



Editor: Phyllis Hockley



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

cwulanecounty.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY



You Won't Want to Miss February's Forum Featuring St. Vincent de Paul's First Place Family Center
Friday, February 6

Are you curious about what the kind and compassionate people of Eugene are doing to help the homeless? Here's one answer:

- A friendly and caring center where families who lack permanent housing can find shelter
- A place where a family can cook, do laundry, & find a safe place for children to play
- A shelter with an individual spot ready for each family

This is what St. Vincent de Paul has created at 4060 W. Amazon Drive in Eugene. Arrive at our next Friday forum on February 6 at 10 a.m. ready to join others in conversation, coffee and morning treats, followed by a detailed look at all that St. Vincent de Paul's First Place Family Center provides. We'll watch for you at the ever-welcoming St. Mark CME Church, which you'll find at 1167 Sam Reynolds Street, where Pastor DeLeesa Meashintubby cannot wait to meet you at the door.

Did you know part of your Summer Fun Fund contribution each year helps this center do great things for families year round? Discover more about this program at <https://www.svdp.us/services/youth-family-services/first-place-family-center/> Many thanks to our guest, Robin Muller from St. Vincent de Paul, joining us that day. See you soon!

Here are your driving directions to St. Mark CME Church: when you are near to the intersection of W. 11 th Avenue and Bertleson Road, watch for the large "Discount Tires" sign as your landmark, just east of that location. Turn south off W. 11 th Avenue onto Sam Reynolds Street and watch for the street number 1167. Riding LTD you can easily get there via the EmX, departing from Bay U at the downtown Eugene Station six times every hour every Friday.

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BREAKFAST AT BRAILS
 Wednesday, February 11th
 at 9:00 AM
 1689 Willamette St.
 (We meet in the building on 17th St. behind Willamette building on corner)
 Discussion of our conversations in our pairs at the December meeting, as well as reaction to the February 6th forum.
 Please join us!
 (You don't have to buy breakfast)



Save the Date! Friday, March 6 World Day of Prayer

You are invited to World Day of Prayer 2026, featuring the gift of a newly-crafted program created by a collection of friends from far away. Get ready to participate in song, through scripture, and with stories inspired by their home country, Nigeria. Let us join in spirit with the Matthew 11 message inspiring this program: *"I Will Give You Rest: Come."* Friday, March 6, 10 a.m., at [Asbury United Methodist Church](#), 1090 Berntzen Road in Eugene. Join your CWU friends and many from the community in a morning devoted to prayer. Bring a friend! Learn more here about [World Day of Prayer](#).

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
"WE REFUSE TO GO NUMB"**

**CWULC DENOUNCES JAN. 8TH SHOOTING OF
RENEE GOOD BY FEDERAL OFFICERS**

by Mary Sharon Moore, CWULC President

In times of social chaos, I find strength in knowing that Church Women United of Lane County members are guided by the motto: "Agreed to Differ; Resolved to Love, United to Serve." When we speak and live these words boldly we announce the newness of the nonviolent Jesus. "Newness" is a Resurrection word.

Hunting down, terrorizing, maltreating, and murdering fellow human beings because of how they look, how they speak, or because they're too noisy and close to the scene of the hunt is not acceptable, ever, as affirmed by the world's sacred traditions.

Following the fatal shooting of Renee Good in Minnesota by ICE Agents, many in our community and throughout the nation feel confused, angry, and sad. Many simply feel numb. The federal government has made clear that no investigation of her murder will be held. Period. End of justice. The violence will continue unchecked.

As women of Christian faith, and part of the larger body politic, we hold fast to our moral compass, and reaffirm our common humanity—with victims of such violence, their families and neighbors, and yes, even with the perpetrators who have forsaken their human core.

Just laws must be obeyed (Unjust laws are mere license). And the first law, which guides all the others, is this: Love others as yourself.

Church Women United of Lane County joins with faith and civic organizations, including Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and electeds in Oregon and nationwide, in calling for ICE's dehumanizing activities to stop.

We refuse to go numb. We stand united to ensure that every individual in our state and in our nation, regardless of immigration or any other status, can feel safe, cared for, and live in peace.

**INTERFAITH EARTHKEEPERS
EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITIES OF
FAITH COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF GOD'S
CREATION**

Katharine Hunt

You can find Interfaith EarthKeepers climate change news at their website: <https://interfaithearthkeepers.org>

Over the past few years they have done a lot of hands-on habitat restoration projects throughout the region. For example they have sponsored work parties to help clean up such places as Turtle flats, Golden Gardens Natural Area, and coastal kelp forests. They have participated in, publicized, and tabled at peaceful earth care protests and events amongst other community projects.

They also have organized an Earth Care Interfaith Fund which supports the values of people of faith in the area for the "stewardship of creation" through partnerships with local organizations. This joint fund, shared with Long Tom Watershed Council and the McKenzie River Trust supports activities and materials for plant establishment and maintenance.

Interfaith EarthKeepers meets monthly. The next meeting in February will take place on February 25th from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM at First United Methodist Church. One of the group's outreach goals is to include representation from local churches, spiritual groups, tribes, youth groups, and potential partner organizations.

If you are interested in attending a meeting or learning more about the group and its Earth Care Interfaith Fund, contact Katharine H. at keehhunt@gmail.com.

JANUARY FORUM
Charlotte Maloney

On Friday, January 9th, over 30 of us gathered at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, Springfield. We thank Reverend Nancy Gallagher for her generous hospitality and 2 volunteers from her congregation for setting up beverages and the food table. In addition to the usual coffee and tea choices, we selected from Jo Anne Arnold's deviled eggs, Nancy Vrijmoet's gluten free muffins and goat cheese with jam tarts, fresh fruits, bagels and cream cheese, plus other treats. As notified in our reminder email, President Mary Sharon called the meeting to order early at 10:10, encouraging everyone to bring refreshments and be seated in the pews. This was because we knew Nancy Bray had a long story to share. After welcoming everyone and leading us in prayer, Mary Sharon introduced Sarita Lief, Chair of Ecumenical Action committee. She provided our Land Acknowledgement and a few remarks about the current ICE activities.

Mary Sharon then introduced our speaker, Nancy Bray, of Eugene Friends of the Farmworkers. Nancy presented "From Grapes to Mushrooms: The Farm Workers' Rights Movement in Oregon, 1965-2025." She described her involvement with the Farm Workers from her high school days, continuing through summer volunteering and through her teaching career. She shared slides of the many demonstrations and boycotts to finally gain recognition of the Farm Workers Union and improved pay and working conditions over the decades. She worked with Cesar Chavez and Delores Huerta over these years. The union is now called PCUN (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste) and is the largest Latino union in the the U.S. Nancy described the organizing actions from the Grape Boycott, Iceberg Lettuce Boycott, and the current Windmill Farms Mushrooms Boycott.



We are asked to boycott mushrooms from Windmill Farms company, which is owned by a private equity firm, It has refused to acknowledge the union since workers voted to join PCUN in 2022.



Safeway, Albertsons, WinCo, and other large grocers carry this brand, which includes some labeled organic. All the local grocers who buy their produce from Organically Grown Distributor are carrying mushrooms from other sources; they are not part of the boycott. (Capella's, Sundance, Natural Grocers, Kiva.) Last, Nancy showed home videos of local actions from the 1970s and 1980s, including marching in front of the Safeway store on 18th Avenue, Eugene. Some of use saw our young selves!

Following the home videos, many viewed the large display of historical items from the years-posters, banners, handouts, and more, which were set up on a table by Nancy and her husband, Herb Everett. A total of \$500 was donated to the United Farmworkers of America by those who attended.

Many lingered for fellowship and more nibbling and cups of warm beverages.

PROTEST ICE AT THE FEDERAL BUILDING

211 E 7th Avenue, Eugene, OR

MONDAYS:

1:00 - 2:00 PM: Veterans for Peace Chapter 159 Protest

TUESDAYS:

12:00 - 1:00 PM: Interfaith "Singing for our Lives" Vigil and Protest

1:00 - 2:00 PM: Indivisible Silent Protest

WEDNESDAYS:

12:00 - 1:00 PM: SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) Protest

12:00 - 4:00 PM: 50501 Protest - bring readings, songs, signs, or other art!

3:00 - 5:30 PM: Planet vs. Pentagon Protest

THURSDAYS:

9:00 - 11:00 AM: Indivisible's "Signs of Fascism" Protest

FRIDAYS:

12:00 - 2:00 PM: Raging Grannies!

LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH:

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Lane County Immigrant Defense Network Protest

Bookmark EugeneTogetherStrong.org to stay updated!

International Potluck & Immigrant Advocacy Pop-up: Sharing our Stories

Sunday, February 22,

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

First United Methodist
Church, 1376 Olive St,
Eugene



Join us!

For the potluck, bring a food item inspired by your heritage.
During table discussion, we'll share stories of where we came from and how it has shaped us to be the people we are today.

During the Immigration Advocacy Pop-up following the Potluck, we will be inspired to advocate effectively for immigrant rights by

*Hearing a story that moves you to act

*Learning to use the 5 Calls app to advocate for migrants

*Writing appreciation postcards to immigrant justice advocates

Co-Sponsors



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Disciples of Jesus Christ, welcoming all, doing justice, transforming the world.



Braver Angels

**WE CAN HELP FOLKS SHOW COMPASSION TOWARD ONE ANOTHER
IN CONVERSATION – TAKE ACTION NOW TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN**

Does conversational strife perplex you? Relax! Your next holiday meal need not be feared. Let that painful experience of a family member's political views colliding with yours be a thing of the past. **Braver Angels** has hit the ground running. On a Friday morning last April, at a wonderfully informative forum, you were introduced to the Braver Angels team, dedicated to helping you out. So . . . what's next, Church Women United? Follow up on Mary Miller's request: Find out whether your faith community has a date open when they can host a Braver Angels activity in 2026. Email Nancy at n.vrijmoet@gmail.com to be put in touch with Mary. Don't miss this opportunity to put love front and center in our lives. Let's do this, people!

LOCAL ISSUES
By Charlotte Maloney



DIVEST OREGON

Looking forward to 2026, Divest Oregon will:
1/ Act as a resource to the Oregon Treasury leadership, as they make the Climate Resilience Investment Act (CRIA) a reality.
2/ Provide information, recommendations, and contacts about Just Transition principles and Climate Risk issues
3/ Continue to press for a [fossil-fuel free 529 plan fund](#) (education savings accounts).

Next coalition will be meeting on Tuesday February 17, after skipping January. Treasurer Steiner released the [Net Zero Plan 2025 Report](#) last week. She was interviewed on OPB's [Think Out Loud](#) about the report. We have several points in the interview and report that we are investigating.

A couple recent news items about the financial risk of climate change to the world economy, reinforcing the [Divest Oregon Climate Risk Report](#), that you may want to check out:

How corporate overlords are unlawfully ignoring future climate impacts. (13 min. [YouTube](#), Dec 2025).

Banks Ignore Transition Risk at Their Own Peril, ECB Warns ([Bloomberg](#), Jan 2025)



HEALTH CARE FOR ALL OREGON

HCAO continues to monitor the Universal Healthcare Governance Board and their committees. HCAO Lane county Chapter has grown in numbers over 2025 with over 200 volunteers, whom we in the midst of organizing into events and support tasks.

We tabled at the Holiday Market and Martin Luther King, Jr, Event at The Shedd on January 19.

WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE
HOW YOU CHOOSE TO SPREAD
PEACE
YOUR COMMUNITY WANTS TO
HEAR FROM YOU

Nancy Vrijmoet

As your peacemaking journey commences, would you like to share your thoughts? Send these to our CWU email address, ChurchWomenUnitedOfLaneCounty@gmail.com We'll be happy to publish your reflections here in *The Vine*, by your permission of course. Remember, peacemaking is a journey we have embarked upon TOGETHER.

If you missed World Community Day 2025, you're welcome to check out the notes Martin Jones gifted to us, his advice on how to live a life of peace, linked at our Church Women United of Lane County website: <http://cwulanecounty.com/>

Check out Indivisible's latest e-mail: <https://indivisible.actionkit.com/mailings/view/123565>

Sign up to get Indivisible's actions in your email every week: <https://www.indivisible.org/signup>



**CONSIDERING ALL WE CAN
ACCOMPLISH, TOGETHER, IN 2026**

Nancy Vrijmoet

“You people are praying for folks outside your walls. Fabulous!” The congregation’s commitment to reaching out took District Superintendent Wendy Woodworth by surprise when she visited my church last year. Okay, yes, I thought. But who were we leaving out? Is prayer sufficient? What, exactly, did Asbury United Methodist Church plan to DO to help those people we were praying for?

The folks of Church Women United here in Lane County prioritize helping others through specific actions we take individually and collectively.

Where did that work take us, these last twelve months? Kicking off an exciting year Friday forum presentations with “Challenges to a World That Works for Everyone,” UO Faculty Emeritus Charles Hunt elicited a host of questions, addressing the BIG question, “What is fascism?” The following month, threats to the safety of our immigrant neighbors came into focus when Benjamin Ficklin of the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice gave many answers to the question, “What can I do?” Our community’s heart was breaking. Nearly a hundred crowded into St. John the Divine Episcopal Church that morning. Before we arrived, who knew what a difference it makes, when a volunteer takes the time to drive a family to Portland for their appointment with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)? Collectively, the message resounded. Soon after that day in February, Benjamin’s call to action launched the formation of our community’s Interfaith Alliance with Migrants. Read more about that alliance today, in this issue of *The Vine*.

Colorful, imaginative messages, songs, scripture, stories and prayers, were sent to us by the women of the Cook Islands in March as we celebrated the worldwide event known as World Day of Prayer. What a gift, to become spiritual partners with these friends from afar. Their message: let LOVE be your priority. Then, a month later, we turned our focus closer to home: how we talk to those “on the other side,” politically. One very special “angel,” Mary Miller from Braver Angels, made a visit. Sheltered by the warm & inviting world of Eugene Friends Meeting that Friday, I took a breath. My thoughts indeed: Is it really so important to be right? Where is love in this equation? This was a moment when I felt very fortunate to be part of Church Women United.

And today, I’m thinking we are so very lucky to have friends like Mary and all of those on the Braver Angels team, ready to show us a better way. Read a reminder about what YOU can do next, in this issue of *The Vine*.

We considered the needs of local families served by Eugene’s innovative Hope and Safety Alliance, when we gathered in May. In June twenty-two local organizations joined us at First United Methodist Church for our first-ever Building Community Together sharing event. We hosted a first Pop-Up Immigrant Advocacy Event, partnering with Interfaith Alliance With Migrants in September, where friends immigrating from El Salvador detailed some of the many complications they faced on their road to citizenship. We explored “War, Peace and the Economy,” with insights brought to us by friends from Planet vs Pentagon, when we met in October. We concluded the year with a fascinating talk by our friend, local peacemaker Martin Jones from Beyond War NW. He shared steps he’s traveled, exploring how to live a life of peace. Walking out of World Community Day that Saturday, we carried away Martin’s insightful recommendations. Specific actions we can take, as individuals and collectively. If you missed World Community Day 2025, you’re welcome to check out Martin’s notes on how to live a life of peace, linked at our website: <http://cwulanecounty.com>.

Join me. Let’s build another year of growth & commitment to helping others. Of actions we take together. Your unit membership is the key. Another year of thoughtful, action-inspiring programs is cued up. Send your 2026 dues, sixty-five dollars, to my address, 42091 McKenzie Highway, Springfield, Oregon 97478. Or mail a smaller amount, if that is a better fit for your budget.

May you know the joy of building a better world, little by little, in partnership with others. Each day, as we collectively confront reminders that too many face unfathomable adversities in this challenging world, let’s stand beside them. In witness and solidarity.

I join you in praying that God’s peace will increasingly descend upon our world. That safety will be built, rather than shattered, for those in peril. While we cannot put everything right, we can join together, demanding respect for all of God’s children. This is the work to which we are committed. May you feel you are among friends as your journey continues.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

P O Box 5824 | Eugene OR 97405

Mary Sharon Moore, President

541.687.2046 | marysharonmmoore@gmail.com

Church Women United of Lane County Board Endorsement of Windmill Farms Mushroom Boycott

Supporting workers fighting to improve their working conditions is central to our Church Women United purpose and goals: to advocate for a just society that works for all people. As Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon reminds us, "The faith community's voice is crucial to the public discourse on issues facing our society."

The workers at Windmill Farms have been fighting for years for the right to unionize. The owners have ignored their requests and have responded with intimidation and retaliation, dismissing workers who voice their concerns. The workers, therefore, have turned to the public, we consumers, to help pressure the growers to negotiate.

We, the Church Women United of Lane County Board, have heard their call for help and have unanimously voted to endorse the boycott. We therefore are asking all members to not buy mushrooms with the label Windmill Farms, or any mushrooms grown in Sunnyside, Washington. We ask our members to support the boycott and help publicize it among their friends and congregations. Boycotts are a direct way for us to answer God's call to care for our neighbors.

Supporting poor people's efforts to unionize is THE WAY to help them.

Mary Sharon Moore, President
Church Women United of Lane County

Date: _____

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Katharine EE Hunt

130 Hansen Lane

Eugene, OR 97404

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SUPPORT OUR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

JOIN US FOR THE KICK-OFF OF OCAN'S 2026 ON-LINE FUNDRAISER. FEBRUARY 7TH, FROM 4-6 PM AT THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1376 OLIVE ST.

FOOD**MUSIC**RAFFLE**VIEW ONLINE AUCTION ITEMS

THIS EVENT KICKS OFF OUR WEEK-LONG ONLINE GALABID AUCTION WHICH ENDS ON FEBRUARY 14TH

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW
TO ACCESS THE ONLINE
AUCTION WHICH BEGINS
8 PM FEBRUARY 7, 2026



TO DONATE, VOLUNTEER
OR SUBSCRIBE TO
OCAN'S NEWSLETTER
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Solidarity • Support • Advocacy

OREGON COMMUNITY
ASYLUM NETWORK

Because No One Is Illegal