



## Church for Our Common Home

*dedicated to Mother Earth,  
the Divine Feminine,*

*Loving Community and the Arts*

*Come love and be loved by the natural world at the Secret Garden Retreat Center at the John Cobb Eco Farm and sing, dance and feast with us at the Mary Magdalene Café!*

*January 7, 2024*

The Secret Prayer Garden is an interfaith Living Rosary with 12 Tree Stations inviting prayers for the interconnected web of life, the wilderness, the soil, water, green plants, the air and music, mother



and children of all species, the sun, moon and galaxies of stars, wild animals underground and under water, wild animals above ground, the winged creatures, the beauty of the natural world and the human family and the natural world living in harmony. We share the story of the betrayal, torture, death and the regeneration of Mother Earth. Join us with the animals, trees, plants etc. in the barn (weather permitting) for Sunday weekly worship, 4 pm pst. Retreat stays are available.

**Church for Our Common Home**—a home and internet church, retreat center and counseling center exploring biodynamic farming with a community art studio and eARTh Art Gallery in the Barn, 15435 Strong Road, Dallas, OR 97338, We are a non-profit 501 C3 that provides artistic, religious and psychological services to awaken to the moral and ecological crisis as an invitation for spiritual growth and loving community with all of creation, caring for our common home, Mother Earth.

Minister- Rev. Bonnie Tarwater, (858) 248-5123 [revtarwater@yahoo.com](mailto:revtarwater@yahoo.com), [www.churchforourcommonhome.com](http://www.churchforourcommonhome.com)

**Director Our Common Home Counseling Center Dr. Walter Rutherford** (858) 442-6472 [walterrutherford44@gmail.com](mailto:walterrutherford44@gmail.com) *Services include, individual and group therapy, addiction issues, PTSD, relationship counseling, Spiritual Direction, pastoral counseling and dream honoring. We believe our current ecologic crisis is a call to awaken to the reverence of life and the truth that all nature is alive, sacred and our earth is one organic whole. As we witness the sixth extinction of life on earth, the only one created by us humans, we are invited to reclaim the ancient wisdom traditions. We are interbeings, interspecies, and an interconnected whole. What we do affects everyone else. Every Sunday at 4 pm we acknowledge that we need one another more than ever before and commune with God called by many names. We celebrate the wisdom traditions from the East, West, indigenous peoples, new science as we study the teachings of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, the Bible as well as newly found gnostic gospels. We pray together and to ask for God's help to find new ways to live in peace and love with all creation. **Board of Directors**, Walter Rutherford- President, Juan Ibarra CPA- Treasurer, Martha Garcia-Secretary, Rev. Bonnie Tarwater-Minister Tax deductible donations to Church for Our Common Home, pay pal, credit card, check,cash and other gifts welcome. THANK YOU! Please send us new clients and referrals for Our Common Home Counseling Center and the Secret Garden Retreat Center for proceeds go to fund Church for Our Common Home.*

**Invitations and Announcements:** Intercessory Prayer Circle, contact Bonnie with prayer requests. Weekly Dream Group every Thursday 4 pm PST, Lectio Divina Tuesday 9-10 (reflecting on scripture for the following Sunday). Please contact Rev. Bonnie if you would like a pastoral visit in person or on Zoom or phone and/or if you would like to pray or have prayer requests. Our worship and meeting link on **Zoom ID 3025719458** and this number is always on church website homepage.

**Please mark calendar and pray for Martha** who is having surgery Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Special thanks to Edie for UU Faithify Grant** to begin 2 new Earth Crisis Support Groups in Oregon. We have raised about \$1,200 or 47 % and need to raise about another 1,200 in 9 more days. Please share grant link <https://www.faithify.org/campaign/307/earth-crisis-support-groups>.

**Please watch video Vivian Song** made about the John Cobb Eco Farm and send with an invitation to friends to come visit. <https://youtu.be/bJdvd8fRdKA?si=5ygOHAlyGqKTDQCf>

**Weekly Interfaith Prayer and Song Vigil for Peace** 10 am Saturday's Beginning November 11 Benton County Courthouse Corvallis Cosponsored by Peace and Justice Strategies Office, School of History, Philosophy and Religion OSU, Corvallis Interfaith Network and Church for Our Common Home.

**Please join me for Moslem prayers** every<sup>h</sup> Friday prayers 12 noon at Mosque and evening services at Beit Am Jewish synagogue in Corvallis, January 12 6:30 pm.

**Plans for Love Your Enemy Walk around Hiroshima Day August 6<sup>th</sup>**

**New Musical WWOOF** to invite local musicians to come do farm work, play music for worship and offer music workshops she will conduct.

**Earth Crisis Support Group and Potluck Parties Dallas Oregon** every Saturday 4-6 pm here at the John Cobb Eco Farm. Nancy Mahoney's group meets monthly in Woodstock NY.

**Sunday Feb 4 1-5 pm** We will host the Ecumenical Ministry of Oregon Earth Summit again this year.

**Earthen Arts workshops last two weekends of July.** Please make reservations soon for space to stay indoors is limited. Tent and RV camping also available. Begins Friday, 4 pm July 19 through Sunday July 21 4 pm. The second weekend begins 4 pm July 26, Friday through Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup> 4 pm. You can register for one or both weekends. You are invited to stay for the week for both weekends.

**The Global Nonviolent Action Database** [Home | Global Nonviolent Action Database \(swarthmore.edu\)](#) provides free access to information about hundreds of cases of nonviolent action, from all continents and most countries, for learning and for citizen action. The database is a project of Swarthmore College

**WWOOF profile** [Live and Learn on Organic Farms - WWOOF USA](#) Volunteers from around the world come to work on organic farms and receive room and board.

**Some alternative news sources include** Code Pink, [www.codepink.org](http://www.codepink.org), the Poor People's Campaign, [www.poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org), Living Earth Movement, [www.livingearthmovement.eco](http://www.livingearthmovement.eco), "to inspire global cooperation for the sake of all life on our planet, beginning with the United States and China." Democracy Now (Free speech TV) Chris Hedges, (Pulitzer prize winning journalist and Christian minister) OpEd News, Popular Resistance, YES! Magazine, Common Ground, [100 Best Liberal Political Blogs and Websites in 2023 \(feedspot.com\)](#)

**Please sign up for Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib newsletter** on her website. She is the only Palestinian American in Congress. [Home - Rashida Tlaib \(house.gov\)](#) (Thank you Nancy)



**Honoring the Kalapuyan People** We give thanks for the miracle of this sacred and beautiful land here in Dallas, Oregon where we ask for prayers for our common home, The Secret Prayer Garden at the John Cobb Eco Farm. This was the homeland of the Kalapuyan people before the colonizers came and inflicted genocide to the native peoples, land and eco systems. We confess these sins and ask for forgiveness and promise to make amends. We apologize for all the harm many of our ancestors did to the indigenous peoples and the natural world in this place and in the America's. We commit to truth telling and working to make amends for the harm done.



**Lighting of the Black Madonna of the America's-- Our Lady of Guadalupe Candle**

**Meditation:** (Four thousand years ago Jacob woke up from a dream,) 17 He was filled with trembling and said, "How awe-inspiring this place is! This is nothing less than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven!" 18 Jacob rose early the next morning, and took the stone he had used as a headrest and set it up as a monument, and anointed it with oil. 19 Jacob named the place Bethel—"House of God" Genesis Chapter 28



**Reading “12 Step program for an Ecologic Civilization”** Church For Our Common Home is God centered and guided and dedicated to Mother Earth. The Secret Prayer Garden invites interfaith prayers and a new dream for the Earth at the John Cobb Eco Farm with twelve prayer stations, on trees over five acres. We work for an Ecologic Civilization with our 12 step program and we;



1. Share the truth that the current 6<sup>th</sup> extinction of life on Earth, the only one created by humans, is an invitation for transformation as a human species.
2. Share the history and human habits of dominant over relationships and commit to relationships of collaboration, partnership and co-creativity.
3. Make amends for our alienation and abuse of the natural world and our idolatry of scientism and rationalism using transdisciplinary reconnections of religion, art, psychology, ecology, etc.
4. Explore eco-feminist and process theology, celebrating God and Goddess language, symbols and relationships.
5. Study the teachings of Jesus and Mary Magdalene and their Church of Love highlighting the radical teachings and the way of doing unto the least of these, love of enemies and service to God not money, with newly found gnostic scriptures and the world’s ancient wisdom traditions.
6. Offer diverse spiritual practices to develop loving relationships with the natural world, Mother Earth and all creation.
7. Honor the invisible realms of dreams, prayer, intuition, parapsychology and imagination.
8. Celebrate the visual and performing arts, ritual making, beauty and creativity as divine spiritual practice.
9. Celebrate intergenerational community by intentionally including and honoring the very young and old.
10. Encourage consciousness raising with integration of body, sexuality, mind, spirit, feelings, intuition and imagination.



11. Work for social justice locally and globally in partnership with other organizations
12. Experiment with nontraditional church in order to create relevant, spirit filled and loving community.

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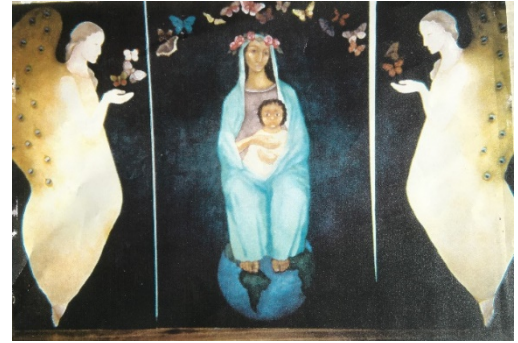
### **Musical Prayer and Invocation for Mother Earth our *4.5-billion-years`old Mother!***

Our *Dear, Dear Mother* by Raffi Chorus Our dear, dear Mother, daily provider, earth be your name the time has come to honor you to know you and to show our love. You give us each day our daily grain kissed by the sun and kissed by the rain. Teach us now to find a way to care for you in our work and play. Chorus

Love, love, love, love, earthlings this, this is your call. Love your God with your heart soul and mind for God loves us all. (repeat)

**Passing of the Peace** (Unmute and share greetings) God Loves You and There is Nothing You Can Do About It!

**Welcoming Angels to Worship** (Artist Kathleen Kline's gift to us) Angels welcome in this sanctuary pure and holy, tried and true with thanksgiving we'll be a living sanctuary for you. (by John Thompson and Randy Scuggs ) The Angel Gabriel from heaven came. His wings as white as snow, his eyes a flame. All hail said he, thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady, Gloria. ....All night all day angels watchin over me my Lord. All night all day, angels watchin over me. If I die before I wake, angels watchin over me my Lord. Pray my soul, the Lord will take, angels watchin over me, angels watchin over me..... Down inside the earth with angels, down inside the earth, when I die hallelujah by and by, I'll return to God and Mother Earth.



**Walt and Bonnie:** News from the Secret Garden Retreat Center at the John Cobb Eco Farm

**Musical Prayers *I Talk to the Trees*** (composed by Frederick Loewe and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner from *Paint Your Wagon* adapted by Bonnie)  
I talk to the trees and they are listening to me. I talk to the stars, and they always hear me. The breeze has the time to stop, and hear what I say. I talk to them all in love. We sing with chickens and ducks and they are clucking and quacking in song. We dance with cats and dogs, who teach us love and joy. We pray for goats and sheep here on the John Cobb Eco Farm. We pray for them all in love. and God's faithfulness to all generations.

**Reading** December 7, 2023 His Excellency Mr. Amar Bendjama

Ambassador of Algeria to the United Nations RE: Hold Israel Responsible by Invoking the Genocide Convention

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

My name is [ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ] and I live in the United States of America. I am a concerned citizen who is trying to hold Israel responsible for its war-crimes.

I am writing today to implore you to help stop the slaughter of innocent lives in Palestine by invoking the Genocide Convention. Your nation has been rightly critical of Israel in the past, and I have hope that you will rise to the occasion to invoke the Genocide Convention at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Many people have called what is happening in Palestine, and in Gaza in particular, a genocide, including human rights organizations around the world. Already, more than 17,000 civilians have been killed (70% of them women and children), 46,000 have been wounded and dozens of hospitals, schools, mosques, churches, sewage systems and power stations, have been completely leveled. Craig Mokhiber and Craig Murray, both leading international lawyers at the UN, have also described this as a textbook case of genocide.

To make it clear, I am not asking you to determine that a genocide is occurring. I am simply asking that you *invoke* the Genocide Convention at the ICJ, so that the court itself can make a determination. A single country is all that is required to make the request. I believe that previous comments that your leaders and ambassadors have made will allow you to be an excellent messenger for this action. Please help to stop the genocide before more innocent civilians are massacred.

I thank you for your time and for your past admirable record of calling out Israel for its crimes against humanity. I look forward to hearing your response to my letter and I will continue to study the issue in the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely, [Your full name] [Your address]

**Scripture** Romans 8:24-25 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

**Reflection** *I Hope You Dance; Stories of Hope*

1. Don't ever give up on your dreams. 2. Don't ever think you are too old to make your dreams come true. 3. It takes a team to do anything.

## Letter writing



### Virtual Wailing Wall and Prayers of Confession

**Nancy:** Dear Holy One, We come to confess and to ask for forgiveness. We know that we have done things we should not have done and not done things we should have done. We ask you to forgive us. We ask that you guide us in learning how to forgive others as well as ourselves. (silence) Amen

**Dear God,** We pray for our enemies as Jesus taught us. May your will be done for all those we name. (please name prayer requests all together simultaneously) Amen.

**Martha: Prayer** (Please unmute and say in unison) **Our Mother Father God** who is within us we celebrate your many names. Your wisdom come. Your will be done, unfolding from the depths within us. Each day you give us all that we need. You remind us of our limits and we let go. You support us in our power and we act with courage. For you are the dwelling place within us, the empowerment around us and the celebration among us now and forever. Amen by Miriam Therese Winters

**Walt Rutherford:** Dear Holy One, you the God of passionate love, we ask for your grace tonight despite our pride. Your forgiveness despite our doubt. Most of all, we ask for your love to see us through these dark times. May we face whatever is to come in your divine will with courage and open hearts of acceptance. Amen (from movie *Don't Look Up*)

**Please respond after the bell rings, "God Help us. Hear our prayer."** We pray for the leaders in South Africa who are showing leadership to bring legal actions against Israel. We pray for all those working for peace. **God help us. Hear our prayer.** We pray for people and creatures in war torn areas of our common home, Palestinians Israelis, Ukrainians, Russians, Afghanis, those from the Congo, Libia, Syria, Yemen, all people suffering from the evil of war. **God help us. Hear our prayer.** We pray for the children of Gaza and all children. War is near when we do not treat all children as our own. **God help us. Hear our prayer** We ask for forgiveness all the ways we have not loved and served you. **God help us. Hear our prayer** We pray for the 150 species that are going extinct everyday. **God help us. Hear our prayer.** May we be open to visitations from angels in our dreams in the coming year. Thank you for you have given us light in the cold winter darkness, you have given us the gift of the vision of peace amidst war, hope in the midst of catastrophe, love in a time of hate. We promise you that we will never give up. WE GIVE YOU THANKS AND PRAISE! We pray for hope amidst suffering Please unmute and lift up those you want to pray for..... **God help us. Hear our. Amen**

**Silent Prayer for all life here on our common home Mother Earth.**

**Musical Benediction** by Miriam Therese Winter  
May the blessing of God go before, may her grace and  
peace abound, may her sprit live within you may her  
love wrap you round, may her blessings remain with  
you always, may you walk on holy ground.  
(*Annunciation* artist Edward Frampton)



**Sharing** and the **Mary Magdalene Café and  
Dancing** Hafiz four words of God “Come Dance with  
Me”

Lee Ann Womack *I Hope You Dance* <https://youtu.be/RV-Z1YwaOiw?si=xkdtzcCbiSFAUirW>

We want to send you rainbow ribbons for dancing so please let us know if you have not received them yet.

P.S. Thank you for sending us donations regularly and we ask for any small or large, regular or irregular donations and pledges in order to continue the ministry of this church. The need is great and thank you.

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