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Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries January 2026 Newsletter

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

Check out our website: climate-cnumc.org



As I write this on the day we celebrate Epiphany, my thoughts are on the Magi's visit to pay homage to Jesus and the events that unfurled afterwards. They had taken the time out of their lives to follow the star, persevering until they found the newborn king, and then had the courage and the conviction to do the just thing and to return by another route. As we too move on from Christmas into the darkness filled with so much bad news, will we have the courage to persevere and to stand for justice? What will we do differently this year? How will we be better advocates? What plans is your church green team (or equivalent) taking?

Did you know that St. Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene in 1223 in Italy? The tradition spread around the world and became deeply rooted in Portuguese culture. In the Christmas period, nativity scenes there vary between just depicting the Holy family to those including hundreds of figures and animals that enrich the scene. I took the above picture on New Years Eve in Lisbon City Hall in Portugal, and the description highlighted "the water carrier, chestnut roaster, *el caganer* couple, merchant, farrier, guarantor, oven figure, fireman, nun washerwoman, musician, baker, priest, folklore dancing couple, shepherd, fishmonger, police, fruit lady, tavern keeper, weaver, fish seller, cod seller and the egg seller." The [el caganer](#) is the pooping peasant! They were introduced to these nativity scenes in the 18th century; the most popular interpretation is that they are fertilizing the earth. May we never forget that Jesus was born into our messy world for the the whole of creation.

In this issue of our newsletter are some opportunities for ways to connect, educate, act and advocate.

[Connection](#) - Spring Earth Connect Retreat

[Education](#) - Book Launch Event, COP30

[Action](#) - Green Team Speaker, Eco Christmas Trees

[Advocacy](#) - Fuel Economy Standards

For other UMC creation justice opportunities & news, read the [United Methodist Creation Justice Movement January newsletter](#).

Happy New Year!

Rev. Joan Pell

Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator

Connection



California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Climate Justice
through faith-inspired
connection



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

climate-cnumc.org/connection

Spring Earth Connect Retreat



Save the Date

Saturday April 25

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Loomis First UMC

6414 Brace Road, Loomis, CA 95650

Our Earth Connect spring retreat is at Loomis First UMC; this is being organized by our Task Force and is open to everyone.

\$20 suggested donation (but no one will be turned away). Registration is required to reserve your spot - THE LINK WILL BE PUBLISHED IN EARLY FEBRUARY.

Full details can be found here at climate-cnumc.org/retreat.

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

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Education



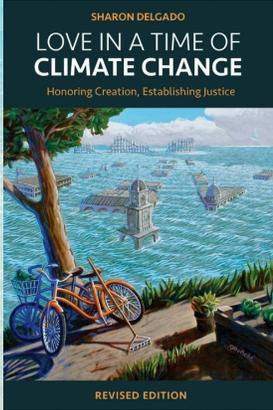
California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Climate Justice
through faith-inspired
education



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

Love in a Time of Climate Change



SHARON DELGADO
**LOVE IN A TIME OF
CLIMATE CHANGE**
Honoring Creation, Establishing Justice
REVISED EDITION

Register at
tinyurl.com/LoveClimate
info@interfaithpower.org

California Interfaith
Power and Light
Presents
**Book Launch
Presentation**
*Love in a Time of
Climate Change*
Revised Edition
with the author
Sharon Delgado
Wednesday
January 14, 2026
12 pm PST on Zoom
www.sharondelgado.org



For book info see



Rev. Sharon Delgado's revised book [Love in a Time of Climate Change](#) is being released on January 13. On the following day, Wednesday January 14, Sharon will be doing a book launch presentation for *California Interfaith Power & Light*, which you are invited to attend - click the button below to register.

Register for the Presentation

Find out about more about Sharon's [books and presentations here](#).

COP 30



climate-cnumc.org/cop30

[On our website in the COP30 section](#) is a page summarizing, analyzing and reflecting on the outcomes of the United Nations COP30 Climate Change Conference held in November. In December, all the virtual observers including Rev. Joan Pell [wrote a joint reflection for UMCJM](#). Joan also wrote the last of three reflections [Making the Right Decisions for the Wrong Reasons](#), which Fossil Free UMC and UM Insight also picked up.

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Action



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

climate-cnumc.org/action

Green Teams Speaker

Does your church have a [green team](#) or equivalent? Are you thinking of taking the next step? Would you like some ideas? Our Task Force Chair, Rev. Joan Pell, is retired and she is willing to travel to the churches in our conference to give a presentation and to answer questions - she is also available to preach, or for Zoom presentations.

Contact Joan

Eco-Christmas Trees



Here is an idea for next December from the town of Cascais in Portugal. Could your church hold an eco-friendly Christmas Tree decorating competition? Or could the tree in your church sanctuary be decorated in a more sustainable way?

As part of the Cascais Environmental Education and Awareness Program, elementary school students in Cascais are challenged to use their creativity to decorate Christmas tree structures using recycled and eco-friendly materials. The [Eco-Christmas exhibition](#) aims to raise awareness about the excessive production of waste and the consequences of its environmental impacts, promoting the 5 R's policy: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recover, and Recycle!

Here are a few pictures of some of the entries. More pictures can be found [on our website here](#).



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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

climate-cnumc.org/advocacy

**Keep Strong Corporate Average Fuel Economy
Standards**

An Action Alert from [California Interfaith Power & Light](#). The Department of Transportation (DOT) has a responsibility to regulate how far vehicles travel on a gallon of fuel through the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. In December, President Trump announced a rollback of the standards. Sign the petition to urge DOT to keep the standards moving forward.

Keep the CAFE Standards

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