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# Cal-NeV Climate Justice Ministries July 2025 Newsletter

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



Welcome to those who signed up at Annual Conference Session (ACS) to receive our Climate Justice Ministries newsletters, and to anyone else who has recently subscribed.

A big thank you to Rev. Judith Preuss-Mellow for staffing our ACS Display Table during the Plenary breaks. For those who wanted to go paperless, all our [handouts](#) were made available on our website.

On the Digital Display page of the Conference website, we had a 6-minute [Introductory Video](#) made by myself (Rev. Joan Pell) and a video about [Sacred Ground](#) made by Rev. Laurie Bayen.

The Advocacy and Justice Friday luncheon presentation was entitled *What is this BDS all about? Engaging Boycott and Divestment as faithful tools*. I was one of the speakers to talk about our fossil fuel divestment work; it was videoed, and can be seen [here](#).

At the Plenary Session on Sunday morning, there was an Advocacy and Justice Panel speaking on the intersections of the justice work being done, including myself as one of the panelists. You can watch the [recording of the discussion](#) and view our [90-second short video](#) that was shown at the beginning of the session.

Our Task Force submitted four pieces of legislation to this year's Annual Conference Session (ACS). Three of them had minor modifications made to them during the legislative sections; all had over an 85% vote and were then placed on the Consent Calendar and approved by the Plenary Session. Please take the time to read the [final text](#) and encourage your congregation to take the relevant actions:

- Spend 10 minutes each day in mindful connection with Creation – outdoors if possible (ideas at [climate-cnumc.org/10mins](http://climate-cnumc.org/10mins))
- Create a church green team ([resources at climate-snumc.org/greenteam](http://resources.at.climate-snumc.org/greenteam))
- Support our Boards and Agencies as they divest from Fossil Fuels (learn more at [climate-cnumc.org/divestment](http://climate-cnumc.org/divestment))
- Boycott Chevron ([climate-cnumc.org/divestment/#boycott-chevron](http://climate-cnumc.org/divestment/#boycott-chevron))

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In this issue of our newsletter, we share some examples of how to take some **action**, **connect** with God, creation and others, how to **educate** ourselves and some opportunities to **advocate** for change.

### [Action](#)

- Plastic Free July
- Establishing a Green Team

### [Connection](#)

- Season of Creation Worship Resources
- Fall Earth Connect Retreat
- The “Sample Sacred Ground” Contest

### [Education](#)

- Extreme Heat Resources

- How to Stay Safe from Wildfire Smoke

### [Advocacy](#)

- Protect EPA Regulations

Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell

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

*Conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator*

## *Action*

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

**Climate Justice**  
through **faith-inspired**  
**action**



**Action to care for the earth through changed individual habits and church green teams**

## **Plastic Free July**



Challenge your congregation to go plastic free for a month and help them to find great alternatives that can become new habits forever. The [Plastic Free July](#) website has

many ideas for individuals and communities to refuse single use plastic. *Plastic Free July* is a registered charity based in Australia, but operating across the globe.

As it is a bit late now for July this year, but you could try a Plastic Free August or September!

Plastic Free July

Plastic is everywhere. We eat and drink from it, make clothes from it and buy products wrapped in it. Once these things become trash, they don't just disappear. Instead, they stick around for hundreds of years in landfills or the natural environment. Chemicals sourced from fossil fuels make plastic, and both plastic production and disposal contribute to greenhouse gases. Resolution 1217 on the *Use of Plastics* was passed at General Conference in 2024. Local churches are asked to avoid plastic where possible and to reduce their use in all their activities. Individuals are asked to commit to similar personal actions. We have a [Use of Plastics resource page](#) on our website.

"Use of Plastics" Resource Page

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## Establishing a Green Team



In response to the 2024 General Conference Green Teams legislation in ¶254 and Resolution 5112, our 2025 ACS passed some legislation to encourage churches to establish Green Teams.

Your church green team maybe a dedicated team at your church, but in smaller churches, it might form part of the work of another team. In every church, creation care and climate justice should live somewhere. However you choose to organize this work, the advice on our [Green Team resource page](#) on our website should be helpful.

[“Green Teams” Resource Page](#)

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## Connection



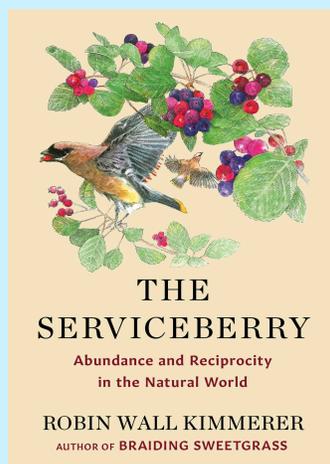
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Climate Justice  
through faith-inspired  
connection



Connection with God, creation and others;  
and telling our stories

## Season of Creation Worship Series



*The Serviceberry* is the title of Season of Creation Worship Resources for 2025 produced for the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement. The resources are

based on book of the same title, by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Two of the contributors are from our conference - newly ordained deacon, Rev. Kristina Sinks, and Global Ministries Earthkeeper and pastor of Windsor UMC, Rev. Laurie Bayen.

There are four weeks of worship resources including liturgy, prayers, hymn suggestions, sermon illustrations and children & youth activities.

Small groups of adults may also wish to read *The Serviceberry* together. Reflection Questions for small group study are included with each week's materials.

The Serviceberry - Season of Creation Worship Resources

## Fall Earth Connect Retreat



**Saturday September 6**

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Hillside Sanctuary**

1422 Navellier St, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Registration

This Earth Connect fall retreat in the East Bay at Hillside Urban Sanctuary is being organized by our Task Force and is open to everyone.

*“When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place – what is humanity that you should be mindful of us?” – Psalm 8:3-4a*

*“Do no harm; do good; stay in love with God.” – John Wesley’s “General Rules” for Christian Living.*

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. We’ll gather in large and small groups to connect with the Earth and one another. Participants will receive an orientation to the [Sacred Ground project](#) and other ways to deepen our connection with the Earth. *Be prepared for some time outdoors, weather permitting.*

Vegan lunch provided. Sorry, childcare not available.

\$10-20 suggested donation (but no one will be turned away)

[Registration](#) is required to reserve your spot:

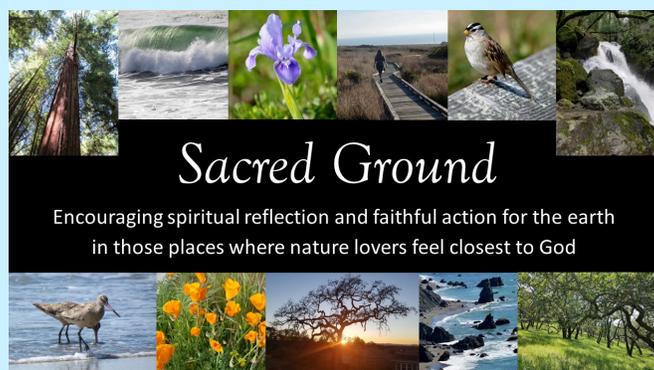
For more information, please contact [Rev. Liza Klein](#).

Registration

*Submitted by Rev. Liza Klein*

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## The “Sample Sacred Ground” Contest



A reminder that the deadline for the “Sample Sacred Ground” Contest, with a chance to win a \$150 gift certificate from REI, is **July 31st**.

[Contest Details](#)

[More about Sacred Ground](#)

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## *Education*



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**Climate Justice**  
through **faith-inspired**  
**education**



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

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## **Extreme Heat Resources**



[Climate Justice Ministries](#) has produced some Extreme Heat Resources. In this download, you'll have access to three items, including the *Heat & Health - A Faith Response to Building Stronger Communities Resource*, as well as a bulletin insert and fact sheet to share with your communities. These tools equip faith communities to prevent heat-related illness, prepare their facilities, and care for vulnerable neighbors during extreme weather events.

Extreme Heat Resources

The next [United Methodist Creation Justice Movement Café](#) will be on July 16 at 10 a.m.PT where they will be a discussion on the health impacts of extreme heat and poor air quality and how we can respond as people of faith.

Movement Café

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## How to Stay Safe from Wildfire Smoke



Breathe more easily with these wildfire smoke tips from the Natural Resources Defense Council on choosing the right protective mask, maintaining your indoor air quality, recognizing when to avoid the outdoors, and knowing who is most at risk.

Read the NRDC article

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# Advocacy



California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Climate Justice  
through faith-inspired  
advocacy



Advocacy through petitions, phone calls,  
letters, visits, boycotts, marches, protests

## Protect Important EPA Regulations

Call on EPA to [Protect Mercury and Air Toxics Standards](#) & [Protect Standards for Pollution from Power Plants](#).

On June 11, 2025, the Trump Administration released a proposal to dismantle two Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards that restrict dangerous mercury and air toxics pollution from power plants. The proposal claims carbon pollution from power plants does not significantly contribute to climate change. This claim is not only wrong, it ignores what science and data tells us. Carbon pollution from power plants is the [second largest source](#) of climate pollution in the U.S. and scientists overwhelmingly agree that [carbon pollution is fueling the climate crisis](#), with devastating impacts on communities across the country.

Toxic air pollution from power plants is related to more extreme weather events, like the extreme heat many of us will experience this summer. Additionally, toxic air pollution causes brain damage in babies, cancer, and other cardiovascular and lung diseases. Repealing the stronger pollution standards adopted in 2024 will mean sicker kids and more deaths for our neighbors. The standards have achieved a [90% reduction](#) in mercury pollution from power plants and cleaned up dangerous particle pollution at the same time.

As Christians, we believe we are called to be healers of the Earth, while protecting communities in harm's way. Take action to urge the EPA not to rollback these important safeguards from pollution. Comments are due by August 7th.

Reproduced from the [Creation Justice Ministries](#) July Newsletter

Take Action to Protect the Mercury & Air Toxics Standards

Take Action to Protect Standards of Pollution from Power Plants

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