

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

cwulaneconomy.org

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CWU MISSION: Celebrating unity
in diversity
and empowering women to work
towards peace and justice

**Agreed to differ, Resolved to love,
United to serve**

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY

Special this Year!

**A Part of the North West Region Assembly
May 6 and May 7**

Friday morning Tabitha Eck, Community Engagement Director for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County. will be sharing some of the ways they work on hunger and poverty in Eugene and surrounding areas.

Friday afternoon we will hear from Pamela Lyons Nelson. She is a volunteer with the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon and visits congregations discussing Health Care for All Oregon.

Saturday Morning will be our May Friendship Day Celebration. Our speaker is Tanasia McLaurin from Friendship Baptist Church in New York. She is one of our Young Church Women United and has a lot to tell us about justice.

We have a great weekend ahead.

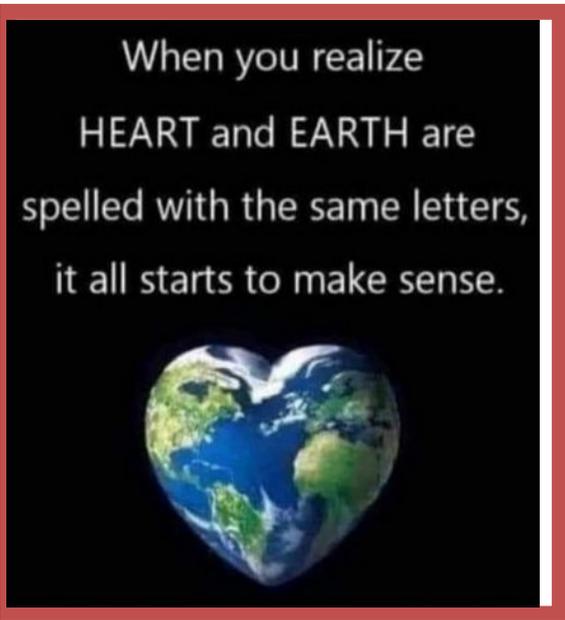
Find full details on page 2 and the zoom link.
Hope to see you there.

LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR JUNE FORUM



Jose Soto-Gates, who works at White Bird Clinic will be our speaker. White Bird Clinic has been very important to the Eugene community for many years. It provides many different services to the homeless and those in need, from a dental and medical center to counseling and free crisis intervention service, and much more. And of course, there is CAHOOTS, which has become nationally famous. Come hear all about it!

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NORTH WEST REGION VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY 2022

Friday May 6 · Saturday May 7



Oregon State Meeting 2022 and May Friendship Day Celebration

Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington and Wyoming

With Local Units in East Multnomah/Portland, Eugene, & Milton-Freewater, and Boise

Fri. May 6th 9:00 am – 12:15 pm PDT

Sat. May 7th 9:00 am – 12:00 pm PDT

Quadrennial Priority:

“Hunger and Poverty”

Tabitha Eck,
Community Engagement Director
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane Co.

Quadrennial Priority:

“Climate Stewardship”

Roz Collins
Eastmont CWU

Fri. May 6th 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm PDT

Quadrennial Priority

“Health and Wellness”

Pamela Lyons Nelson
Health Care for All Oregon

Bonus Workshop follows: create a Tote Bag from a T-Shirt - no sewing.

**Bring T-Shirt, scissors. & table.
Demonstration included**

Quadrennial Priority:

“Social Justice, Racial Justice”

Tanasia McLauren
Young Church Women United
Friendship Baptist Church in New York

The Church Women United theme for 2022 **May Friendship Day Celebration** is "A Call to Serve" with a very familiar scripture reference, Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" If a significant difference is to be made in 2022 regarding diversity, racism, poverty, social justice and other unnamed issues plaguing our world today, then the overall theme of the 2022 Celebration is true, it is up to every CWU member in 2022 to answer the call to serve.

May Friendship Day is a time for fellowship, for worship and for study. It is also a time for bonding, building and strengthening relationships and friendships, especially with our Young Church Women United Representatives, enabling them to affirm their faith journeys and engage in ecumenical projects and ministry works of Church Women United. They are included in this program.

For the Fellowship of the Least Coin collection, make the check out to Church Women United and indicate FLC in the memo field.

Mail the check to: Eastmont CWU P.O. Box 336, Gresham, OR 97030
and it will all be sent to National CWU

Join ZOOM (all 3 sessions)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9037444498?pwd=T0RKYlVqS1dNMWJSdFRQNmVlNmVBdz09>

Meeting ID: 903 744 4498

Passcode: 5AmaW8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Anne O'Brien

This past Sunday we celebrated the second Sunday of Easter, also called Sunday of Divine Mercy. It's where we hear about "Doubting Thomas." In discussing this with some friends we figured out that we should not condemn Thomas for doubting. In fact, a healthy skepticism can be essential to finding the truth. Doubt can be the mechanism by which faith evolves. Perhaps this is why Jesus shows mercy toward Thomas.

Diane Houdek, in her book, The Hope of Lent: Daily Reflections from Pope Francis tells us that mercy is the sign of God's ongoing presence in the world. Few people have made this more clear than Pope Francis. And it's not just about realizing that God is merciful to us. It's realizing that we are now called to be merciful to all the people in our lives.

In his preaching on mercy, Pope Francis often emphasizes the importance of listening compassionately to people who are wounded, struggling, searching for God's love. So often I want to rush in to fix other people's lives. Houdek suggests that the next time you feel this urge, "take a step back and first simply listen to and love the person before you. God's peace passes all our human understanding. And often it lies beyond our limited human words."

So we can show mercy to those who may disappoint us and maybe we might even realize that the person who doubts us may be giving us an opportunity to pause and think more clearly on an issue. Let's try that.

Here's a thought from Pause+ pray from Franciscan Media:

What song or hymn captures the meaning of praise for you? Sing that song throughout the day today, letting your voice brighten the world and awaken your senses to the wonders of God's love. It's a healthy ear worm and it will lift up your spirits.

NEW WAYS OF LISTENING

Chris Cunningham

You might remember that a few Church Women United members have been meeting for several months to examine models for communicating with others about controversial and potentially divisive topics. They have searched for new ways to reverse the political divide that continues to widen within political parties, communities, churches, even families. The task force wanted to dig deeper than conventional paraphrase and perception checking methods and develop listening skills that aim to understand the other person and his or her point of view.

In a preliminary search for "best practices," board member Charlotte Mahoney discovered Braver Angels, a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization aiming to span across the political divide. One of Braver Angels' central ideas is to never "win" an argument but to listen in order to understand.



 Braver Angels

The national organization's website <https://braverangels.org/> is flush with learning opportunities to join debates, participate in workshops, and study books and films on relevant topics. Many events are open to the public.

Oregon/Washington has its own very active chapter with 402 members. Check out that website here: <https://braverangels.org/event/depolarizing-within-oregon/>

Over the next several months, we'll offer a few tools to help bridge the divide and establish mutual respect.

Together, we will end gun violence.



momsdemandaction.org

Put an End to Gun Violence by Acting Now

What can we do to stem the tide of gun deaths in America?

At our April forum, Diane Peterson, membership lead for the Eugene/Springfield chapter of **Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**, shared a wealth of ideas. Working together, Diane maintains, we CAN make progress.

Diane became involved in the **Everytown for Gun Safety** movement after [the mom of a close friend was shot and killed](#) while at work in a local newsroom, in Diane's home state of Virginia. She saw [nine people killed](#) while in a prayer meeting at the [Mother Emanuel African Methodist Church](#) in Charleston, South Carolina. Diane determined she could no longer stand by as innocent people lost their lives to senseless violence.

Moms Demand Action is a coalition of local grassroots action teams carrying out the goals of Everytown for Gun Safety. Propelled by these activists, Oregon IS making progress, little by little. Passed in 2021, Senate Bill 554 produced legislation requiring each gun in the home of an Oregon resident be safely stored. Moms Demand Action volunteers pushed for this, as they did in 2018, when Oregon closed the "boyfriend loophole," extending to intimate partners of victims of domestic abuse the prohibition on ownership or purchase of a gun.

Consider the importance of this extension: according to [Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence](#), in a [study by the University of Pennsylvania](#), less than 15% of those involved in reported domestic disputes were married partners. The rest are, in Oregon, now covered under the law. By and large, it's young people who are so often caught in the fray, when an angry ex-partner grabs a gun.

One statistic Diane presented startled us. Among all gun deaths in our state, four out of five are the result of a person taking their own life. Common sense gun legislation can interrupt this miserable cycle. It can also thwart emotion-driven shootings in the home. Oregon's "red flag" laws facilitate action by a family or household member, or a law enforcement officer, who spots the possibility a gun owner is headed toward an emotional or mental breakdown.

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum explains here how that law works: <https://www.doj.state.or.us/crime-victims/victims-resources/other-resources/oregons-red-flag-law/>. If the weapon is removed from the home, shootings of all kinds, but especially suicides, can be averted.

Did you know that [death by handgun is now the leading cause of death among children and teenagers in the United States?](#)



What's next, on the Moms Demand Action agenda?

Diane urges us to contact our local school district to ask they implement a policy prohibiting carrying of concealed firearms.

While concealed weapons at the Oregon Capitol and Portland airport were banned by Senate Bill 554, according to the law, each school district is left to put in place its own policy. In Lane County, Lane Community College took the lead, banning concealed weapons last year.

Do you believe that our elementary, middle, and high schools should follow suit? **You can help.** Write a letter or send an email to your school district's board of directors. Diane reminds you that this policy could save lives. Our children and school staff members deserve an environment free of the risk of an unintended shooting.

State by state action by Moms Demand Action appears to have compelled President Joe Biden to take action. Beginning immediately, the Department of Justice will crack down on the manufacture and sale of "ghost guns." These weapons, ordered online and assembled at home in as little as thirty minutes, have no serial number, and are therefore impossible for law enforcement to trace.

[This ruling, announced by President Biden on April 11, 2022,](#) to be enforced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, includes the requirement that a dealer add a serial number to any such gun they purchase. In the last seven years, at crime scenes nationally, there has been a ten-fold increase in these guns. Nationally, with President Biden at our side, we are working together to even the playing field, and give our public safety officers a chance to effectively protect the public.

Remember, this month you'll cast your ballot on May 17. Diane Peterson directs us to find candidates endorsing sensible gun safety measures here: <http://gunsensevoter.org/>. Examine your priorities. Take a stand to protect your neighbor, the victim of domestic abuse, the troubled person feeling alone in the world, and especially the children.

Church Women United of Lane County welcomed this deep dive into crucial issues brought to us by a compelling young leader. Let's work with Diane Peterson and Moms Demand Action to make a better world.

Check out the hard facts at <http://everytown.org/>.

Facts specific to Oregon are at <http://everystat.org/>.

Read survivor stories (but be prepared to shed a few tears) here: <http://momentsthat survive.org/>.

PLASTICS RECYCLING

Sarita Lief

On April 6, CWU conducted a workshop on recycling plastics. We discussed:

- 1: How to prepare items for recycling
- 2: Where to bring these items.

Currently in Eugene and Springfield, we are very limited in what can be accepted for recycling. Our curbside Blue Bins accept ONLY milk jugs and drink bottles. Please do not put any other plastic material in your Blue Bins.

Our workshop covered certain plastics that can be brought to special recycling places. These items are #2, #4, and #5 plastic containers.



You can access detailed information on how to prepare these items on the "Ecogeneration Eugene" website. Currently, there are 3 possible places to bring your recyclable plastics.

1: Find a community collector. For collections coordinated by neighborhood collectors through Waste Management, email Kelly Bell at Kelly.Bell@LaneCountyOr.gov and she will get you all of the information you need.

2: QSL (a private printing business) 3,000 Pierce Parkway, Springfield. Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4 PM. Tel: 541-687-1184

Bring ONLY very clean carefully sorted items in separated labeled bags. They are volunteers and need our careful co-operation.

3. A \$30 fee collection site in Springfield (see "Ecogeneration" website)

What we have found is that, at present, plastic recycling takes time and careful attention to be successful. The Vine is establishing a tips column. If you have helpful information to share, please send this to saritalief@comcast.net



SHOW YOUR CONCERN FOR FRIENDS NEAR AND FAR THROUGH YOUR ANNUAL GIFT TO CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Nancy Vrijmoet

The sunflower. It is said to be a symbol of happiness, optimism, honesty, longevity, admiration, and devotion. It's also symbolic of peace. We wrap our arms around those on the opposite side of the globe. We wish we could end the misery of the people of Ukraine. As dark clouds loom, we remain constant to our friends far away. We hold the sunflower in hand with hope in our hearts.

Friendship's on our minds as we anticipate our May 7 Friendship Day Celebration. On that day we'll reconfirm our solidarity with our region's sister units, reaching beyond Oregon and into Idaho. You have the opportunity to make a new friend when you hear from that day's speaker, Tanasia McLaurin, who will bring us news from Young Church Women United. We joyously await Tanasia's perspective. Clearly, it is time for renewal. What better time to tie up loose ends and send in your annual gift?

Unsure about how much to send? Although an annual gift of fifty dollars is suggested, you are welcome to send more or less, depending on your budget. If you will direct your check to CWU and send it to 42091 McKenzie Highway, Springfield, Oregon 97478, it will be my honor as your treasurer to add that amount to funds we have collected in the first months of 2022. Consider the good those funds have done so far! Support for **Showing Up for Racial Justice**. For **Interfaith EarthKeepers**, the **Earth Stewards from St. Mary's Episcopal Church**, and the **McKenzie River Trust** through the **Interfaith Fund**. For **Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**. The list continues, as this busy year unfolds. A world of good is possible when we pool our resources.

Let the friendship circle grow and grow. Hold that sunflower close to your heart and spread your optimism far and wide. Love will win out.