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# Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries August 2025 Newsletter

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



I was reminded the other day of a book that I read several years ago, [Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times](#) by Adam Hamilton. The book addresses the fear, anxiety, and worry that permeate our lives today. Adam Hamilton invites us to:

- Face our fears with faith and a bias of hope.**
- Examine our assumptions in light of the facts.**
- Attack our anxieties with action.**
- Release our cares to God.**

With the never-ending news of weather-related disasters linked to global warming, and the rolling back of climate protections, denials of scientific evidence and stories of injustice, it is easy to be paralyzed by fear or filled with panic. Let's faithfully hold onto hope, look at the facts using reliable sources, and then before we release our cares to God, let's not forget to take some action. We are called to be good stewards of creation, to love one another, and to do justice, so let's step forward and bravely do

everything that is within our power to do. Or as our new UMC mission statement says: *love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.*

In this issue of our newsletter, we have a mixture of hope-filled stories and reality-filled news. Here we will share some examples of how to **connect** with God, creation and others, how to **educate** ourselves, ways to take some **action**, and some opportunities to **advocate** for change.

### [Connection](#)

- Winner of “Sample Sacred Ground” Contest
- Fall Earth Connect Retreat
- Divestment in the Western Jurisdiction

### [Education](#)

- *Here Comes the Sun* - a new book by Bill McKibben

### [Action](#)

- The “Green Step” Project
- The River that Came Back to Life

### [Advocacy](#)

- A Faithful Victory for Solar: AB 942
- The Impacts of the “Big Beautiful Bill” and What’s Next
- August Recess Toolkit

Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell

*Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force  
Conference Caretakers of God’s Creation Coordinator*

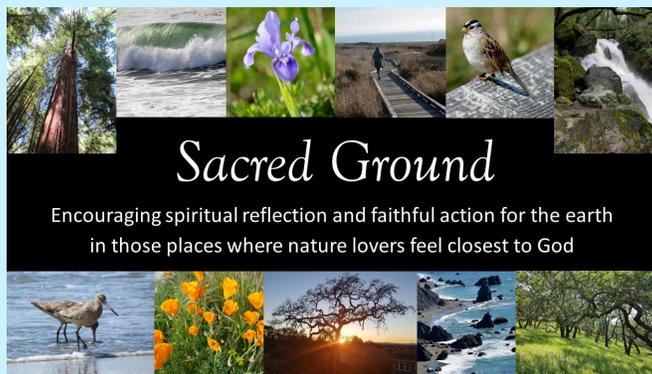
## **Connection**

Climate Justice  
through faith-inspired  
connection



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

## Sacred Ground Contest WINNER



The joint winners of the “Sample Sacred Ground” Contest are:

### **STEVE LYMAN and SUSAN QUINTANA**

Congratulations to Steve and to Susan for winning the contest and a gift voucher each from REI for \$75.

Steve visited Armstrong Redwoods, Flat Rock (Bita-Kom-Tara) Park, Memorial Beach, Riverfront Park, Shiloh Ranch and Sonoma Coast (Portuguese Beach).

Susan Quintana also visited Portuguese Beach, plus Bodega Head, Lake Sonoma, Napa Vine Trail, North Salmon Creek Beach, and Shollenberger Park.

[More about Sacred Ground](#)

*Submitted by Rev. Laurie Bayen*

# 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.

There is still time to register and reserve your spot. Full details are on our website.

[Fall Retreat Details](#)

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## Divestment in the Western Jurisdiction



We are not alone in our climate justice work. Part of our vision is to connect with others and tell our stories. In our July newsletter, we shared the news of the passing of our task force legislation at ACS including the fossil fuel divestment resolution. Here is some more encouraging divestment news from other conferences in our Western Jurisdiction.

Read these articles from [Fossil Free UMC](#) and the [UM Creation Justice Movement](#).

Cal-Nev & Cal-Pac

Pacific NW & Desert SW

[Back to Top](#)

## *Education*

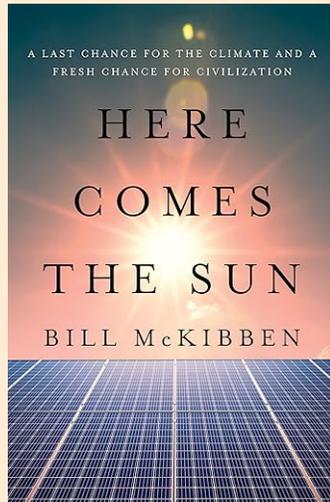
 California-Nevada **Climate Justice Ministries** Task Force

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



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

# Here Comes the Sun



Climate activist and Methodist, **Bill McKibben**, has a new book being released on August 19. It can be preordered from your local bookstore, or online from the publisher [W. W. Norton & Company](http://www.wwnorton.com) using the link below, or from other online stores.

Our climate, and our democracy, are melting down. But Bill McKibben, one of the first to sound the alarm about the climate crisis, insists the moment is also full of possibility. Energy from the sun and wind is suddenly the cheapest power on the planet and growing faster than any energy source in history—if we can keep accelerating the pace, we have a chance. ***Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization*** tells the story of the sudden spike in power from the sun and wind—and the desperate fight of the fossil fuel industry and their politicians to hold this new power at bay.

[Here Comes the Sun](#)

Also listen to this Minnesota Public Radio interview with McKibben entitled: ***Burning Questions: A conversation with Bill McKibben about his new book on solar power.***

[Burning Questions](#)

[Back to Top](#)

# 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

## The “Green Step” Project



Here is an idea for your church green team.

*Green Step* was a six-month program at [Wellspring UMC in Georgetown, Texas](#) during which community members were invited to learn about Christian environmental stewardship and then to take one significant action toward environmental conservation. Those who accomplished one big difference-making goal for environmental conservation earned a Green Leaf badge to wear on their Wellspring nametag.

What counts as a *Green Step*? There are so many choices! A *Green Step* may mean rainwater collection, shifting your financial investments, or meeting with elected officials to advocate for environmental conversation. Wellspring produced a list of possible steps for adults and another list for children and youth.

Read the article below on the [UM Creation Justice Movement website](#) about the *Green Step* project and another project called the *Beatitudes Prayer Walk Ministry*.

UMCJM Green Step Article

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## The River that Came Back to Life

Good news you can use!

Last year, the final of four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River were removed in the largest project of its kind in US history. Less than a year later, life has blossomed along its banks, presenting new challenges and joys of recovery. Threatened coho salmon have been seen in the upper Klamath River basin for the first time in more than 60 years.

The dam removal marked the end of a decades-long campaign led by the Yurok, Karuk and Klamath tribes, along with a wide range of environmental NGOs and fishing advocacy groups, to convince owner PacifiCorp to let go of the ageing infrastructure.

Read this article published in the Guardian newspaper - there is no paywall.

Klamath River story

With thanks to [California Interfaith Power & Light](#) for bringing this story to our attention.

[Back to Top](#)

***Advocacy***

Climate Justice  
through faith-inspired  
advocacy



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

## CIPL's Faithful Victory for Solar: AB 942

Assembly Bill 942, as originally written, posed a serious threat to California's clean energy future — and to the moral commitment we share to care for Creation and future generations.

The bill would have:

- **Cut Net Energy Metering (NEM) contract terms to just 10 years**, undermining trust in long-term clean energy investments.
- **Stripped NEM rights from new homeowners**, meaning families buying a solar home would lose vital solar savings.
- **Excluded solar households from the Climate Credit**, removing a crucial benefit that helps keep energy bills affordable.

With AB 942 threatening the promise of clean, affordable solar energy, [California Interfaith Power & Light \(CIPL\)'s](#) network of faith communities, advocates, and climate champions rose up — together. Thanks to a groundswell of grassroots action, and strong partnership with solar allies, the most harmful parts of AB 942 were fully removed in the Senate.

- NEM contracts remain safe and secure.
- New homeowners keep the right to fair solar savings.
- The Climate Credit stays in place for all who qualify.

A huge thank you to CIPL, and all who participated, for your sacred work and this faithful victory.

Sign up for CIPL Alerts

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## The Impacts of the OBBB Act

At a time when the threats of climate change are increasing and becoming more dangerous, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBB Act) will make our work together more challenging. The bill not only significantly threatens climate progress, but will have harmful effects on our neighbors in communities across the country. It places all of us in harm's way from increased pollution and increased costs, but especially those who are already vulnerable.

[Creation Justice Ministries](#) has written an overview on their blog of some of the disheartening creation components included in the OBBB Act.

Thank you to everyone who tried to make a difference by calling their senators and members of congress.

OBBB Act Overview

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## August Recess Toolkit



### Your Voice Matters - Even During Recess

Congress may be in recess, but it's the perfect time for action. Download the [Creation Justice Ministries](#) August Recess Toolkit to learn how your faith community can engage with lawmakers through meetings, town halls, congregational tours, and local events. Whether you want to advocate for creation justice or highlight your

community's sustainability efforts, this guide offers templates, tips, and inspiration to make your voice heard.

[Download Toolkit](#)

[Back to Top](#)

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*“Climate Justice through faith-inspired connection, education, advocacy and action”*

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