



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

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cwulanecounty.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| December 1 | Wesley Center |
| Friday | 2520 Harris St. |
| 9-11:15 a.m. | Annual Meeting |
| | |
| January 5 | Unity of the Valley |
| Friday | 3912 Dillard Rd. |
| 9-11:15 | Care of our Common Home |
| | |
| January 9 | Breakfast at Brails |
| Tuesday | 1983 Willamette St., Eugene |
| 7:30 a.m. | A Look at our January forum |

DECEMBER FORUM

Annual Meeting, Guest speaker

Our annual meeting will include election of officers, approval of the 2018 budget, and discussion of a new membership policy. Our speaker will be Ryan Kounovsky, from the "Yes on 101" campaign.

This special election, ballots going out on January 4th, needs real support. CWU stands for health care for all. A "Yes on 101" will secure every Oregon child access to health care and keep 350,000 Oregonians on the Oregon Health Plan. Yes on 101 needs our work. See article inside.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis

Mary Sharon Moore will present and lead our discussion, grounded in Pope Francis' Encyclical letter "Laudato Si'", "On Care for our Common Home". CWU work and actions are based on our spiritual foundations. Start the new year renewing your spirit.



**A WORD FROM
OUR PRESIDENT
Anne O'Brien**

Just thinking today about what we all should be doing to help make this a better world. I think one of the benefits of being involved in Church Women United is its assistance in directing me to place (and sometimes places) where I can use my energies to make a difference, maybe make the world a better place.

I found this prayer and I hope it helps you to look into how you can display his grace and express his heart and make your world: self, family, community, state, country, world.

[By Him and For Him](#)

"You were made by God's masterful hands
wisely designed...
uniquely formed...
caringly crafted.
You were made for God's glorious purpose
to know His love...
to display His grace...
to express His heart."

-Roy Lessin

from: *Meet Me In The Meadow.*

Join us in December and hear what we have been doing this past year and what we plan to do next year, remembering our purpose is "to encourage women to come together in visible fellowship to witness their faith, and enabled by the Spirit, to go out together into every neighborhood and nation as instruments of God's reconciling love. "



**A LOOK AT OUR NOVEMBER FORUM
WORLD COMMUNITY DAY**

Mary Roth

Our theme was "Kindling New Fires for Peace".

Attendance was over 50 people. We were greeted with a buffet breakfast featuring ethnic food. The worship time included teachings from various world religions. These statements were all similar to the "Golden Rule" of Christianity, which was the final reading. Our speaker, Sharon Schuman, author of "Freedom and Dialogue in a Polarized World", spoke on that topic. To help communication and get past your "I'm right and you are wrong," she gave this: "I become more free the better able I am to see from the perspectives of others and take action in a world they share."

When there is polarization, consider asking:
What events of personal experiences shaped your views?
Do you have mixed feelings or uncertainties in your own perspective? (We all have pushes and pulls in our ways of thinking.)

Our offering for that day goes to the national office of Church Women United to support causes of peace and justice. It was \$229.26.

To watch a video of the presentation, search for "YouTube Todd Boyle Sharon Schuman."

A LOOK AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

Cindy Kokis

Bread for the World

The proposal to zero out international food aid failed. Instead, congress increased international food assistance and added \$1 billion for additional famine relief. Calls, letters, and the BFW lobby made a difference. Bread for the World originated in Eugene. Keep up your membership.

CareWorks

Our spring forum introduced CWU to CareWorks. CWU joined their lobby in Salem and attends their monthly meetings at the First United Methodist Church. Current work focus is on the Benecia Senior Living facilities. Benecia is a for-profit for people with dementia and Alzheimer's. There are 5 in Oregon. Their River Grove Memory Care in Eugene has 50 supported abuse complaints since 2014. Patients, families and staff need help so changes will be made. Watch for future actions.

Oregon Strong Voice

CWU is a member of this labor, community and faith group coalition. We were present on the strike line with the county workers. Raging Grannies sang. Joining these community groups strengthens our witness for workers right to organize and for just contracts.

Vietnam War: Making Same Mistakes?

The Eugene Public Library discussion sponsored by Veterans for Peace and Citizen Alliance of Lane County (CALC) spoke to omissions in the television series. Chuck Hunt stressed the importance of the antiwar movement, especially its strength in the military. What the Civil War families called "soldiers heart", became shell shock, then battle fatigue and is now PTSD. Combat is the cause. Bruce Handpick said twelve months in the infantry made him "lose trust in my humanity."

"If we can't imagine peace, we can't create it." Marion Malcolm, peace activist, spoke of our present military involvements. "When you are somewhere you shouldn't be, no good will come of it." War is integral to US foreign policy, fed by arrogance, greed, and lies. "The time is always right to recognize the humanity of other people."

To watch a video of the panel, search for "YouTube Todd Boyle Vietnam War: are we."

Ruth Duemler

Our Nursing Homes

Local SEIU labor union invited our members to join their press conference asking long term nursing facilities to provide proper care for patients. According to Eugene Weekly some facilities have been found understaffed, unsafe, untrained with underfunded diet and hydration programs. The protest asks for help to bring facilities into compliance with regulations and substantial penalties that match the severity of the wrongdoing. According to DHS there have been 3,108 abuse complaints in Lane County from 2010 -July 2016 with 36.2% substantiated for abuse or violations.

The latest AARP Bulletin front page stated "HOW SAFE ARE OUR NURSING HOMES?" They wrote that recent disasters put the focus on a changing industry and asked the question "ARE THEY PREPARED? IS CARE IMPROVING? WHO WATCHES THEM?" **They have 9 things to consider**

1. Check grounds for clean outdoor seating areas without noise.
2. Pay attention to how well patients get care.
3. Gain family and visitor opinions.
4. Ask tough questions on how staff interacts with patients.
5. Check turnover of staff and see if they appear pleased to assist patients.
6. Fresh, appetizing, healthy meals?
7. Well ventilated rooms with clean smell.
8. Safety check for handrails, nonskid floors, disaster plans.
9. Adequate staffing in off hours.

Members invited to "CareWorks"-- meets December 27 at 4 pm at First United Methodist Church. And do contact your legislators and ask for these important nursing home changes!

"Why Hope is Dangerous When It Comes to Climate Change", "Study: Pollution kills 9 million a year, costs \$4.6 trillion", "Pollution killing more people than war and violence, says report", "Illegal and unregulated diesel emissions are causing tens of thousands of unnecessary deaths worldwide", "Biomass Costlier, Dirtier Than Wind, Use Solar for Replacing Coal Power", "Polluters dilute Gov. Brown's clean air plan"---all headlines pointing to a very uncertain future if we don't all get involved.

These recent headlines points to the seriousness of climate change for our children and theirs. We are allowing many backward steps with increases of carbon harming our health and our climate. Do we need our legislators to become more informed or do we allow the moneyed interests continue to oppose any real reduction in carbon emissions? Maybe we need to talk to them? Our Father's home is in trouble and we appear to be going backward. *Interested in carbon emission reductions for reducing climate:*

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For the State of Oregon CAP and INVEST: SB 1070

This Bill, if passed will put a diminishing (as years go by) cap on the amount of carbon that can be produced by a given entity. It will require entities to pay for this carbon exude and that money will go to provide production of green energy projects which will provide jobs related to these projects.

OREGON NEEDS THOSE JOBS!

Information:

Go to Oregon Legislative Information System. OLIS.

Click on 2017 Bills, Put in SB 1070, click on expansion of summary which is the plus + sign
There is much support, by Legislators, including our Governor. But there is now much push back from the opposition who do NOT want to pay for their Carbon emissions.

Please contact YOUR State Senator and State Representative if you wish to support this Bill. They really need to hear from us. Please also contact the Heads of the Environmental Committee to tell them of your support.

Senator Dembrow: Sen.MichaelDembrow@[State.or.us](mailto:Sen.MichaelDembrow@State.or.us) 503-986-1723

Representative Helm: rep.helm@oregonlegislature.gov 503-986-1434

and also thank Governor Brown for supporting this Bill.

Put in Governor Kate Brown which brings up website. Then, share your opinion. 503-378-4582
Please also share this with friends, neighbors, and especially with others, etc. across the state of Oregon. WE NEED JOBS!

As the first time for hosting homeless families from First Family Place, the Unitarian Church would appreciate any volunteers from January 8-15, 2018. Please contact Barb Prentice 541-302-8151.