



# Simone Weil House

Catholic Worker & Public Household

*And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.'** For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."*

Matthew 9:10-13

Dear friends,

When Jesus quoted Hosea, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice" he was drawing us to the relationship at the very heart of salvation history.

The word "mercy" is a translation of the Hebrew *chesed*, a term that might otherwise be translated "covenant faithfulness," or "loyal love." When it is used to describe God, it means something like "God keeps his promises, even when humans don't." When enjoined on people, it means acting from this fidelity: especially expanding our circles of faithful, familial love to include those who are on the margins of society.



*Celebrating S's birthday!*

As Simone Weil House we give and receive, but even more, make a place for *chesed*, where faithful love can become a pattern for community relations: for example, at our free fridge/pantry/closet the community offers from its abundance and receives in its need - so our whole community can have an experience of itself as a family defined by responsive, faithful love. Another example of this is our own voluntary poverty! We get to make family as we do because a supporting community considers us to be part of its own sphere of faithful love.



*A recent Friday dinner celebrating the opening of the Community Supported Pantry.*

**This Lent, we invite you to support our work financially.** We are so grateful for the support offered to our community during the Advent season, which gave us a few months of peace of mind. *However, this spring, we are now once again facing a monthly shortfall.* Donations, especially recurring donations of any size, are greatly appreciated!

*Peace to you,*

Bert, Emma, Katherine, Marie, and the rest of the Simone Weil Catholic Worker community



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### Who We Are

The **Simone Weil Catholic Worker & Public Household** (Portland, OR) is an attempt to live, at small scale, “a society where it is easier to be good.” We are an intentional Catholic community emphasizing four overlapping frameworks for sharing life: domestic church, “room for Christ the stranger,” household economy, and the agronomic university. **Check out [www.simoneweilhouse.org](http://www.simoneweilhouse.org) for details!**

- **Room for Christ:** We offer supported, residential community in our two 4-bedroom houses and 3 backyard tiny houses for folks who were living on the street, and we try to support households and parishes to offer hospitality spaces for Christ the Stranger.
- **Domestic Church:** We make ourselves available to “the liturgical circulation of the cosmos” by participating in the liturgy of the hours, Mass, daily Scripture reading, and attempting to celebrate the feasting, fasting, and resting rhythms of the Church’s calendar.
- **Household & Communion Economy:** As a “*public household*,” we strive to offer the space and familial rhythms that we associate with a household, but to our whole neighborhood. This includes open meals; a CSA-inspired [Community Supported Pantry](#); and a 24/7 community fridge and clothing hutch. As an extension and deepening of this practice of God’s economy/household, we convene a community around “*communion economy*” practices, starting with a mutual-aid credit union (banking) community which can offer 0% interest loans inspired by the biblical practice of redemption.
- **Agonomic University:** We give a dedicated place to study that, complemented by manual work and prayer, takes on the significance of formation, or in our Benedictine terms, a “school of the Lord’s service.” This means a rhythm of manual work (including farming our second lot), common study (especially Scripture in ‘22-’23), and participation in our virtual community led by guest scholars.



**While donations of any size or frequency are deeply appreciated, we especially invite you, your parish, or other community to consider sponsoring one of the following monthly expenses:**

- \$500 per month, to sponsor a tiny house or an inside bedroom in the Dorothy Day House or Simone Weil House
- \$400 in utilities for Simone Weil House & Free Fridge
- \$300 in utilities for Dorothy Day House

Donations can be made via check (**payable to In My Backyard**) or online via Paypal at [bit.ly/IMBY-donate](http://bit.ly/IMBY-donate). Thank you again for supporting our community with your prayers, participation, and financial contributions. We look forward to seeing you at the house soon.