



Editor: Phyllis Hockley



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

cwulanecounty.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

A Day Devoted to Prayer Celebrated Worldwide on
March 6



Prayer is the Language We Share
You Are Invited

“I will give you rest: come!” Expect these words from the Book of Matthew to be in the air at WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026. You are invited to experience unique stories, scripture, and songs sent to us by friends from afar. Women coming together in Nigeria have sent us this sparkling new service for *a day set aside to celebrate the power of prayer, worldwide*. Come! Relax. Immerse yourself in the spirit of those living a life very different than yours, on a continent far away. What a special gift it is, to join hands with folks celebrating World Day of Prayer on this exact day, around the globe. Let us come together knowing God will be with each and every one of us.

But wait! There’s more! At Eugene’s World Day of Prayer 2026, as a special gift to us all, Church Women United of Lane County President Mary Sharon Moore has agreed to share her “Final Matters” presentation. Are you troubled by eventualities waiting for you, or those your loved ones will face, when your days on earth come to an end? Mary Sharon has some valuable suggestions. Take her hand, now, as you take heart. Be prepared to walk away from World Day of Prayer with a renewed sense of peace. “I will give you rest: come!” Indeed, the time is now to put our minds at rest.

Plan to join us for World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 6, at 10 a.m. Tucked into a sweet little Bethel neighborhood, Asbury United Methodist Church at 1090 Berntzen Road is your destination. We’ll start the morning with coffee, conversation, and some delightful morning munchies. Pastor Fred Lydum and friends from Asbury will be ready to make your morning memorable. We’ll be looking for YOU there!

Save the Date! Our April Forum is Calling Your Name
On April 10 another informative FRIDAY FORUM is coming your way. Arrive with your questions and your curiosity when you show up at 10 a.m. to find out how HEALTH CARE FOR ALL OREGON is an idea that has caught fire. This sensible, fair model will bring improved outcomes to everyone in our state, not just some. Oregon is ready to lead the nation. Now is the time for action, and your help is needed. Watch in your April issue of The Vine for the location, as it has not yet been confirmed as of today’s date. Mark your calendar now and, by all means, bring a friend!

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REAKFAST AT BRAILS

Wednesday, March 11th at
9:00 AM

1689 Willamette St.

(We meet in the building on
17th St. behind Willamette
building on corner)

Discussion of our c
onversations 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)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

LOVE IS NEVER OUT OF SEASON

By Mary Sharon Moore

For those of us who observe the season of Lent, well, it has arrived.

I'm sitting with the words of the Apostle Paul (see Romans 13: 1-7), where he writes of Love's connection to the Law. He begins with a focus on obedience to authority, and swiftly loops in the thread of Love:

... [Whatever other commandments there may be] are summed up in this saying: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the Law. ... Do this because you know the time; it is the hour now for you to wake from sleep. ... The night is advanced, the day is at hand.

Wake from the numbing sleep of inhumanity! Paul seems to say. Why? Because dehumanizing "the other" is the first step toward erasing them entirely. Those who use their authority to impose unjust power arrangements are interested in our addiction to the narcotic of spiritual and social numbness.

But I, too, can erase the humanity of "the other," by writing them off as unfit, uncaring, unworthy, uncouth, un-whatever. I can't change "them," but I *can* change myself, starting with my attitude and heart.

There's where my customary Lenten practice comes in. I've printed a new batch of "baseball trading card" images of elite power holders, at home and abroad, who rule from the hollow core of the false self. Behind their actions and their words I witness their screaming ache for the false self to just fall apart, fall away, so that the humanity of their true self might emerge.

I pray that they *will* fall apart, *in the embrace of the One Love*, because I *trust* the power that flows from Jesus' resurrection.

Love, I discover, is never out of season.

PLEASE, IGNITE OUR EFFORTS TO GROW OUR UNIT!

By Mary Sharon Moore, unit president

The Board and I are deeply concerned about how to build membership and a solid foundation for our unit's immediate future. We've got ideas, but need you to open doors for fruitful outreach.

So, I, as your president, and a couple of Board members are ready to offer a 20- to 30-minute talk to women's groups in churches where we have member connections. "Be Ignited, and Go Public With Your Fire!" describes our unit's superpower.

Our immediate need is for you to give us a contact in your congregation who can invite us for a brief presentation at your women's service group, social group, Bible Study, Moms group, however women gather, especially women in their 60s and younger.

You don't have to do the inviting! All we need is a name and an email address—in other words, a warm lead we can contact. Please, at your earliest opportunity reach out to me, or Anne O'Brien, or Nancy Vrijmoet—personally or by email. Our contact info is in the Year-book.

**DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH OTHER
WOMEN OF FAITH?**

**DO YOU ENJOY SHARING YOUR FAITH
WITH FUN ACTIVITIES?**

**Consider joining our Celebrations
Committee**

We meet several times a year, live or on Zoom, per committee preference, to plan our 3 celebrations: World Day of Prayer in November, World Community Day in March and May Friendship Day.

National CWU and worldwide CWU plan the programs and we bring them to life. Contact Anne O'Brien to get more information. aobdob@gmail.com or 541-554-2646.

FEBRUARY FORUM

Charlotte Maloney

On Friday, February 9th, about 20 of us gathered at St. Mark's Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Eugene. We thank Pastor Delessa, her daughter Annissa, and her husband Norval for their generous hospitality helping us set up beverages and the food table. In addition to the usual coffee and tea choices, we again selected from deviled eggs, gluten free muffins and goat cheese with jam tarts, fresh fruits, bagels and cream cheese, plus other treats. Filling in for Pres. Mary Sharon, who was unable to join us until during the presentation,.



Vice Pres. Anne O'Brien introduced Sarita Lief, Chair of Ecumenical Action Committee who read our Land Acknowledgement and discussed Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arresting 4 members of the

Oglala Sioux Tribe in Minneapolis.



Anne then introduced our speaker, Robin Muller, program manager at St. Vincent First Place Family Center. Robin began as the kitchen manager before taking her new position.

Previous to that she has for more than 20 years of experience in childcare.

First Place Family Center is a day and night shelter, where people have access to a shared pantry with nearby refrigerator, to food preparation area, and to one meal each day seven days a week. There are 22 units in the night shelter of the main building, where showers and laundry facilities are available. Six outside units are available for those with pets. Bunk bed set-ups plus shelving and air conditioning make the outside units comfortable. Robin described the difficulties due to the recent loss of funding for their case manager. Willamette Family will now fill some of the hours for case manager services.

Goals of the case manager include helping each person achieve stability, making them comfortable in the shared facility, assisting in their search for stable housing, and helping them find employment. Lane County has provided a grant each year. Other donations come from individuals and faith communities. Members of several faith communities also cook and serve dinners using the recently upgraded kitchen at the center. The center aspires to get more support from the business community. Also, Robin cited her desire to involve high school-age kids as mentors, especially those involved in sports who might bring activities sport-oriented to kids residing at the center. Day care is provided for kids from age one through five, where families may drop off kids at the play zone daily. This day care is open to those staying in the night shelter plus folks who live in SVDP apartments.

When asked about receiving the yearly Summer Fun Fund contribution, Robin explained that the SFF donation funded a barbecue and dessert bar, which featured a big Jenga play and Connect 4 games, plus a water balloons game. She described the children greatly enjoying those activities. In 2026 Robin explained the plan is to involve the Eugene Police Department in this yearly barbecue.

Other resources SVDP provides includes the Dusk to Dawn program. Those with addiction issues find SVDP programs helpful, since these are low-barrier programs, specializing on helping those who cannot help themselves. For example, 410 Garfield St. staff partner with Willamette Family staff, providing counseling, assisting folks with mental health issues. Other resources include the HIV Alliance, supporting those with substance abuse issues. Tours of 410 Garfield and other SVDP facilities were discussed with Robin; several CWU members spoke highly of the amount of information and hands-on feel they got, touring facilities with SVDP professionals explaining all of the services each facility offered. Robin encouraged folks to contribute to the First Place Family Center via volunteering or through financial assistance. After Phyllis Hockley suggested taking a collection for First Place Family Center, a total of \$95 was placed in the contributions basket as the Feb. 6 event wrapped up. This amount will be rounded to an even \$100 when sent as an honorarium to Robin inside our units thank you message. Mary Sharon and Pastor Delessa were each able to join us. Each spoke briefly. Then, we said Prayer of the Least Coin and sang "Let there be Peace on Earth," before departing into a sunny afternoon.

WANT TO HELP US FIGHT ICE? And more?

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!

COME HELP!

MERRY MONDAYS WHISTLE GROUP



Join us to make **whistle kits to fight ICE**. All are welcome. Supplies provided.

WHEN Every Monday (next is Feb. 23)
10am – 1pm

WHERE First United Methodist Church
1376 Olive Street, Eugene

SHARE THIS INVITATION EVERYWHERE!

COME FOR ANY OR ALL OF THAT TIME
• SUPPLIES PROVIDED •

COME HELP!

WHISTLE KIT PARTY



Join us to make **whistle kits to fight ICE**. All are welcome. Supplies provided.

WHEN Every Wednesday
11am – Noon

WHERE Wesley UMC
1385 Oakway Road, Eugene

SHARE THIS INVITATION EVERYWHERE!

• ALL ARE WELCOME, ALL AGES •
SUPPLIES PROVIDED • NEXT TO SOKO COFFEE

Eugene 2026 PRIDE Celebration

The **Eugene 2026 PRIDE** Celebration will be held on Saturday, June 27 at the Lane Events Center. There will be an Interfaith Hospitality area where everyone is invited to visit, get a snack and some water as well as visit with people from different faith communities.

We will need lots of volunteers to help with this interfaith ministry. There are many ways of being involved: volunteering to help set up the welcoming area, donating snacks, volunteering during the day for a couple of hours showing neighborly love and handing out food and drink. If you are interested in taking part in this outreach ministry please contact Katharine Hunt or Lana Johnson.

This year a few things have changed. We will only be able to serve snacks made in a commercial kitchen or packages from a store. Do you have access to a commercial kitchen? We would also like to include gluten free snacks.

Peace,

Katharine Hunt St. Mary's Episcopal keehunt@gmail.com 541-214-8455 text

Lana Johnson St. Mary's Episcopal lane_r_johnson@hotmail.com 541-912-2748

LOCAL ISSUES
by Charlotte Maloney



DIVEST OREGON

The Divest Oregon coalition met on-line Tuesday February 17, when their in-depth analysis of Treasurer Steiner's report on work toward zero investments in fossil fuel was shared. Summary of Steiner's report Net Zero Plan at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZGMDAHWIC3BRdRFGLJ-W3NF1BSB3da2i/edit>
Divest Oregon analysis of the report at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kxkwJl5WjddDrZtv2FPGUL1knHAvRFB/view>
Recording of the February 17 meeting at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/16fs84Mn8usoHRL_yG4pttkUIpfjgDZXd/view
The slides from the meeting at: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1L9T8gnfLjGqdCfX5cObV3SS-fFSzW8oSp1HMuCHL5n2o/edit?slide=id.g381fa2057df_0_113#slide=id.g381fa2057df_0_113

For those receiving paper copy of The Vine, the material can be accessed at DO website: <https://www.divestoregon.org/>
The coalition will continue to attend the meetings of the Oregon Investment Commission and monitor their implementation of the 2025 legislation Climate Resilience Investment Act ongoing and the Net Zero Plan.



HEALTH CARE FOR ALL OREGON

HCAO continues to monitor the progress of the Universal Healthcare Plan Governance Board and their committees, as well as support SB 1570, Healthcare Without Fear bill, during the current short 2026 legislative session. Details from Oregon Nurses Association at <https://www.oregonrn.org/page/SB1570FirstHearing>. The UHP Governance Board has significant decisions to make before their submission of the plan design is due to legislature this September. To promote their work HCAO is planning eight Town Halls around the state. The Lane County Town Hall will be April 19th from 2:00 to 4:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 13th Ave. and Chambers. Please mark your calendars.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF LANE COUNTY**

REMINDS US TO CHECK VOTER ELIGIBILITY.
The League of Women Voters wants to alert voters about several issues around the primary election on May 19.

****Because this is a primary election, your ballot won't contain candidates for partisan races, such as state and federal legislators. If you want your voice to count in these races, you can register for a party online by going to OregonVotes.gov and selecting Voter Registration/Update My Registration. You can also get a voter registration form at the Lane County Elections office, 275 W 10th Ave, near the Downtown Library. You must make a choice of party before the Voter Registration deadline of April 28.**

****It is important that you check your registration in order to confirm that the mailing address is correct. If your address is incorrect or if you haven't voted since 2019, your voting status has become inactive and you won't receive a ballot. To check your registration on-line, go to oregonvotes.gov.**

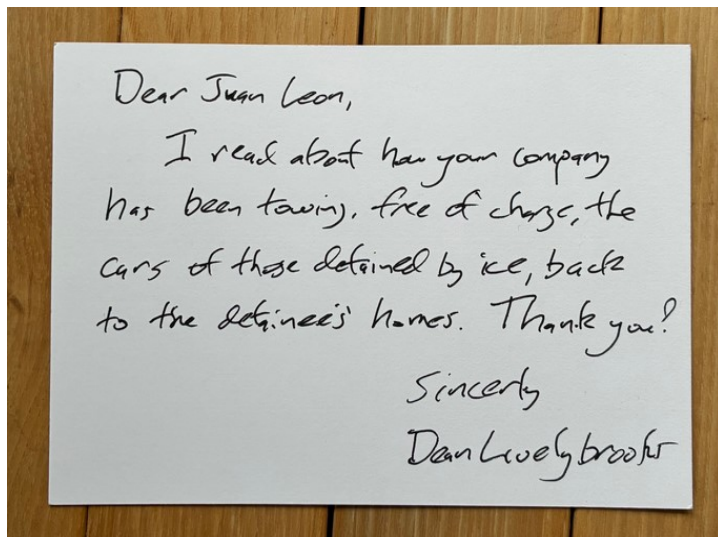
****The deadline for turning in a ballot for the primary election is on election day, May 19. In the past, if the ballot was postmarked on election day, it would be counted no matter when it was received by Lane County Elections. However, with changes in post office processing, the ballot will now be post-marked when it gets to a central processing site. This can be hours later. To make sure that your ballot is counted, mail early, or use an official Elections Drop Box by 8 pm on Election Day. You can also have the ballot hand postmarked at the post office by 5 PM on Election Day, although this might result in long lines if a number of people choose this option. Your vote matters; make sure it counts.**

ON THE WATCH FOR TRUTH AND BEAUTY

Remember That You Are Not Alone

by Nancy Vrijmoet

Marching bravely forward we look for the good in this troubled world. Today, I continued this search. But, lucky me! I didn't have to look far.



A man by the name of Juan Leon in Minneapolis, driving his tow truck, saw an abandoned vehicle. And then, another. He spied the driver's door, yawning open. What the heck was going on?

Juan looked in the glove box. He found out where the car called home. He towed it there. A family in turmoil answered the door. Why was the car coming home without mom?

I had the good fortune to read Juan's story today. I found out helping families of folks detained by ICE this cold Minnesota winter has become Juan's new routine. He never takes a dime for these tows. Astonishing!

I'd love to have a conversation with Juan Leon. Instead, today, I found unexpected joy in scrawling a few sentences to Juan on a postcard soon to be mailed off to Minnesota. How could I tell this big-hearted man how he'd touched my heart? Giving it my best shot, I dropped my card on the pile.

Sorting through small slips of paper, on each slip I found another person's story. How they helped a stranger. Gave a detainee a shot at justice. Said no when immigration authorities prevented a college student from traveling home at Thanksgiving. Refused to rent out a warehouse when ICE wanted to build a detention facility. Who would fail to recognize, instantly, the beauty and truth, when the Olympic athlete said she was competing for fairness in our world, not just her country's flag?



Church Women United's partner, the Interfaith Alliance with Migrants, made all of this happen today. The "Immigrant Advocacy Pop-Up Event" was the fifth in a series of gatherings hosted by this local group. The idea of a local interfaith immigrant support alliance hatched the day friends from First Congregational Church, from Eugene Mennonite Church, and from a host of other faith communities crowded in to a Church Women

United forum, one year ago, to hear what Benjamin Ficklin had to say about how to help the immigrants.

Benjamin arrived, out of breath, that day, ready to set our world on fire. He said Eugene folks could train to become "accompaniers." His organization, the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIJ), provides that training. Benjamin said our number one priority should be getting up to speed, so we could drive a person to their ICE appointment. What a difference it can make, to be with a kind, knowledgeable friend on that 92-mile drive.

Benjamin Ficklin's passion astonished me that morning. Simple, or sometimes complex, his answers reassured me. Then, in the weeks that followed, my astonishment grew. People stepped forward, saying "We can do this!" Rapid Response Lane County came into being. Lane County Accompaniers organized.

The Interfaith Alliance with Migrants launched. Its mission, to plug folks into opportunities to help, spoke to my heart. You are loved.

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Today, what joy! Three intrepid Eugene residents stepped forward, ready to train as accompaniers.

Astonishing, and inspiring: Next, two friends from El Salvador stepped up to the mic.

*La migración
es un acto de
valentía.*



*Migration
is an act of
courage.*



This couple raised a family in the United States while slowly but surely taking the steps necessary to become U.S. citizens. Our friend, and next her husband, described the struggles, the sacrifices their family went through.

Don't believe a word of it when someone tells you it's the immigrant's fault, that they're "undocumented," a.k.a. not a U.S. citizen. Do your homework. Find out. There are so many ways things can go wrong.

One last astonishment, today: Reverend Ryan Scott, thank you for sharing the truth, the beauty, of your people. A sanctuary church, First United Methodist Church, you inspire us all.



Church Women United has brought this beauty, this truth, into my world. Besides the Interfaith Alliance with Migrants, CWU pairs with a wealth of engaged, vibrant local organizations. I've learned that there is so much more to life than taking care of my own needs.

On that fateful day eleven years ago when I walked into a CWU forum for the first time, my life changed radically. Moments of truth and beauty crowded into my life.

Last month, when I wrote my yearly membership check to Church Women United, I gave thanks for the many friends I've made, working together to bring beauty and truth into this world. Jane, Diane, Ruth, Jeanne, your legacy remains. Jean, at age 102 I met you only twice but the message of how you made a difference in so many ways will be my forever touchstone.

42091 McKenzie Highway, Springfield, Oregon 97478, my address, is a great target for your membership check. Sixty-five dollars, the yearly dues CWU advises for 2026, fits the bill. However, please, by all means, send the amount most comfortable at this time. As you put a stamp on that envelope and mail it off, you'll be reminded that your commitment to our mutual search for truth and beauty counts. I guarantee it.

The one who stole my heart today was Juan, the tow truck driver.

But please know that your friendship is a far greater treasure to me.

And so, as we trudge (skip? parade? crawl?) through this blustery month of March, please be encouraged. Find coziness whenever possible. Take your time, as your search for beauty and truth marches on. It's a search we share, at this very moment in time. And remember, always, that you are loved.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Katharine EE Hunt

130 Hansen Lane

Eugene, OR 97404

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Coming UP!

**Next Stronger Together
Interfaith Potluck**
will be held at 5:30 pm
on Sunday, March 15
at the UUCE on 13th.

Also **No Kings 3** will be held on
Saturday, March 28 th.
An event is being organized by
Alliance Coalition Eugene
Springfield (ACES).
Watch for more details soon.



World Day of Prayer 2026
Focus on **Nigeria**



I Will Give You Rest: Come

Program written by the
World Day of Prayer Committee of Nigeria for 2026
Matthew 11:28-30

Mark Your Calendar Today
*Eugene-Springfield Celebrates
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER*
Friday, March 6
Asbury United Methodist Church
1090 Berntzen Road, Eugene
10 a.m.
Hosted by Church Women United
More info at
cwulanecounty.org

PLUS:
Mary Sharon
Moore
Presents
"Final
Matters,"
End of Life
Actions
You Can
Take Now

