



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April, 2019

April 5 **Asbury United Methodist**
Friday **1090 Berntzen Road**
9-11:15 **World Day of Prayer Celebration**

May 4 **St. Jude Catholic**
Saturday **4330 Willamette**
11:30-2:00 **May Friendship Day Luncheon**

APRIL FORUM

World Day of Prayer Celebration

We were sad to have to cancel the March Celebration: World Day of Prayer. So sad, that the Board decided to re-schedule the March Celebration and hold it during our regular April Forum .

We'll have our continental breakfast from 9-9:30 or so and then on with the World Day of Prayer. Recall that our program was written by the women of Slovenia and will be performed by 5 CWU members. We'll also sing some hymns and we are delighted to have as our speaker, Alice Gentry. Alice is a formerly homeless person who now resides in Emerald Village. She has an interesting story to tell us about what happens when a fairly middle class single woman retires and just can't afford the high cost of renting in this area.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

May Friendship Day Celebration

Please join us for a wonderful celebration of spring, our friendships and all of our blessings. "The Time is Now! Agree to Differ" is the theme for our worship service. Our Celebration focuses on uniting us in the Spirit to do God's work , despite our differences. We are pleased to have Heather Buch, our new County Commissioner as our speaker. For tickets, contact the representative from your church or call or email me and I'll get you a ticket. Tickets are \$8.50 for luncheon including beverages and dessert. Bring 2 or 3 friends.

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KEEPING YOU POSTED

We'll resume our work using Sharon Schuman's depolarization process at our June meeting.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Anne O'Brien

Our priest, Father Tom, started off our Lenten season by talking about what so many see as the essential virtues of Christianity: Faith, Hope and Charity. I have had the pleasure of reading Paul's words to the Corinthians at all three of my children's weddings. I'm grateful that no one yelled out, "Not again, Mom." Here it is:

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails...

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

I think it's very interesting that the three: faith, hope and charity (love) are so intertwined. Hope is defined in Google as "a feeling of trust." That is believing that there is something better to go after. Then hope is the expectation, or the certainty that it is there. I think hope is what keeps faith alive in our search for love.

I hope that your Lenten season will find you intertwined with Faith, Hope and Love. I think it makes our lives so much more positive and just plain old fine. I hope that you will find comfort in these virtues.

RAGE AGAINST CHANGE

Cindy Kokis

"White Supremacy Flourishes Amid Fears of Immigration and the Nation's Shifting Demographics". These statements are on the cover of the latest "Intelligence Report" from the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). SPLC cites 15 hate groups in Oregon. The good news? The number of such groups fell in Oregon last year.

"The US census bureau projects that white people will no longer be the majority by 2044. In the midterm elections many extremist candidates lost and dozens of women were elected. These are signs of the multiculturalist world view that enrages white supremacists and raises their fears of 'white genocide'.

Now is an important time for living our witness to our ideals.

We can vote. We can support the organizations in Oregon that embrace immigrants and multicultural views. Let's build bridges, not walls - as Bob Busse and Guadalupe Quinn suggested. Tell the state legislature that you support driver's licenses for all - The Equal Access to Roads Act. Tell the County Commissioners that you want our police to follow the Sanctuary Law: police can't help/work with ICE.

BRING; Reduce,Reuse, Recycle,Rethink

Cindy Kokis

For almost fifty years BRING has been living its mission "to provide vision, leadership, and tools for living well on the planet we share". The spring edition of Used News tells of their work to establish statewide support for product stewardship.

What??? Well, companies will design products easier to reuse or recycle. Let's try to prevent the damage in the first place. Bills are in the state legislature - SB 276: Mattress Recycling, HB 2772: Household Hazardous Waste.

This is an exciting time.

Confused? Call BRING at 541-746-3023.



HOMELESS STUDENTS

NEED YOUR HELP Nancy Vrijmoet

Imagine attending fourth grade with no more than two pairs of socks, and doing so while living with housing insecurity.

That's what we heard reported by Bethel School District when we asked whether their kids had what they needed. Elementary, middle school and high school students have little chance of academic success if they do not have clean, dry clothing to wear to school.

Inspired and encouraged by member Jeanne Costales, Church Women United of Lane County collected many pairs of socks, undies, caps, mittens, scarves, and gloves for local homeless students when the call for action was sounded in January. Our February *Spread the Love project* brought in school supplies for the homeless kids of Howard Elementary here in Eugene. Our members' response was abundant. It warmed the heart.

Please help these homeless students make it through this year's cold weather season.

Bring more socks, underwear, caps, mittens, gloves and scarves to the April 5 forum.

Focus on sizes for age 6 through age 16. Underpants should be of the colorful variety, but undershirts in plain white are also welcome.

We're ready to deliver these contributions to needy Bethel and Springfield students.

Remember the homeless the next time you're out shopping. They are depending on us.

SHARON'S LENTEN POST

Let's call this post "Lent 2019: The Brave Experiment." Because that's what it is. I don't give up things for Lent, maybe because I live a pretty simple life already. Well, I do refrain from my Sunday splurge of adding dark chocolate chips to the dried fruit I put in my homemade yogurt. A token gesture of restraint, I admit. Instead, on Ash Wednesday, I prayed the quite open-ended prayer: Lord Jesus, how do YOU desire to experience this Lenten season through me? Like I say, this is a Brave Experiment, a willing venture into the unknown. So right out of the gate I feel a cold coming on. I jump on it, doing all the right things to keep misery at bay. Laryngitis develops, instead. For three days I live in forced silence. And now the cold I kept at bay comes roaring in like a hurricane, unleashing its fury with full force. I am a mess.

I know the exact moment when I was exposed. I was gathering dishes from a table where homeless guests were enjoying dinner before bedding down at the warming center on a bitter cold night. One guest exploded in a terrible, rattly cough, worthy of a character in a Dickens novel. Instantly I knew I was caught. Cold is a small means of being in solidarity with the poor, the homeless, the ones consigned to the margins. But only a small means of solidarity. And this is where the Lenten experience comes in: In these mid-March bitter cold nights I would rather be gathering dirty dishes from the guests in the warming center dining hall.

Instead, I am consigned to spend the evening in my well-heated apartment, armed with cold remedies, and a bag of juicy Clementines from thoughtful friends. I crawl, at last, into my cozy bed, aware that when homeless brothers and sisters get a cold, they're on their own—no shelter, no cozy bed, no means of restoring health. Cold remedies are of no use if you are exposed to the elements 24/7, shivering in rain-soaked clothes, and have no place to sleep.

So I go to bed these nights thinking about these things, My ability to restore and protect my health is a privilege. My means set me a world apart from those who lack the bare necessities to survive.

Yes I know, when I am not well, my work is to get well. But what about all the times when I am well? The moral tension I feel tells me that my prayer is working: Lord Jesus, how do YOU desire to experience this Lenten season through me?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Supported Shelters Annual Benefit Dinner

Thursday, April 4th, 5:30 - 8:00pm *Pioneering Ways Out of Homelessness*, Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene, 1685 W 13th Ave. Tickets \$30. Call 541-683-0836

It's sure to be an entertaining and inspiring evening with the CSS team, accompanied by a locally-sourced, love-filled meal, silent auction, and dessert dash.

That's My Farmer 2019 CSA Fair

Saturday April 13, 11am-2pm, First United Methodist Church at 1376 Olive St., Eugene.

Local farmers will be on hand to tell you all about their CSAs, while providing tasty locally grown snacks for sampling. You'll have a chance to win at a drawing for door prizes including gift baskets from local farms and a grand prize \$200 gift certificate to be redeemed towards the CSA of the winner's choice.

There will be plenty of activities to entertain kids while parents sample snacks and chat with the farmers! Sliding scale donation requested if you are able, with all donations going to the That's My Farmer Low Income Fund, helping community members in need to access fresh healthy food.