



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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MARCH 2020

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|---------------------------------|--|
| March 7
Saturday
10-12:15 | United Lutheran Church
2230 Washington St.
World Day of Prayer Celebration |
| April 3
Friday
9-11:15 | 1st Christian Church of Springfield
395 Centennial Blvd, Springfield
Asylum action for Hospitality |
| April 7
Tuesday
7:30 | Breakfast at Brails
1983 Willamette St.
A look at our April Forum |

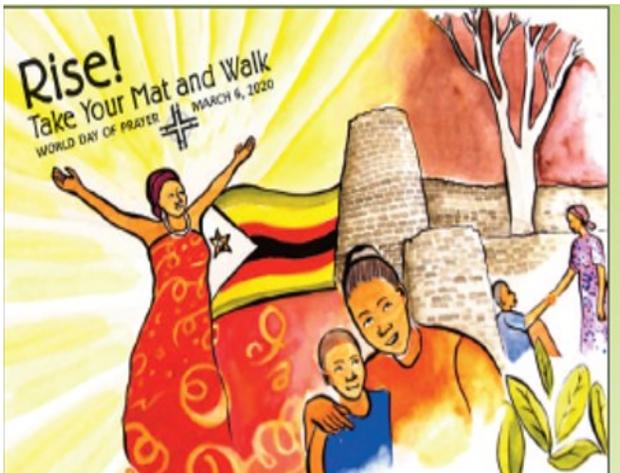
MARCH FORUM

Our World Day of Prayer Celebration has been planned by the women of the African country Zimbabwe. Their theme is "Rise! Take your Mat and Walk." "They have provided some great music for the program. Our speaker, Patty Hine, from 350 Eugene, will have as her theme, "Climate reality for Christians."

The World Day of Prayer offering will help create projects around the world to assist those in need. Plan to join us and bring a friend or two.

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL

Our theme for our April forum is "Asylum Action for Hospitality". OCAN (Oregon community Asylum Network) is working locally with those in need and have much to share with us.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Saturday, March 7
United Lutheran Church,
2230 Washington St.
10am-12:15pm

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

A group of us from Beyond War Northwest have been studying with other like minded folks the interconnectedness of peace and justice and of sustainability. Peace and justice seem to go together naturally but sometimes adding sustainability to the mix might not make sense to us all. Yet, many of us can agree that peace and justice and environmental sustainability are intimately connected. We don't see those connections made very often in the popular press, in advertising or even in highly publicized initiatives to fight hunger and poverty or to end war. A whole bunch of us, especially among my CWU friends, think that we must address global climate change and that peacefully ending conflicts is vital. But, how are these two issues related?

Our Seeing Systems authors point out that Martin Luther King actually tied all of this together in his "Christmas Sermon on Peace" in 1967.

"It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly... This is the way our universe is structured, that is its interrelated quality. We aren't going to have peace on Earth until we recognize this basic fact of the interrelated structure of all reality."

That does sound good. I can just hear MLK's voice crying out. But the question is: where is the hope in this? The authors point to the answer posed by author Jack Neslon- Pallmeyer who calls for us to embrace "authentic hope."

People working together can increase their power and impact for positive change. We can interact with systems we've created to make them better and more ecologically sound.

People power can expand and we can work together to make a real difference for good.

I think you will be inspired along these lines after attending our March Celebration on March 7. Hoping to see you there.

Peace....Anne



**THIS SPRING WILL MARK THE 50 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY
AND EUGENE IS PREPARING**

St. Jude Catholic Church will celebrate with a program using materials provided by the Catholic Climate Covenant based in Washington D.C. They will also plan 2 other activities based on Pope Francis' book *Laudato Si, Care for our common home*. The activities will include a discussion night on the book, which is celebrating its 5 year anniversary; the other activity planned will be a Soup Supper followed by Stations of the Cross, which will be based on meditations from *Laudato Si*.

Dates and times to be determined. Call Garry or Sandy Swanson at 543-726-3997 for questions or more info.

OTHER UPCOMING CLIMATE EVENTS

March 5, On Rising Together: Creative and Collective Responses to the Climate Crisis Oregon Humanities Center, Univ of Oregon, presents the 2019-20 Clark Lecture with author Elizabeth Rush. Free and open to the public. 730pm, First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene, OR

March 10, Climate Town Hall: Organizing for Environmental Justice
Keynote by Joel Ibda, Environmental & Immigrant Justice Organizer.
Contact info@350eugene.org to sign up.
6:30pm - 8:30pm, Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., Eugene, OR

A LOOK AT OUR FEBRUARY FORUM

“Why Don’t They Just Get in Line?”

Lise Colgan, our speaker

Amidst all the fire and fury of today’s immigration rhetoric, you may hear one strident question more than any other: “My great-grandparents did it the right way—so why don’t these so-called immigrants just get in line?” The short answer is: For millions of worthy and willing Immigrants, there *is no line* to get into.

Let’s remember that before 1882, being a US immigrant pretty much meant you stepped off the boat and went to work. That changed in 1882 with the introduction of the Chinese Exclusion Laws which sought to stem the “yellow hordes” that were coming to America to build its railroads and populate its western frontier. Ever since then, immigration law has continued to be primarily a way to *exclude* certain ethnicities and nationalities depending on current political whim.

So how does a person from another country who wants to make the U.S. her permanent home go about it?

First of all, she *can’t* just go from being undocumented to applying for citizenship. An aspiring immigrant must first spend a certain amount of time (usually 3-5 years) as a legal permanent resident (LPR) before applying for citizenship.

The most common way for someone to obtain LPR status is through a *family-based petition*: a close family member who is a US citizen or LPR files a petition recommending that his undocumented relative be allowed to obtain legal permanent residency. This is limited to *very* close relatives: U.S. citizens can file for their spouses, children, parents, and siblings; LPR’s can file only for their spouses and their unmarried children. Uncles, cousins, in-laws, nieces, grandparents—these fall outside the eligible classes of relatives who can file a petition or be petitioned for. And millions of hard-working, law abiding, tax-paying immigrants who have been here for 10, 20 even 30 years or more have *no* way to become “legal” because there is no one here in the U.S. who is eligible to file a petition for them.

Well, how about employment, then? Permanent employment visas are limited to 140,000 per year and cover only certain very specific types of employment, such as scientific researchers, religious workers, artists, and various other professional-level jobs. There is *no* all-encompassing “work visa” that would allow agricultural workers, for example, to become legal permanent residents, despite the fact that the U.S. has need of some 2.5 million ag workers annually.

So, for far too many immigrants, there are simply *no* legal pathways for legal permanent residency. When our laws are so far removed from human reality, change is overdue. And there are concrete things you can do to make things change for the better. Here are a few:

Get educated! Access news from immigration-related sources such as the American Immigration Council, Immigration Legal Resource Center, and Protecting Immigrant Families. Google them to get to their websites and then read and absorb.

1. Educate others! Challenge inaccurate or just plain phony statements you hear or read. An alternate fact left uncorrected becomes the new reality.
2. Demand action from legislators! Sign petitions, make phone calls, send emails, make noise. If we can all agree that the immigration system is broken, can’t we also agree to fix it?
3. Support local organizations that help vulnerable immigrants! Some examples are Catholic Community Services Refugee and Immigrant Services Program and OCAN.

Through it all, may we be Christ-centered Christians—powered by love to do great things in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable .

CWU PROJECT AT SOLIDARITY SHARE FAIR

Majeska Seese-Green

Come join others from CWU as we connect with a dynamic monthly community event, the *Solidarity Share Fair: A Really Free Market*. Drop in any time between 3:00 and 6:30 PM on the last Tuesday of every month. The location February 25, March 31, and April 28 is the First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive, Eugene.

Starting February 25, we'll have a CWU table with information and a mini-work-party to start-up our Wraps project. We'll be using re-purposed/recycled surgical instrumentation wraps to make sleeping mats and possibly other items especially useful for our unhoused neighbors. The Share Fair will be one of several distribution points for the mats.

The local Wraps project was instigated by Heather Sielecki of White Bird Clinic, as written about in previous Vine newsletters. The model is the *du cOeuR Project* in California (more info: www.facebook.com/bearheart4101/).

The *Share Fair* provides free goods and services from local people, organizations and community groups to houseless and working class members of the community. Several hundred people attend, sharing food, live music, games, supplies, resources, and a chance to know other folks in the community. It's all free! Family friendly, kids welcome.

February 25th marks the second anniversary of the Solidarity Share Fair. The free market is a project organized by members of the Neighborhood Anarchist Collective, which "strives to grow the anarchist movement through strategic direct action and by providing a welcoming environment for education and participation. We organize locally to help build a society where neighbors support each other to meet basic needs, individuals are free to follow their passions, and empowered communities collectively shape the future."

Among others groups consistently present at the Share Fairs are Eugene Burrito Brigade, Eugene Food Not Bombs, Ward 9: Homeless Neighbors Association & Carry It Forward.

For more information about the Share Fair, contact: sharefair@neighborhoodanarchists.org.

For more information about the CWU/White Bird Clinic wraps project, contact Majeska at 541-337-1643 or majeska@efn.org. Do check out the California nonprofit's Facebook page for inspiration on the possibilities.

PS: We learned the Share Fair is especially needing clean blankets just now — if you have any to donate. Other resources/goods the Share Fair is looking for include:

- Warm clothes and accessories (jackets/coats, sweaters, warm shirts, warm pants, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, shoes/boots, underwear/long underwear)
- Hygiene products (toothbrushes/toothpaste, pads/tampons, toilet paper, deodorant, travel-size soaps and shampoos)
- Tarps, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, blankets
- Camping cookware and storage containers
- Backpacks/Purses/Tote bags, bags, Ziploc bags, garbage bags
- Water bottles (reusable and durable if possible, no glass please)
- Band-aids and other first aid supplies
- Tape, duct tape, Sharpies, pens, pencils
- Flashlights, -Batteries
- Art supplies, books, pocket sewing kits
- Phone chargers



HOMELESS STUDENTS DESPERATELY NEED A LEG UP – PLEASE HELP

Nancy Vrijmoet

Imagine the challenge of attending school without a secure living situation.

Oregon's Point in Time count of the homeless took place on January 29. Last year's Point in Time count recorded 2,558 homeless children in our state. A glance at the results of this study clarifies how Lane County stacks up. Compared to other counties, our numbers are high. Overall, in the state of Oregon, among those counted, more than four percent of the homeless, or basically one out of twenty, were children. Take a close look at those results at <https://public.tableau.com/profile/oregon.housing.and.community.services#!/vizhome/2019Point-in-TimeDashboard/Story1>

During January and February of 2020, members of Church Women United of Lane County made a significant contribution to the well-being of homeless students attending school in the Bethel School District. Donated socks, underwear, caps, laundry soap, peanut butter, school supplies and hand warmers, together with \$147 in cash contributions, were gratefully accepted by Homeless Student Liaison Donna Butera. You chose to “Spread the Love” by going above and beyond. Just like Donna does, with her carefully organized clothing closet and distribution center for donated school supplies, serving students in grades Kindergarten through twelve. We're lucky to be connected to this dedicated resource, run by a person with a true “heart of gold” providing support to local students in need.

Bring more warm clothing items (socks, gloves, caps, scarves), small packages of laundry soap (bravo to the folks who bagged soap powder by hand last month!), and small non-perishable food items (peanut butter is great) to the March 7 World Day of Prayer celebration.

Steady dedication to this cause is your trademark. When you take the time to touch the life of a young person here in our community, you offer that little boost. You'll never know how important that is. Together, we can make a difference. One student at a time.

The monthly Interfaith Prayer Service now in its 19th year
Planting Seeds of the Divine

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Prelude at 6:45 p.m. | Service 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1166 Oak Street, Eugene



Choral and musical selections, sacred readings
and prayers from the world's faith traditions

Experience community as one heart | Stay for refreshments!



INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE
INTERNATIONAL

*Celebrating diversity with the grace of unity
with 19 years of continuous "11th of the Month" services*

Freewill offerings
gratefully accepted!
Facebook Live-streamed
at interfaithprayer.org