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# Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries

## December 2024 Newsletter

*"Climate justice through faith-inspired connection, education, advocacy, and action"*

### People of Hope



As we walk together towards the manger, this year we pray that we might touch, concretely, the Good News God promised to us. As people of hope, we remember that we are never alone, for God chose this place in which to enter into the darkness as Emmanuel, God with us. The ministry of Jesus was one that prioritized those on the margins of society. His ministry was bold and prophetic, speaking up against the perpetuated injustices and the oppression of "the least of these." Jesus brought a message of love, and it is that love which compels us to action. May we be compelled in this time of division to be the light in the world, advocating both individually and in community for climate justice.

In this issue you will find articles about:

#### [Advocacy](#)

- Climate Justice Advocacy Resources

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- COP29
- Fossil Fuel Divestment as Climate Change Strategy
- Sacred Ground in the East Bay

### [Action](#)

- EV Charging for Congregations
- Sharing God's Love at Christmas

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- Our Changing Climate - a photo essay about the Philippines
- A Story of Hope - Spring Forest

Wishing you a wonderful and peace-filled Christmas.

Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell

Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

## *Advocacy*

### Climate Justice Advocacy Resources

Living out our faith goes beyond individual actions, our own households, or our own churches. We are called to follow the example of Jesus and the prophets--to be courageous in proactively shaping our communities and our world to better align with our faith values. In the United States, we have a democratic system that requires active input from people of faith and good conscience. A healthy democracy requires people to be educated, organized, and engaged at every level.

During his election campaign, incoming President Donald Trump made statements about increasing oil and gas production and weakening air pollution regulations. And the two-weeks of COP29 talks, held in the Azerbaijan capital Baku, were marked by division between wealthy governments resisting a costly outcome and developing nations pushing for more. **We have a lot of advocacy work to do.**

Here are some resources to help you and your church:



[Creation Justice Ministries](#), formerly the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program, lists a set of current actions that is updated each month. They also offer a brief 5-step process to taking action:

- Testify at Public Hearings
- Organize your Community
- Get Published
- Directly Contact Decision Makers
- Take Action with Policy Factsheets



[United Methodist Creation Justice Movement](#) connects and supports groups within the United Methodist Church and beyond for the work of creation care, justice, and regeneration. They have a page with action alerts.



[Fossil Free UMC](#) is part of the global fossil fuel divestment movement and is advocating for the screening out of fossil fuels from our investments at all levels of the UMC. They have frequent blog postings with ways to join their advocacy work.



[The General Board of Church & Society](#) of the UMC is dedicated to the work of living faith, seeking justice, and pursuing peace. They have an Environmental Justice section on their webpage on current legislative advocacy actions.



[Interfaith Power & Light](#) partners with thousands of congregations to address climate change and inspire and mobilize people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change. They have a set of current action alerts.



[GreenFaith](#) brings together people of all faiths and spiritualities to work for climate justice. They have a set of current campaigns and some events that you can join.



[350.org](#) is an international environmental organization addressing the climate crisis with the goal of ending the use of fossil fuels and transitioning to renewable energy by building a global, grassroots movement. They have lots of actions on their website and you can also find local groups in California - the Sacramento group offers Student Environmental Activist Training.



[Third Act](#) is a community of Americans over sixty determined to change the world for the better by harnessing generational power to safeguard our climate and democracy. They have some national campaigns listed on their site. They also host national community-wide calls, workshops, trainings and thematic, facilitated conversations.

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## ***Education***

### **What Happened at COP29?**



The 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([COP29](#)), took place from November 11 to 22 in Baku, Azerbaijan. It ended with the setting of a new climate finance goal that was below expectations leaving some deeply disappointed delegates from developing countries.

“The new finance goal of at least \$300 billion annually by 2035 is triple the amount of the previous target, aiming to mobilize much-needed finance for developing countries to cut emissions and address the mounting impacts of climate change. But while the new target is an important down payment for a safer, more equitable future, it is far less than developing countries need to pursue low-carbon development and protect their citizens from increasing droughts, floods and wildfires. In addition, countries failed to reach consensus on how or whether to acknowledge the outcome from last year's climate summit, which calls for nations to transition away from fossil fuels.”

*(Quote from World Resources Institute)*

Read these articles for some reflection

- [Climate Justice and COP29](#) from Fossil Free UMC written by Rev. Sharon Delgado
- [COP29: far from enough](#) from 350.org
- [Key Outcomes from COP29](#) from the World Resources Institute

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## Fossil Fuel Divestment as Climate Change Strategy



On October 15, 2024, Rev. Sharon Delgado, Convener of [Fossil Free UMC](#) and a member of our Climate Justice Ministries Task Force, appeared as the speaker on the weekly [Cobb & Friends podcast](#).

In her presentation, Sharon takes us through the steps of awakening to what is at stake as the impacts of climate change multiply. She explores the forces that perpetuate this crisis and the limitations of the dominant paradigm for climate rescue. She points to fossil fuel divestment as a faithful response: as both a practical and symbolic way to challenge the power of the fossil fuel industry and to strengthen the global movement for climate justice.

Watch the Recording

## Sacred Ground in the East Bay

The Sacred Ground project has expanded its reach with the addition of new locations in the East Bay! The newest three are pictured below.



*Sibley Volcanic Regional  
Preserve*



*The Albany Bulb*



*Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline*

If you have not done so yet, download the free Otocast smartphone app (available on both the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#)), then type "Sacred Ground" in the search bar, and check out the beautiful places near you. If there is an outdoor site where you go to "decompress" which is not yet included, contact [Pastor Laurie Bayen](#) to help with this project's expansion to your neighborhood.



If you don't have a smartphone, you can still access the Sacred Ground material [via the web-based version](#).

Sacred Ground is also active on Social Media! Visit [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) for daily inspiration from nature, and [YouTube](#) for nature-inspired worship content and videos about the project.

For information on "Sacred Ground Field Trips" and more, [click here](#).

Submitted by task force member [Rev. Laurie Bayen](#)

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## Action

### EV Charging for Congregations Guide & Webinar



This guide from Interfaith Power & Light is intended as a resource for churches that are interested in installing EV charging stations on their property.

EV Charging Guide

They also have a recording of a webinar entitled *Plug Into the Future: EV Charging for Congregations Webinar* about installing EV chargers on your property. Topics include how to choose the right charger, accessing funding from various sources, and garnering congregational support. Hear from experts and people of faith around the country about their EV charger experiences!

## Sharing God's Love at Christmas



God loves the world and that includes the whole of creation. How can we share that love this Christmas in a worship-filled way that truly honors the whole world and brings justice and light into the darkness?

This picture is from 1 Million Women, but there were lots more ideas in our [Advent Special issue](#):

- an [idea for an Advent Discipline](#)
- a [list of books on Climate Change](#) that would make wonderful Christmas gifts
- a [set of tips and giving ideas](#) from the UM Creation Justice movement

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## Connection

### Our Changing Climate





[United Methodist News](#) is documenting the denomination's response to climate change through a series of dispatches from sites most impacted by global warming. In this article UMC News photographer Mike DuBose offers a photo essay from a recent visit to the Philippines.

UM News Article on Our Changing Climate

## A Story of Hope - Spring Forest

**Rev. Elaine Heath** lives with her spouse at Spring Forest, a new monastic community in rural North Carolina, where along with friends they tend a forest and small farm. [Spring Forest](#) is a new monastic, mission community in the United Methodist tradition. They are dedicated to loving and caring for the earth, animals, and their neighbors, especially those who are displaced by forced migration, and those who have been harmed by religion. They welcome and collaborate with people from other spiritual traditions and those who do not identify with spiritual traditions, and with many other churches, non-profits and organizations. They donate fresh produce to refugee families, host a range of spiritual formation ministries, children's programs, and much more. Elaine serves as Abbess for their gathered and dispersed community.



In the [November Movement Cafe](#) hosted by [United Methodist Creation Justice Ministries](#) (UMCJM), Elaine shared the story of Spring Forest as a Fresh Expression of church, their ecumenical Farmastery, and garden, and the work that they do for creation justice. Her love and passion for the land and commitment to fostering the well being of animals, plants, soil, water, air, and humanity shines through her presentation.

## November Movement Cafe Video

*NOTE: At the time of publishing this newsletter, the video of the café had not yet been loaded. If it is not there when you follow the link, then check back in a day or two and you will find it!*

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