

Interfaith EarthKeepers Meeting
June 24, 2026

Location: First Congregational Church of Eugene,

Attendees: Barb Reuter, Dennis Reynolds, Cynthia Black, Mark Lindberg, Carl Bybee, K.C. Hancock, Kenny Watkins, Gabriel Scott, Sue Craig, Mark Hobbs, Tom Boyd.

Moderator: Mark Lindberg

Minutes: Tom Boyd

Invocation / Check-in: Attendees shared one thing to which they were looking forward this summer. Mark read the poem "As It Is" by Rosemary Whatola Trommer. This work celebrates the joy of finding love as it naturally appears, and the value of leaving found nature as is.

Guest speaker for July: KC to pursue getting a speaker from BRING Recycling. Will need to recruit a guest speaker for September meeting. Mark to reach out to Terra Rolf of Oregon Resilience.

Hands-On Habitat Restoration Projects: Turtle Flats – Stay tuned for opportunities to serve as fire marshal for controlled burns.

Strengthen our Connections and Ongoing Partnerships:

- 350 Eugene has moved the Clean Energy Fund to the top of priorities.
- Third Act is hosting two speakers 6/25 at Dara Cafe (565 Country Club): Bob Doppelt, active in the area of resilience, and Aidan Bassett, attorney focusing on government transparency.
- Divest Oregon is focusing on resisting authoritarianism.
- ACES (Activist Coalition of Eugene Springfield) considering actions on Good Trouble Day to honor the late Congressman John Lewis. Its Deescalation Team will monitor the Pride Parade this week.
- Interfaith Clergy United will not be organizing interfaith potlucks during the summer. A theme of Kindness was suggested for consideration for fall event.
- City of Eugene and Lane County have important upcoming runoff races that will impact progressive initiatives.
- EWEB has suspended its bike rebate program. The number of applications outstripped its funding.

-Beyond Toxics is sponsoring fundraising event Wednesday 7/1, 5:00-7:00 at Oakshire Brewing.

-On May 29 people from Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CLUSI), the McKenzie River Trust, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council watched as a levee on the Siuslaw River near Cushman was breached. This created an estuary for the first time in 80 years on what in the interim had been a dairy farm. The event included a naming ceremony for what is now called haich ikt'at'uu, "Heart of the River."

-It was noted Eugene's First Baptist Church has a cooling center. KC to reach out and explore whether that faith community has a Creation Care component and whether there might be potential for collaboration.

State and Local Legislative Initiative Participation:

-Initiative for the Eugene Clean Energy Fund. Please sign if you have not already done so.

Social/Climate Justice Project Support:

-Climate Resiliency Working Group Summary. The group is looking into resources that exist and what might be possible. Existing resources of different agencies are for the most part spotty and not interconnected (e.g, Lane County Event Center cooling site not on Lane County map). Questions include whether we should put together such a resource, how to make it accessible and readily modifiable (e.g., IE website; Flyer with QR code).

-There will be a Workshop 6/25 at the Eugene Public Library on how to build a home air purifier.

-Be Two Weeks Ready work group is making progress. Members met with Taylor Sylvie of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, who has resources and does 2 Weeks Ready training. KLCC's website has information on emergency preparedness in its archive.

-Climate Cafes explore thoughts, feelings, and experiences related to climate and environmental issues. Future cafes are scheduled for 7/8, 8/13, and 9/10 from 7:00-8:30 pm at First United Methodist Church.

Education:

Reviewed final two chapters of *Here Comes the Sun*, by Bill McKibben. Discussion included the socially revolutionary quality of solar power, the increasingly important role magnesium will play in renewable energy, and the spiritual dimension of the sun and its ascendance across cultures. Discussion included reference to statistics on the decrease in outdoor activities like hiking in the past couple of decades. Reference was made to St. Francis' of

Assisi's Canticle to the Sun and the Vatican's commitment to be first state to be totally powered by renewable energy.

Next book: Pope Leo XIV's "Magnifica Humanitas." Sections 1 and 2 to be discussed at July meeting.

Upcoming Meeting: July 22 – Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene