended by singing "Let There Be Peace On Earth," with Mary Roth accompanying on the piano..

**EUGENE FRIENDS OF THE FARM WORKERS 1972-1976**  
**Lane County History Museum**  
**Lane County Fairgrounds 740 W. 13th Ave., Eugene**  
**Exhibit Open:**  
**Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10am-6pm**  
**FREE ADMISSION**

The Lane County History Museum is presently sharing an important part of our history. The display tells the story of the Farm Workers' Rights Movement in California, Oregon and Lane County.

It is open to the public on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 AM to 6 PM.



Most notably known for setting up informational picket lines three days a week in collaboration and solidarity with the UFW boycott of Safeway — the largest carrier of non-union certified lettuce at the time. EFW sent reports to UFW until it ended the national boycott in 1974.

On Thursday, October 10 there is an extra treat in store! That evening you can first visit the museum and see the great historic display (before 6 PM) and then just before 7 PM wander over to the Lane County Fairgrounds to the Lane Events Center in the Convention Center 740 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. for a concert from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. FREE ADMISSION with sliding-scale donations at the door. It is “A Night in Solidarity with Farm Worker Rights” concert with Tish Hinojosa.

This might be an opportunity to get a couple of friends to join you first visiting the museum and then attending the concert. Church Women United of Lane County is one of the sponsors of this important event.

Contact Katharine H. [keehhunt@gmail.com](mailto:keehhunt@gmail.com) or 541-214-8455 for more information

**National Episcopal Church Women Honor the Rev. Nancy Gallagher**  
**By Katharine Hunt**

Every 3 years the women of the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon are given the opportunity to honor a woman from their diocese. This award is announced during their national conference called “ECW Triennial”. 2024 was a third year. We nominated the Rev. Nancy Gallagher who is the rector of St. John the Divine Episcopal Church in Springfield.



The Distinguished Women Award was given to the Rev. Nancy Gallagher during the Diocesan ECW of Western Oregon Spirituality Day held at St. Barnabas in McMinnville on Saturday, September 14, 2024.

Church Women United of Lane County has met at her church for a gathering as well as a planning meeting for our 2025 forums. You may remember we learnt that Nancy and her small but mighty congregation are doing true community outreach. They provide a hot breakfast every Saturday morning, have a community garden, house 3 people on their property and welcome other members of the neighborhood to join this ministry. They truly have answered the call to “feed those sheep”.

**LOCAL ISSUE UPDATES**  
by Charlotte Maloney



**DIVEST OREGON**

Two members of Divest Oregon are now our representatives on the newly created Oregon Treasury Beneficiary Advisory Council, which begins meeting this month. They represent Divest Oregon on the 7-8 person council.

At the September 4 Oregon Investment Council meeting, Divest Oregon made a strong statement, which can be read in full here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/18GL0M9AU8BfcQ2NovLeYaAgii5Y4A2iD7V1vYM9vcvo/edit>

Some excerpts: *1/You are not in climate denial. That's good. But you are in SOLUTION DENIAL and SOLUTION DELAY. 2/Please stop the SOLUTION denial and delay of how to protect Oregon Public Employee Retirement Fund from the damage that fossil fuel and other high-emission investments pose to the portfolio. The damages will come within the working lives of current PERS members if you do not act. 3/The time for solutions is NOW!*

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the coalition resumed monthly meetings. One of the main topics was proposed updates to the original Divest Oregon demands written in 2021. Input was received from all coalition members attending. Also, reports were made by the work groups on their progress over the summer. The leadership is continuing to meet regularly with the Treasurer or his Chief of Staff to work forward to gain Treasurer support for the bills put forth during the 2025 legislative session.



**Health Care for All Oregon**

The work of the Universal Health Care Governance Board continues as described in previous months. The board continues to meet 9AM to noon the third Thursday of each month with in-person and virtual attendance. September meeting included announcing the members of the work committees to assist them. All details and viewing meeting video recordings at: <https://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/uhpqb/Pages/2024-meetings.aspx>

**CWULC SIGNS ON TO NONVIOLENT JUSTICE**

by Mary Sharon Moore

Since the start of the Israel-Palestine conflict I have been praying weekly with about 100 Christians worldwide, through an initiative of [Sabeel Ecumenical Palestinian Liberation Theological Institute \(sabeel.org\)](http://sabeel.org). [Friends of Sabeel North America \(fosna.org\)](http://fosna.org) recently issued a [Statement of Christian Support for Student Ceasefire and Divestment Campaigns](#) in advance of the 2024-2025 academic year.

Because Sabeel is steadfastly committed to nonviolent resistance to all forms of oppression, I suggested to our Board that I sign the statement. The Board agreed, and I have signed the statement to express the support of Church Women United of Lane County. The Statement can be found on the [Church Women United of Lane County \(cwulanecounty.org\)](http://cwulanecounty.org) website.

**BLESSED ARE ... IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND ASYLUM SEEKERS:**

A sharing by Joanne Arnold from Call to Action



For they seek their land of milk and honey in our “nation of immigrants.”  
Sometimes Scripture describes conditions heart-wrenchingly similar to what we see at the border.  
The thought of my wretched homelessness is wormwood and poison;  
Remembering it over and over,  
my soul is downcast.  
But this I will call to mind;  
therefore I will hope:  
YHWH’s acts of mercy are not exhausted;  
his compassion is not spent;  
They are renewed each morning –  
great is your faithfulness.

(Lamentations 3:19-23)

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*

[The Wilson Center](#) is a nonpartisan research organization commissioned by Congress. In a study of the cost of illegal immigration in the US between 2005 and 2019, they found that government expenditures totaled \$457.2 billion. That’s a lot of money! But they also found that refugees and asylees contributed \$581 billion to the economy, a net gain of \$123.8 billion. From a financial management standpoint, that’s a return on investment of 27%. Can your 401K compete with that? Merciful treatment of migrants and asylum seekers will not only add to the national feeling of well-being, it’s good business! Show mercy to someone today.

Did you know that there are over [11,800 organizations](#) in the United States that are committed to helping refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants? Did you know that the US is only one of 29 nations that is an official “[resettlement destination](#)” for refugees? Consider the devastating civil war in Sudan, the failed communist economy of Cuba, crops that wither and die as weather patterns change in Guatemala, the horrors the Boko Haram is inflicting in Nigeria and the Sahel region of Africa, Haitian gangs that have taken over the country, refugees from a repressive regime in China, and innocent victims of Venezuelan tyranny. Would you deny asylum to someone who flees the missile attacks in Kharkiv, Ukraine? Then why deny someone fleeing a cartel in Colombia? This is only a small list of places and reasons for people to seek a new homeland. The good news is that there is a lot of mercy in the world if we look for it. Become a part of it. And remember, you not only help others but help your own self-worth.

Collective Prayer

GOD of truth, in your wisdom, enlighten us.

GOD of hope, in your kindness, heal us.

CREATOR of all people, in your generosity, guide us.

Dr. Martin Luther King

## **PARDON LEONARD PELTIER**

**By Sarita Lief**

**Leonard Peltier, of the Turtle Mountain Ojibwe Tribe and member of the American Indian Movement (AIM) is 80 years old. He has been imprisoned for almost 50 years, accused of killing 2 FBI agents in 1975 at the Pine Ridge Reservation confrontation between the AIM and the FBI. He has many times asserted his innocence and been denied parole. Now in poor health, he may not live to his next parole hearing in 2026.**

**It is traditional for an outgoing President to grant pardons and from now until President Biden leaves office he could finally free Leonard Peltier.**

**I suggest one way we can actively support CWU's Land Acknowledgement is to send a postcard to President Biden asking him to grant a pardon to Leonard Peltier.**

**Send it to:**

**The White House,  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500**



## **BREAKFAST AT BRAIL'S**

**Wednesday, October 9 at**

**9am at Brail's,**

**1689 Willamette St.**

**(We meet in the building on 17th St.  
behind Willamette building on corner)**

**Food and discussion of  
October Forum.**

**Please join us! (You don't  
have to buy breakfast)**