



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

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cwulanecounty.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

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April, 2018

April 6	Eugene Friends Meeting
Friday	2274 Onyx St.
9-11:15	Global Warming Panel
April 10	Breakfast at Brails
Tuesday	1983 Willamette St.
7:30 a.m.	A Look at our April forum
May 5	First United Methodist
SATURDAY	1376 Olive St.
11:30	MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY LUNCH

APRIL FORUM

What is Environmental-Climatic- and/or Intergenerational-Justice? How do we respond through our faith traditions as we witness the slow-moving yet civilization-ending devastation of the ecosystems on which life depends? We are most assuredly leaving this young generation, and those who may come after, an unrecognizable planet. Most of us are so shocked, we don't know what to do. But we are not off the hook: those least responsible for this wreckage are already feeling the effects, first and worst. Tragically, the voices of marginalize people have never been involved in any fair or meaningful way in development of environmental laws, regulations and policies. (Think Native people, communities of color, the poor.) What went wrong, and what can we do now to fix it?

That's why we're bringing Eugene's preeminent spokespeople for this subject: Graham Klumpner (Our Children's Trust), Eric Richardson (NAACP) and Lisa Arkin (Beyond Toxics) to share their campaigns, moderated by Patty Hine & Deb McGee (350 Eugene).

"It's warming. It's us. We're sure. It's bad. We can fix it." You won't want to miss it.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY LUNCHEON

Theme: Reaching for Wholeness

Speaker: Val Hoyle

Lunch: Lasagna

Tickets: \$8.00

Get tickets from your church representative, Nancy Vrijmoet, or email aobdob@gmail.com

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Anne O'Brien

We are looking forward to a lively and enlightening April Forum when our local 350.org group brings us a panel of experts on environmental, climate and/or intergenerational justice. We've talked about Pope Francis's encyclical regarding the environment: "On Care for Our Common Home." We believe this is a very important issue for us to continue to pursue at Church Women United of Lane County.

As a kind of quick list of what we can do about climate change, the Pope came out with these Ten Commandments of Climate Change.

1. **Think of future generations.** What kind of future do we want to leave for our children?
2. **Embrace alternative energy sources.** Highly polluting fossil fuels must be replaced with clean energy.
3. **Consider pollution's effects on the poor.** Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.
4. **Take the bus!** Many scientists agree we need to give priority to public transportation.
5. **Be humble.** The earth was here before us.
6. **Don't become a slave to your phone.** "True wisdom... is not acquired by a mere accumulation of data which eventually leads to overload and confusion, a sort of mental pollution."
7. **Don't trade online relationships for real ones.** "Real relationships tend to be replaced by a type of internet communication which enables us to choose or eliminate relationships at whim."
8. **Turn off the lights, recycle and don't waste food.** "[Environmental responsibility can] significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed... planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights."
9. **Educate yourself.** "There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle."
10. **Believe you can make a difference.** "We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it."

I'll bet many of you are following most of these commandments and we'll learn even more about what we can and should be doing at our April forum. Join us at the Friends Meeting and bring your friends.

A LOOK AT OUR MARCH FORUM

Cindy Kokis



World Day of Prayer

Using the service written by the women of Suriname, Mary Roth built on their theme "All God's Creation is Very Good." The speaker, Syd Sampson, was referred to CWU by the NAACP. Syd, a high school student, shared experiences from her life, and showed how people of color experience the greatest suffering with environmental destruction.

At a national NAACP meeting in Baltimore, she was excited to walk streets with people who looked like her. "Here in Eugene meeting a black person is like finding a four leaf clover". She urged us (1) to see the film "Black Panther" (2) to believe that diversity brings peaceful, innovative, creative ideas. An example: the federal Clean Power Plan, supported by the NAACP and repealed by President Trump. Oregon and 16 other states challenge the repeal.

Syd showed how environmental racism is seen in the concentration of people of color near power plants and toxic waste sites. It's seen in political decisions. Example: after three years the people of Flint Michigan are still without clean water. A black majority city, the poorest in the United States, these citizens endure miscarriages, birth defects and a daily struggle for the simplest basic need - clean water.

She cited innovations that have come from the actions of women - drinking water purified from sewage in Africa, tree planting in China. This amazing young woman closed with a quote from Martin Luther King, J. "If you can't fly, you can run. If you can't run you can walk. If you can't walk you can crawl. Do whatever you can do."

**GETTING INFORMED
FOR JUSTICE**
Cindy Kokis

THE POLITICS OF HUNGER



A serious response to actions Congress plans against hungry people? Have an offering of letters in your church. To order your packet: Bread.org or call 800-822-7323
CWU will write letters after the April forum. If we don't do it, who will? Charity groups provide one in twenty four bags of food assistance. Federal nutrition programs provide the rest. I will be calling to hear your plans.

IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS

Getting informed is a job. It's time consuming, requiring use of multiple sources: memberships, attendance at meetings, subscriptions (use the library to read alternatives).

BRING



BRING tells CWU about the food and climate change connection. To get the spring 2018 newsletter - 541-746-3023.

CWU MEMBERSHIP IN FAMILY FORWARD



(Familyforward.org) works for our state to have family and medical leave insurance. Every industrialized nation provides this, as well as the states of New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and California. WE FAILED this session in Salem. What's our problem? Ask your state representative and senators.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



The League of Women Voters urges us to "Think Before You Ink". Chief petitioners and funders are not required to be Oregonians. The Latino community says - decline to sign initiative petition 22.

TIRED OF HEARING ALL THIS?

Let's hold dear wonder women like Mother Jones and Dolores Huerta, voices for justice. What you don't know definitely hurts you. Remember the words of Fannie Lou Hamer: "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired."

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Majeska Seese-Green

Do you wonder just what happened in the 2018 Legislature on housing and homelessness? Below is a recap of the housing opportunity created through this session, thanks to the Oregon Housing Alliance — of which CWU of Lane County is a member.

2018 Housing Opportunity Agenda priority items:

Document Recording Fee Increase ([HB 4007C](#)) - PASSED!

Great news! On Saturday, March 3, HB 4007C, which includes an increase to the document recording fee for affordable housing and creates the first time home buyer savings account passed the Oregon House of Representatives, 39-20, and the Senate, 20-9! The bill now heads to the Governor's desk for her signature. This is a huge victory! HB 4007C will triple the investment in housing opportunity across Oregon. It increases the document recording fee for affordable housing from \$20 to \$60, and is expected to generate a total of \$90 million per biennium!

OAHTC Technical Fix ([HB 4028B](#)) - PASSED!

The Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit (OAHTC) can be used to purchase and preserve manufactured home parks, to ensure long term affordability for residents. HB 4028B would allow an LLC or an LP controlled by a nonprofit organization to be an eligible purchaser. This bill passed the Senate Floor on Saturday morning before returning to the House for concurrence on Saturday afternoon, where it also passed. This bill heads to the Governor's desk for her signature!

Extension of Property Tax Exemption Sunset ([HB 4028B](#)) - PASSED!

The sunset for the local option property tax exemption for low income rental housing under ORS 307.515 is set to expire on January 1, 2020. We are requesting a sunset extension for six months, until July 1, 2020. This provision was originally included in several different bills, and is now included in HB 4028B, which was voted on by the Senate on Saturday morning, and returned to the House for concurrence on Saturday afternoon. This bill heads to the Governor's desk for her signature!

Constitutional Amendment for Bonding for affordable housing ([HJR 201A](#)) - PASSED!

HJR 201A refers a measure to voters that would change the constitution to allow local governments to lend their credit to benefit affordable housing. Last Monday, the bill was heard in the [Senate Rules Committee](#), where it moved unanimously to the floor. On Thursday, March 1, the bill was [passed by the Senate 24-5](#). Since this is a Joint Resolution, it heads straight to the voters for their approval in November.

The Housing Alliance also endorsed the following proposals for support:

Address Racial Disparities in Homeownership ([HB 4010A](#)) - PASSED!

People of color continue to face discrimination as they seek to purchase their first home. This bill creates a task force to study and address racial disparities in homeownership. Earlier this week, it was approved by the Joint Committee on Ways & Means. It passed both the House and the Senate, and now heads to the Governor's desk for her signature!

Request for Emergency Shelter ([HB 5201A](#)) - PASSED!

Oregon faces a desperate need for emergency shelter. The Governor's Office requested \$5 million to address an unprecedented increase in need for shelter capacity. The request was fully funded in [HB 5201A](#). HB 5201A passed the House and the Senate on Saturday, March 3, and now heads to the Governor's desk.

Addressing Severe Rent Burden ([HB 4006B](#)) - PASSED!

HB 4006B is the Speaker's bill which would require cities with a high percentage of renters with a high rent burden (they pay more than 50% of their income towards rent) to hold a public meeting, and report on several metrics. The [-6 amendments](#) to the bill have provided more detail on what needed to be included in the plan, as well as resources for planning grants for local jurisdictions to help address their housing needs. The [-A7 amendments](#) also included resources for OHCS to conduct a study of the cost drivers for affordable housing. Earlier this week, it was approved by the Joint Committee on Ways & Means. It passed the House and Senate this week, and now heads to the Governor's desk for her signature!

[Source: Housing Alliance Update, Sine Die Edition, March 5, 2018, [neighborhoodpartnerships.org](#)]



This documentary has been shown in several churches and at the Bijou. **SURJ** (Showing Up for Racial Justice) Springfield-Eugene Chapter is promoting community-wide viewing and discussion of this film.

The title refers to the 13th Amendment to the constitution, which reads, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States."

If you haven't seen it yet, Eugene Friends Meeting, St. Mary's Episcopal Fellowship, and Prison Ministry will be hosting a showing at St. Mary's Episcopal, 13th and Pearl on Sunday, April 8. Tom English who works with the Prison Ministry will lead a follow-up discussion. Lunch is at 12:15 to which you are all invited. Movie will begin at 12:40.

We owe it to ourselves as caring responsible people to learn what is happening in our prison systems today and the devastating results for families and communities. Come to be informed and to learn where we can play a role in needed changes.

Call Phyllis at 541-484-7331 or email at Phyllish@efn.org if you plan to join us.

Rose Marie Zook Barber will be moving soon to become the pastor of First Mennonite Church, McPherson, KS! Congratulations, Rose Marie!

As a way to say farewell, and to celebrate her new appointment, she created a wonderful music program. She was the lead singer, and was accompanied by some great musicians.

Donations were received for the Wellspring Friends School Scholarship Fund. What a great farewell gift.

Rose Marie has been a member of Church Women United for several years. She will be missed and we send our prayers for a spirit filled time in her new position.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

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UPCOMING EVENTS

THAT'S MY FARMER —Saturday, March 17th 11am-2pm. First United Methodist Church
Lot of fun activities for kids, lots of good food from the farmers. Come meet the farmers and see what they have to offer.