



# The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

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cwulanecounty.org

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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| <b>January 5<br/>Friday<br/>9-11:15</b>     | <b>Unity of the Valley<br/>3912 Dillard Rd.<br/>Care of our Common Home</b>                |
| <b>January 9<br/>Tuesday<br/>7:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>Breakfast at Brails<br/>1983 Willamette St., Eugene<br/>A Look at our January forum</b> |
| <b>February 2<br/>Friday<br/>9-11:15</b>    | <b>Church to be announced<br/><br/>Universal Health Care</b>                               |
| <b>February 6<br/>Tuesday<br/>7:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Breakfast at Brails<br/>1983 Willamette St.<br/>A Look at our February forum</b>        |

### **JANUARY FORUM Charity or Systems Change**

Nationally known speaker, author, and Church Women United member Mary Sharon Moore will lead us in "Imagining the Land of Rightside Up" her term for the reign of God here-and-now. Participants will receive a journal which captures her talking points. All welcome.

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY**

We'll have a speaker from Health Care for All Oregon talking about universal health care and the status of the Affordable Care Act, as much as we know by February. We will know the status of Measure 101 by then also so we'll hear how that passing or not passing affects health care in Oregon. Please join us.



## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Anne O'Brien

A couple of years ago we asked Rose Marie Zook Barber, Mennonite pastor in Eugene, to help us to see how we might stay grounded and centered in hope when it seems like most of the messages we are getting are that of fear and what is wrong with the world?

She suggested that as Christians we need to make sure that we are not adding to the fear and despair and hopelessness already in the world. So we discussed how to stay centered in Christ and what is good. Rose Marie came up with four good suggestions:

1. Prayer or other spiritual practices
2. Not needing to solve all the problems, but to pay attention to that which is right in front of me and do that.
3. Find and live in the balance - Remind ourselves of the facts and find positive stories (e.g. - this is what I shared with my congregation on Sunday - there were 12,307 deaths by guns in the U.S. this past year (too many, yes!!!), but out of a population of 320 million, that means that the percentage of deaths by guns in the U.S. is one four-hundredths of a percent. Reading the news makes it sound as though they are much more prevalent than they really are.
4. Be out in nature, which reminds us that God is bigger than anything we encounter here on earth.

Here are some other ideas that emerged as we all discussed this:

Looking at music as a form of worship and centering was considered important by many. One bible study group was just talking about God in his throne room and all the angels singing and praising. A sweet sound of peace and joy for God and the world.

Turn off the news ( tv /radio), listen to peaceful music, appreciate watching God's gift to us of falling leaves, deer or turkeys crossing the street, squirrels begging for peanuts.

Meditation to start the day. Light candles for people sick or situations and hold them in the light of God's love. Give them to God and trust in his care.

Give thanks every night for one positive thing that has happened.

Do something hopeful for someone. Take socks to the Medical bus, write a check to Shelter Care, smile at a homeless person.

We have some wonderful people at Church Women United, don't you think?

## Press Release

### January 5th KEYNOTE LAUNCHES 2018 CWU FORUMS

Cindy Kokis

"Charity or Systems Change?" is the focus of the Friday, January 5, 2018 forum for Church Women United of Lane County.

The event will be held at Unity of the Valley, 3912 Dillard Road, at Hilyard, in south Eugene, beginning with a light breakfast at 9:00, and the forum program going from 10:00 to 11:30.

Nationally known speaker, author, and CWU member Mary Sharon Moore will lead us in "Imagining the Land of the Rightside Up," her term for the reign of God here-and-now. Her comments will draw from the Gospels as well as from Pope Francis' major work *Laudato Si'*. Participants will receive a journal which captures her talking points.

Mary Sharon's talk includes:

1. A fresh look at "imagination"
2. What did Jesus imagine?
3. What does Francis imagine?
4. How shall we imagine today?

Her talk will wrap up with table questions to spark fresh ideas and encouraging conversation for CWU's 2018 programs.

The January 5th forum is open to all who seek inspiration toward the common good, whether locally, regionally, or worldwide. Guests are welcome.

You can learn more about Mary Sharon's work at [marysharonmoore.com](http://marysharonmoore.com). For more on Church Women United Lane County, please visit [cwulanecounty.org](http://cwulanecounty.org).

## A LOOK AT OUR DECEMBER FORUM

Anne O'Brien

Thanks to Pastor Warren Light for welcoming us to the Wesley Methodist student center. We feel very welcome at Wesley and we do appreciate the hospitality we find there.

The Board gave reports regarding our budget and our activities and endorsements for the past year. These will be in our Directory for 2018, coming out in January. Susannah Lustica installed our slate of officers and committee chairs:



Anne O'Brien: President  
Nancy Vrijmoet: Treasurer  
Phyllis Hockley, Communication Chair  
Majeska Seese-Green, Nominating Chair

Katharine Hunt: Recording Secretary  
Cindy Kokis: Ecumenical Action  
Mary Roth: Celebration Chair  
Jane Heidegger: Historian (absent)



**Our speaker was Ryan Kounovsky who shared some good reasons for us as a compassionate, caring Christian group, to vote YES**

Many of us are over 65 and thus have Medicare. But, I believe most of us want everyone to be as fortunate as we are.

Over 100 well respected organizations have endorsed Measure 101. Some organizations that we have endorsed and/or partnered with include: Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Family Forward Oregon, Family Together, Health Care for All Oregon, Housing Alliance, League of Women Voters - Oregon, Oregon Center for Public Policy.

I think it's especially telling that most of the providers are in favor of this since they are the ones who will be paying this fee to help fund health care for almost one in four Oregonians including 400,000 kids. One reason they are wise to support this is that for every dollar they pay for Medicaid patients, the Feds return \$19. I'm proud to see that my former employer for many years, Peace Health, is supportive.

Please be sure you are registered to vote. Ballots are going out on January 4 and election day is January 23. I always think close to 100% of Oregon voters are going to vote when all one has to do is open the ballot mailed to you, mark your ballot, put it back in the correct envelope(s), sign the secrecy envelope and mail it in or drop it in a white drop box close to you. This is the only item on the ballot so it's even easier than usual.

If you want more information, go to their website: [www.yesforhealthcare.org](http://www.yesforhealthcare.org)

We couldn't leave without singing a couple of Christmas Carols accompanied by our own Mary Roth.



## Yes on Measure 101

Cindy Kokis

Ballots will go out early in January, due by January 23rd. Be informed, talk to your friends. Make this a win for our most vulnerable citizens.

This will be won by the grassroots. The opposition has money and positions of power. Do not let our vulnerable people lose health care. If this fails, there is no other money to be found.

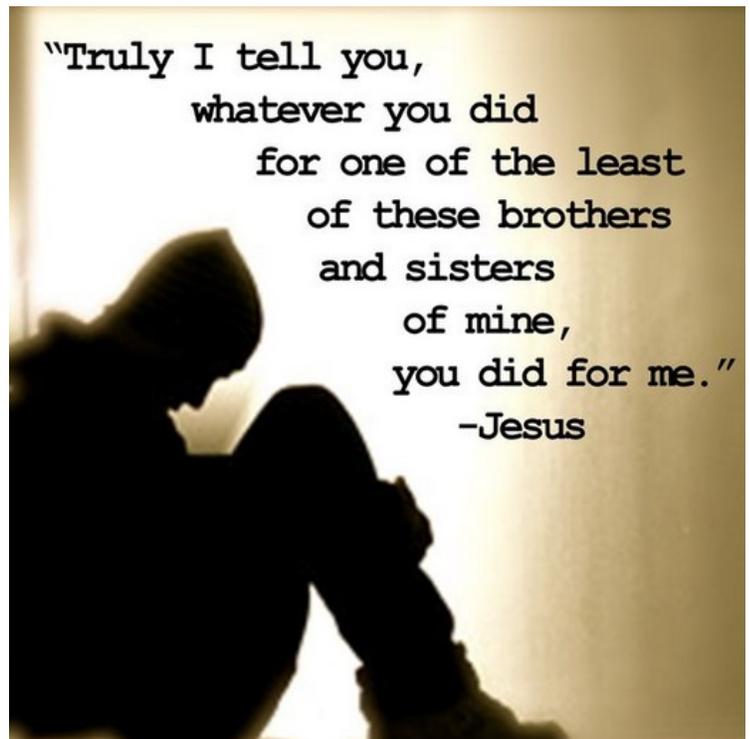
Over 75 groups have endorsed Measure 101, including AARP, the League of Women Voters, the Oregon Medical Association, Providence Health Services, the Oregon Nurses Association, Peace Health and the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Measure 101 is supported by nurses, doctors, firefighters, teachers, local hospitals BECAUSE it protects healthcare coverage for one in four Oregonians, including 400,000 children.

This healthcare plan was developed by the Oregon legislature earlier this year. Passage means there will be no reductions for the one million Oregonians who count on Medicaid. Premiums for +210,000 Oregonians will stay at 6% lower than they will if Measure 101 fails. It stabilizes health insurance rates for all of us, giving preventive care not emergency room visits. Companies get reimbursements. If the measure fails there is a potential loss of \$5 billion in federal funding.

The tax is on Insurance providers. They helped write the law.

Opposition? Some don't want immigrant children covered. Some attack the Oregon Health Plan for accounting errors. (Our error rate is below the federal one of 10%, main cause the hard to track homeless and indigent recipients.) Some use "tax" flag, though it doesn't apply.

Remember : ""When did we see you sick, Lord?"  
The answer: "When you did it for the least of these you did it for me."



## A SERIOUS CRISIS/POSSIBILITIES

Majeska Seese-Green

Winter has arrived — along with national news of the ever-increasing crisis of homelessness. The West Coast is especially affected. Every city and county is struggling with this growing emergency, falling behind even while taking many steps forward. As we all know, the well-being and the very lives of many of our sisters and brothers are at stake.

Lane County's Board of Commissioners took a step forward with their recent approval of a pilot project to allow 10 sites for limited vehicle camping in the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara that are within the Eugene urban growth boundary. Churches are involved and much help is needed.

Success of this pilot project is critical for any chance of expansion next year to many more areas, if not the entire county. Legal, authorized vehicle camping is a key piece of what's needed in this complex crisis of lack of affordable housing and shelter for all.

This area has many — more every week — projects, organizations, and nonprofit agencies doing great work. The county's Poverty and Homelessness Board strategically coordinates government-related activity, fairly transparently. But much is still missing.

One piece of the puzzle that is missing is an organized network making it easier to host others on private property, at private residences. While many are doing this already, many others would like to have support in considering and beginning to provide such hospitality, at least occasionally if not full-time.

Just think of all the spare bedrooms, corners of dens and garages and basements, campers/RVs, driveways, backyards, even overhanging roofs, where shelter could be offered. Certainly there are many challenges and obstacles, including the need for vetting of guests (and hosts), the need for training (yes, of hosts too), sometimes funds for added expenses, and support of many kinds.

Granted some guests are easier to host than others. A start-up project could not expect to start with a focus on the most challenging (although where possible, that would help fill a great need). Some "easier" guests to prepare for might be very-low-income volunteers and advocates, students interning or gaining field experience, "graduates" of local transitional programs awaiting permanent housing, and assistance for others surviving elsewhere. But the first step is organizing possible hosts.

This is where the women of CWU come in. You are invited to be in on the ground floor with input and ideas and participation in next steps for developing such a project, a key part of a broader wholistic/holistic action network still in incubation via ACT (A Community Together).

ACT is an independent 501c3 nonprofit community resource supporting capacity-building organizing and partnerships, across divides, for improved quality of life in Lane County and beyond. Its theory of change is creative combinations of community organizing, civic engagement, civic journalism, and related financial services. An integrated program will be ACT's Institute for Applied Peace and Conflict Studies. ACT's current focus is primarily poverty and homelessness and related polarization in our community.

CWU's Anne O'Brien and Mary Sharon Moore are among the early advisors for ACT. Others who are interested are invited to email [majeska@efn.org](mailto:majeska@efn.org) or call 541-337-1643 for more information and/or to help prepare an action-oriented proposal for CWU board consideration. The plan is that many organizations will ultimately become part of the network, and CWU can help design it to be as broad and inclusive as possible. What group is more fitting than CWU to join this effort?!

*Majeska Seese-Green has been an activist guest, host, and guest again, over three decades. She is the founder and director of ACT, active in Springfield Church of the Brethren, and incoming Nominating Committee Chair for CWU.*

## A LOOK AT OUR FINANCES FOR 2018.

In the past you have paid for the yearbook, newsletter and membership at 3 different times during the year. Next year we are putting them all together. Listed below is a look at our costs. The yearbook and newsletter amount will cover the cost of the printing. The membership covers the cost of all other expenses, including the printing of celebration posters and worship services, support for organizations of our speakers and organizations we endorse, summer fun fund mailings, administration costs, state quota, snacks before forums, and the mailing of the Vine which includes sending to churches, interested people, and groups beyond our membership.

Thank you for your generous support in keeping our voice heard and keeping us in being. And know your membership is not based on money. Contribute as you can, if only by your presence.

2018 Contributions

Yearbook-----\$ 5.00

Newsletter----\$12.00

Membership---\$25.00-+

Amount\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter: \_\_\_Email \_\_\_Paper copy

Make your check to Church Women United and send with the above form to

Nancy Vrijmoet, 2275 Polk St. Eugene, OR. 97402

Many thanks for your help in keeping us in being.

## UPCOMING EVENT

### 20th Annual Springfield Martin Luther King, Jr. March & Celebration Monday, January 15

**What:** A celebration recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through K-12 student entries of essays, speeches, poetry, and art. The theme for this year's event is "Stand Up."

**When/Where:** 1-3:30 p.m., Monday, January 15.

The MLK March for Justice and Equality begins at 1 p.m. at the Springfield Justice Center at 230 4th Street, followed by a celebration from 2-3:30 p.m. at Springfield High School, 875 7th Street.

**The Keynote Speakers for this event are speech contest winners.**

**Who:** All community members and visitors are invited and encouraged to attend this free event.