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# Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries

## January 2025 Newsletter

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

### Happy New Year!



We hope that you have had a blessed Christmas season and pray that 2025 will be a year filled with hope, peace, joy and love for you, your loved ones and the whole of creation.

In Advent we thought about the longing that we have for the future and the gifts of hope and peace and joy and love, and the gift of God's presence with us lighting the world. Even though Christ brings us those gifts, our longings are not going to be instantly fulfilled. At Christmas we celebrated the new world invading the old one. We celebrated the new born king, knowing his reign is not yet fully realized. We celebrated peace on Earth while wars still wage. We celebrated goodwill towards all while many still harbor malice. We shone a light on the world as it should be, while navigating this imperfect world.

And now, we continue to wait, knowing that while Christmas started to change things, total fulfillment is in the future. Our wait is now with Christ, and as we begin to receive those promised gifts, we do not remain the same. We are changed as we lean further into the promise that God is making all things new. God is in the process of perfecting the world and each of us. So, we need to start practicing living like we have been made new! Like the magi, let us leave Christmas and enter the New Year by a different route.

[Christine Sine](#) wrote this poem:

The Christmas star has not faded  
it has been planted in us.  
The light of the world is not dimmed,  
it shines in you, in me,  
and in all creation,  
and the darkness cannot extinguish it.  
Let us be God's revelation,  
God's path of transformation,  
shining like stars in the heavens,  
to give light to every weary pilgrim,  
every wanderer,  
every lost and rejected one.  
Let us go forth,  
carrying God's light  
into our needy world.

Or, as theologian [Howard Thurman](#) famously said in another poem:

When the star in the sky is gone,  
the work of Christmas begins.

News reports are now saying that 2024 was the hottest year on record and that global temperatures in 2024 surpassed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Increases in global temperatures disrupt ecosystems and cause further extreme weather. Instead of being paralyzed by fear or filled with despair, we have work to do carrying God's light into the world in a way that brings justice for the whole of creation.

As individuals and churches we need to **educate** ourselves and take the **actions** that we can to reduce our own energy use and consumption such as those suggested in our [action section](#). And we need to **connect** and come together as voters and consumers to **advocate** and ensure that governments and businesses make the systemic changes that are needed.

Do take a read of the press release of the hope-filled New Year message from [United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres](#).

So, as we carry the light of Christ into the New Year, with our fears and the year's endless possibilities, you will find articles in this issue about:

[Connection](#) - Connecting with Nature

[Education](#) - Indigenous Environmental Justice

[Action](#) - Creation Justice Tips

[Advocacy](#) - Stand Strong for Climate

Blessings and a Happy New Year to you all,

Rev. Joan Pell

*Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force*

## Connection

### Connecting with Nature

In our October 2024 Newsletter, we shared that one of our Task Force goals this year is to encourage everyone to spend 10 minutes outside each day. Here is a spiritual practice that you could do during that time.



The [Center for Spirituality in Nature](#) provides opportunities for deepening spirituality through nature and for nurturing loving relationships with the Earth. In a short but powerful TEDx talk, Beth Norcross, shares experiences from her decades as a Spiritual Ecologist, describing how trees can provide the comfort, delight, and guidance we need for challenging times. She offers a very simple practice **B.A.R.K.** that we can use to open ourselves to nature's wisdom.

TEDx Talk: The wisdom of trees in challenging times

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# Education

## Indigenous Environmental Justice

### Truth, Healing and Repair

A Christian Call to Environmental Justice and  
Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

[Creation Justice Ministries](#) has published a new resource *Truth, Healing and Repair: A Christian Call to Environmental Justice and Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples* that is available to freely download.

Their aim is to connect movements addressing historical wrongs with solutions to today's environmental challenges, such as pollution, land degradation, and climate resilience. Through this project, churches are invited to reflect on their relationships with the land and Indigenous peoples in their regions.

Truth, Healing and Repair Document

In addition they are holding a webinar:

#### **Conversation on Christian Solidarity and Indigenous Environmental Justice**

on **January 14, 2025**

from **3 pm to 4.30 pm PST** (6 pm to 7.30 pm EST)

This conversation will explore pathways for Christian communities to engage in meaningful solidarity with Indigenous-led environmental justice initiatives. The webinar will bring together Indigenous leaders and Christian practitioners to discuss how churches can move beyond land acknowledgments toward authentic relationships and concrete action.

Through stories, examples, and practical guidance, the speakers will explore:

- Indigenous perspectives on environmental justice and creation justice
- The role of Christian communities in truth-telling and repair
- Concrete ways churches can support Indigenous-led initiatives
- Building authentic partnerships that honor Indigenous leadership
- Moving from acknowledgment to action in your context

Webinar

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## Action

### Creation Justice Tips

Below are ten January Tips from the [United Methodist Creation Justice Movement](#). **These would make great New Year's Resolutions.**



### A Reminder From God's Seasons

*January*

*is just a few days past the darkest day of the year, December 21.*

*With this month's long dark nights,*

*it's hard to not let our disposition and energy darken too.*

*But January is ever inching forward into the light.*

*God's seasons remind us that the  
Light came into the world  
and the darkness did not overcome it.  
God remains faithful, working through the dark toward a new season.  
We can follow God's leading.*

## **January 2025 Tips**

**WE CAN renew our commitment to be good stewards** of our Earth. Choose one new thing to do throughout the year to care for creation.

**WE CAN make our homes and churches more energy efficient.** Fix the air leaks, use drapes to block the cold, change to LED lights, investigate possibilities for solar or Energy Star appliances.

**WE CAN embrace zero waste.** Create a reminder: Put a recycle bin next to your trash basket. Offer composting. Challenge family, colleagues, and church members to be thoughtful about their habits.

**WE CAN learn and teach.** Dig more deeply into the connections between science, the natural world, and faith. The more you learn, the more you can help others in your family, your circles of influence, and your congregation seeing themselves as faithful followers of Jesus and doing what is right for God's planet and people.

**WE CAN clean up.** Review your closets for items to donate for reuse, to repurpose, or to recycle. Challenge your clean-up crew of family or congregation to avoid letting anything go to the landfill. One church's campaign netted 220 serviceable winter coats that they donated to an organization helping unhoused persons.

**WE CAN consume less meat.** Explore the options for foods that are kinder to earth and to health. What we eat does have an impact on nature and climate change, as well as our own bodies. Try a new recipe. Host a meatless potluck and invite people to share their recipes.

**WE CAN avoid single-use plastics.** Take your own reusable bags when shopping. When eating out, bring your own non-plastic take-home container. Substitute bamboo, silicon, cloth from natural fibers, glass, or aluminum products for ones made of plastic.

**WE CAN support the creation justice efforts of others.** Help fund organizations that care for the environment and for communities that are vulnerable. They can

gather resources and amass power that creates greater impact than individuals can.

**WE CAN reduce greenhouse gas emissions.** Minimize the use of paper, which comes from chopping down trees. Choose instead email, texting, recycled paper, or reusable scrap paper. Change to bamboo toilet tissue, which is not wrapped in plastic, and that spares trees so they can continue to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

**WE CAN speak up.** Talk to your family, friends, and church members about what you are learning and doing. You are a trusted resource for them. Your example and your encouragement are key to spreading wider the circle of caring for God's planet and people.

*Share these Tips with your family, friends, and congregation. Choose any or all. Forward them to someone you care about. Cut-and-paste to put them with your email signature, in your letters and emails, worship bulletins, newsletters, social media, or website.*

*This article is reproduced from the January [UM Creation Justice Movement monthly tips](#).*

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## Advocacy

### Stand Strong for Climate

[Interfaith Power and Light](#) has the following "Stand Strong for Climate" [action alert](#).



With a new President and Congress about to take office, climate solutions that protect our Sacred Earth and beloved communities will be under attack. The incoming President and several new Members of Congress are backed by fossil fuel companies, and have promised to slash the protections our faith communities have fought for including, protections on clean air and water, undermining investments in clean energy, and weakening the protections keeping Americans safe from extreme weather. We must stand together and fight back! Make your voice heard: sign this petition to tell the new Congress to stand up against attempts to undo these important protections.

Contact your senators

- **California:** [Adam Schiff](#) & [Alex Padilla](#)
- **Nevada:** [Jacky Rosen](#) & [Catherine Cortez Masto](#)
- **Other States:** [click here](#)

Contact your representatives

- **California:** [click here](#) and then click on their individual names
- **Nevada:** [Dina Titus](#), [Mark Amodei](#), [Susie Lee](#), [Steven Horsford](#)
- **Other States:** [click here](#)

Sign the Petition

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