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Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries March 2025 Newsletter

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



Lent begins with a call to **re-pentance**, which means to turn around. Perhaps we can think about this in terms of **re-cognizing**. Cognition is to learn, to see, to discover, to perceive. So, what do you need to **re-learn, to re-see, to re-discover, to re-perceive** in this Lenten season? In this time of great change and upheaval, in what ways do you need to **re-turn** your heart and mind towards the earth and its inhabitants?

In this issue we share some examples of how to take action, advocate for change, connect with God and each other, and to educate ourselves.

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Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell

Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Action



Congregational Guidance for a time without precedence

Jim Antal, climate activist, author and public theologian serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. He is also a committee member of Third Act Faith. In this article, [Congregational Guidance for a time without precedence](#), he reflects on the critical role congregations can play in climate action at such a time as this. As he says: *The role—the vocation—of the congregation, if it seeks to be faithful, must be responsive to major changes in its neighborhood, its country, and in the world. While worship attendance in America has dropped precipitously over the past few decades, it remains the case that about 24% of Americans attend worship at least once a week. That’s an enormous number. So, on any given weekend, 24% of Americans can be found in worship, seated alongside neighbors with whom they sing from the same hymnal and listen to the same sermons. Imagine if only half of those congregations ...*

Earth Day 2025

Earth Day (April 22) is coming up just after Easter. The 2025 theme is *Our Power, Our Planet*, inviting everyone around the globe to unite behind renewable energy, and to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030. How? By joining in an Earth Action Day. Attend a local event or spend some time this Lent organizing your own.

Earth Day Resources

Grounded & Growing: Planting the Seeds for Change



Faith Climate Action Week is Interfaith Power & Light's premier week of climate action: sermons, worship services, educational events, and hands-on-action to show that people of faith are leading the way to heal our climate. It is a 10-day period from **April 18th to 27th** of activities in celebration around Earth Day.

This year California Interfaith Power & Light is focusing on the vital role of trees in healing our planet and the urgent need to protect and restore them in the face of climate change. [Download their kit](#) that equips individuals and communities with inspiration and action steps to protect forests, plant and care for trees, and advocate for policies that sustain these life-giving ecosystems.

Advocacy



Three Advocacy Opportunities

- **Make Big Oil pay for climate damages**

This year California has a chance to pass a groundbreaking piece of climate legislation that would make polluters pay to protect our communities from the climate crisis. It's called the Climate Superfund Bill. The companies who are responsible for these climate-fueled disasters, like the January wildfires in Los Angeles, should be the ones to pay for the damages, not California residents. It's time for California to make polluters pay into a climate superfund that will get money to communities most in need of recovery and resilience. Vermont and New York already passed a Climate Superfund, let's make California next!

Call/Write to your lawmakers and sign the petition

- **Oppose cuts to clean energy funding in the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs**

Act

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) are the most significant investments by the federal government ever made to combat climate change. Leaders in both chambers have said they want to make deep cuts or do away completely with unspent funds in the IRA and IIJA. If this were to happen, it would seriously undermine the fight against climate change.

Call your Representative and Senators in Congress today - more info here

- **Oppose cuts in funding to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

The research done by NOAA is critical to understanding what is going on with climate change. Without that research, we are flying blind as we seek to measure increases or decreases in greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of mitigation efforts. In addition, NOAA is the source of the weather reports we see on the nightly news or our phones, warning us of potentially dangerous weather. Their work is vital.

Call, email, or use this link from Citizen's Climate Lobby.

Fossil Fuel Divestment

The California-Nevada Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration is organizing a **Summit on Fossil Fuel Divestment** to be held at the Conference Center from Tuesday evening, March 25, through Wednesday afternoon, March 26. It will be geared specifically toward Conference financial officials and agencies, but presentations will be livestreamed for anyone who wants to know more about this issue. Presentations will be livestreamed on Tuesday, March 25 from 7 to 9 pm and on Wednesday, March 26 from 9 to noon. [Details here](#).

A recording of the February UM Creation Justice Movement Café on Fossil Fuel Divestment is [now available to watch](#). The first speaker, Jaydee Hansen, spoke about how individuals can find fossil-free funds referencing a group called [As You Sow](#).

See also our [February special issue on Divestment](#).

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Connection



The Power of God: From Extractive Theology to Transformative Faith



Creation Justice Ministries has a new resource, *The Power of God: From Extractive Theology to Transformative Faith* including theological framing, sermon starters, advocacy tools and children's activities.

As Christians living through cascading ecological crises, this is a moment we might rediscover and reimagine how God's power moves through all of creation — from the mighty cedars to the smallest fungi, from raging floods to gentle rains, from electrons moving through our power lines to the quiet energy that flows through every living cell. What we believe about God's power changes how we interact in the world! What we believe about the power of God changes how we adjust our thermostats, fuel up

our cars, commute to work, carry out our jobs, engage in politics, advocate for legislation, shop for home goods, and plug or unplug our toaster.

The Power of God

Earth Connect Retreat



Saturday, April 26

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Windsor Community United Methodist Church

9451 Brooks Rd S, Windsor, CA

This retreat, on the Saturday after Earth Day, is being organized by our task force and is open to everyone in the conference. In this time when there are assaults on all sides, we need to make space to connect with the Divine -- to be spiritually grounded -- as a daily first step toward works of love and justice. This retreat aims to help us “Thrive in Community” with one another and with God’s Creation. We will gather in facilitated small groups for meditation, conversation, and the sharing of action and advocacy ideas. Come prepared for some time outdoors, weather permitting. Participants will also receive an orientation to the [Sacred Ground project](#) and a list of possible “field trips” for the journey home!

[Registration](#) is required to reserve your spot. Attendance is limited to 50 participants.

Cost: \$10 suggested donation (but no one will be turned away) which can be paid at registration or at the door.

A vegan lunch will be provided by the Himalayan Restaurant of Windsor.

Please note that there is no childcare being offered at this event.

[Registration](#)

[Download a Printable Poster & Fliers](#)

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Education



California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Climate Justice
through faith-inspired
education



Education through books, websites, podcasts,
webinars, conferences, retreats, speakers

Lent Climate Study



[Rising to the Call: 7 Big Questions](#) is a study about the challenges and joy of discipleship with a focus on Climate Justice. Each week during Lent, the study group is invited to explore a big question whose foundation is in that week's gospel reading from the Year C lectionary. The study was originally co-authored in 2022 by the chair

of this Task Force, Rev. Joan Pell, while she was working for the British Methodist Church and it has been updated for 2025.

- You can **freely download the study and lead it in your church.**
- **Alternatively**, Rev. Joan Pell is leading this as an online study on eight Wednesdays at 1 p.m. (PT) from March 5 (Ash Wednesday) to April 23. Click the link below to register and receive the Zoom link.

Download Rising to the Call

Register for the Online Study

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