



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

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cwulanecounty.org

Inside:

- Word from our President
Page 2
- A Look at our January forum
Page 2
- Some Cindy Thinking
Page 3
- A Serious Crisis II
Page 3
- Upcoming Events
Page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| February 2 | Asbury United Methodist Church |
| Friday | 1090 Berntzen Rd |
| 9-11:15 | Universal Health Care |
| February 6 | Breakfast at Brails |
| Tuesday | 1983 Willamette St. |
| 7:30 a.m. | A Look at our February forum |
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| March 3 | United Lutheran Church |
| Saturday | 2230 Washington St. |
| 10-12:15 | World Day of Prayer |

FEBRUARY FORUM

Please join us at Asbury United Methodist Church on Berntzen Rd, West Eugene, for our February Forum. Our guest will be Mike Hunnigton, a physician from Corvallis who will help us to understand the benefits of Universal health care and give us an update on the outcome of Measure 101 and what that means to health care in Oregon. Mike is a very good speaker and this should be a most interesting program. Bring a friend or 2 and a question or 2 about the health care system and how to make it better.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH

March brings our Celebration: World Day of Prayer. Topic: All God's Creation is Very Good. Celebration means we meet on the first Saturday, March 3. We'll be at United Lutheran which is always a special treat. Please join us to celebrate with prayer and song and to hear some interesting speakers.

Directions to Asbury UMC

Go west on 6th which becomes Hwy, 99.
Continue on 99 and then turn left on Royal Ave. Go a little less than a mile.
Turn right on Berntzen Rd. Go couple of blocks.
Asbury UMC is on your left.
See you there!

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Anne O'Brien

No Place for the Poor

Describing what he calls the globalization of indifference, Pope Francis says that "whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor."

What are we to do?

Listen to how John the Baptist answered this question.

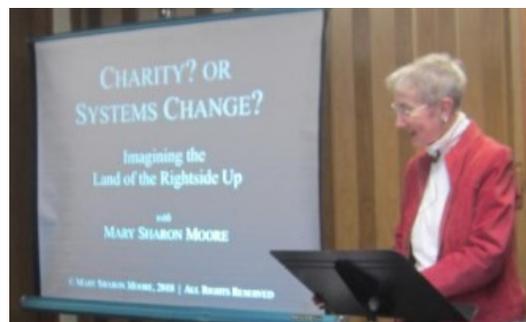
And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two coats should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." (Luke 3:10-11)

How to put this into practice through Catholic Community Service:

- Volunteer to help distribute food, or help run the daily operations of our new homeless day center, or work behind the scenes to help make it all happen
- Donate some of your own food, clothing, linens, or personal care items to share with others
- Set up a monthly financial contribution to support local Catholic charitable work

There are many opportunities for us to practice charity in Lane County. Many of you are already doing your part. And please do not forget the message that Mary Sharon Moore shared with us: Charity? Or Systems change? Charity being "to accompany with compassion." I love that description. Systems change was described as "a massive societal conversion of heart that benefits those most marginalized, fragile and vulnerable." Mary Sharon reminded us that "charity begs for systems change." Church Women United of Lane County continues to believe that charity is required and that we must also do the more difficult job of working for changing systems.

A LOOK AT OUR JANUARY FORUM Cindy Kokis



IMAGINING THE LAND OF THE RIGHTSIDE UP

Mary Sharon Moore, evangelizing missionary (and CWU member), blessed our year of forums with a bold launch into 2018. "Honest talk on the nature of God's calling in our times" is exactly what she delivered. For starters, two questions to ponder: How does my prayer life, or interior life, shape my action in the world? How does my action in the world shape my prayer life, or interior life?

The practice of charity - to accompany with compassion calls the dignity of the other to be called forth, to feel their pain. The call for justice has an equally deep base. We are called to join Jesus in imagining systems and processes working the way they should for the good of everyone. There's enough for everyone.

Systems change requires that we deeply and consistently love this world. "Politics is an expression of our compelling need to live as one." (Pope Francis)

Mary Sharon left us with a job description: The work of Church Women United is to bring human suffering and the capacity for systemic change into creative conversation for the good. Mercy and justice work together. Charity and systems change go hand in hand.

If you missed the forum, a video will be out soon and we'll give you the information in our next Vine.

SOME CINDY THINKING

CWU MEMBERSHIP We are women who are serious about making this world "Rightside Up". As members, we make an annual membership contribution as our means allow. For some, this is \$50 or more. For others, much less. Every member receives a yearbook and a newsletter. Ten great meetings are held on important justice issues. We enjoy food and fellowship together. Talk about bargains!

RAGING GRANNIES Lucy Vinis, Eugene Mayor, gives the award for best comments at City Council meetings to the Raging Grannies. "This group of indomitable, tuneful, passionate, cheerful and funny women appears almost monthly before the Eugene City Council. . . dressed in homemade costumes ... they have urged us to ban coal trains, reduce our impact on climate change and divest from the US Bank. They represent the best to me of working hard for a better world while enjoying friendship, song and silliness."

WOMEN'S RIGHTS Women need to "break the hex that has kept them from harnessing the pure politics of personal outrage to the impure politics of society building. That paradigm shift will be critical to winning the coming battles for women's rights: insurance, pay equity, family planning, workplaces free of harassment." If not "Me Too will continue to topple patriarchs while the patriarchy continues to win the day." (Susan Faludi, NY Times SRI, 12/31/17)

FACT CHECK Combined pay, ca 158,000 kindergarten teachers, mostly female, 2013: \$8.3 billion. Four highest paid hedge fund hucksters, Wall Street, all male \$10.4 billion. (*Hightower Lowdown, February 2015*)

A SERIOUS CRISIS/POSSIBILITIES, Part II

Majeska Seese-Green

Winter is here. The ever-growing "homelessness" crises — lack of sufficient shelter and low-income housing — continues. What more can we do? Here's an opportunity and request:

Members of CWU are invited to be in on the beginning of developing a unique project, part of an organized network making it easier to **host** others on private property, at private residences. (See the article on page 5 of the January Vine.)

Mary Sharon Moore, speaking on "Imagining the Land of the Rightside Up" at our January forum, provided fresh inspiration along with reminders that charity and system change go hand-in-hand as we put our faith into action. (Google "YouTube Todd Boyle Mary Sharon Moore" for the video.) How can we apply this to our homelessness crisis response?

Starting with the questions, concerns, and needs of "hosts" rather than the needs of un- or under-housed "guests" may seem upside-down. But maybe it's "rightsided up," as Mary Sharon might say, and potentially part of the reign of God here-and-now!

This seemingly-wacky notion can be applied not only to CWU members' private homes and properties, but also those of others in our congregations, as well as many more congregations' members and church properties. As Anne O'Brien has said, "This could be addressed to every church [and] place of worship in town. It's a low cost way to get some immediate housing."

While many in our community are hosting in some way already, others would like to have support in considering and beginning to provide at least occasional hospitality to others. It can be daunting. The hosting project will be a key part of creating a broader wholistic/holistic action network in incubation via ACT (A Community Together, see below).

Next steps include holding several informational **house parties** with members of CWU, Springfield Church of the Brethren, and ACT. Email majeska@efn.org or call 541-337-1643 to be included in one of the first house parties, to help out, and/or for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

If Measure 101 fails at the ballot box in January, as many as 400,000 kids in Oregon will lose health insurance. This isn't about politics. This is about giving every child - regardless of their background or their family's income bracket - an equal chance to reach their full potential. Kids have no voice in our political process, but you do.

Vote YES before January 23. Many thanks!! HURRY!!

The sequel to An Inconvenient Truth (2006)

Sunday Jan. 28, 2018 2:30pm Doors open at 2pm Central Lutheran - 1857 Potter St.

***Entrance - East Side Parking Lot* FREE**

This film addresses the progress made to tackle the problem and Gore's global efforts to persuade governmental leaders to invest in renewable energy.