

Interfaith Earthkeepers Hybrid Meeting

May 28, 2025

Attendees: Dennis R, Carl B, Sue C, Mark L, Tom B, Joan B, Keith O, Ron H, Britni C, Kenny W, Ron C, Katharine H

Moderator: Mark

Minutes: Britni

Special Guests:

Amanda and Anne Marie from [Lookout Eugene-Springfield](#) shared about the new local news source. It is sustained by membership subscriptions and advertisements. Right now it's open access for 90 days. Lookout in the Classroom provides high school lessons that teach kids how to responsibly consume the news (aligned with Oregon State Standards). If there is something you want to see covered, reach out to the staff at Lookout Eugene. Mark would like them to cover the restoration project at Turtle Flats. Attendees also shared the importance of elevating the faith voice that is not Christian Nationalism.

Opening Reflection and Prayer: "To Be Hopeful in Bad Times" by Howard Zinn

Updates and Continuing Issues

1. Turtle Flats: The May 3rd work party went well. Volunteers removed a lot of blackberries and got to see the native plants they are growing at the Nursery Open House. Mark will share future volunteer opportunities. Mark is interested in hosting an outdoor interfaith worship event at Turtle Flats.

2. Stronger Together Interfaith Potluck: The topic for the next meeting is Pride and LGBTQ issues.

3. Swing for Democracy: This was a fundraiser to support Western Environmental Law Conference, Planned Parenthood, and ACLU. They raised over \$4000.

4. Willow Conservancy workshop: The [nonprofit](#) held a few Community Forestry spring workshops where participants learned about willow culture and helped plant trees on grant recipient properties.

5. OCERA: We will wait to see what happens in the legislature. They had a lobby day last week.

6. Future Guests: Carl will reach out to McKenzie River Trust.

Upcoming Events and Actions

1. Churchwomen United: On June 6th from 10am-12pm, the organization will host an event with the opportunity to table and share about organizations. Groups will have an opportunity to speak.

2. Documentary: A Force More Powerful: Fridays June 6th and 13th from 6-8pm (followed by discussion) at Unity of the Valley.

3. UU Earth Action: On Saturday June 7th, UU Earth Action will be at Hardesty Mountain Trailhead. This is part of a campaign to go to a federal forest or other public land, have a picnic, and take a picture to send to federal reps, especially Cliff Bentz, to let them know that our public lands and forests belong to us. "This land is our land."

4. June 14th No Kings Rally: The Saturday protest is 11am-2pm at the Wayne Morse United States Courthouse. At 12pm, there will be a march to Eugene City Hall. There is a need for deescalation volunteers and trash pick up. This event is organized nationally by 50501 and locally by ACES. There will be tabling. People are encouraged to wear a placard with their organization info and provide handouts. Ron is willing to help fund t-shirts.

5. Eugene Pride Festival: The festival is Saturday, June 28th at the Lane County Fairgrounds conference building. The Interfaith Hospitality area will be at the north end of the building, outside. There will be a table for information about different faith groups and organizations. Mark will print copies of the EKs brochure and a volunteer sign up link will be sent out.

6. Oregon League of Conservation Voters Zoom Meeting with Rep Fahey: Sue will attend and represent EKs.

Additional Discussion

Casey Hancock from Working Together has a tool on Consensus Process. She volunteers to facilitate the consensus building process for groups.

Education Discussion:

Hope in the Dark by Rebecca Solnit - Chapters 4-5 (available as an [e-audiobook on Hoopla](#) through the Eugene Public Library)

Next Meeting: June 25th at 12:00-1:30pm (online and in person at UU Church)

Moderator: Mark

Minutes: Britni

Education Session: Chapters 6 and 7 of Hope in the Dark

