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# Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries March 2026 Newsletter

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

Check out our website: [climate-cnumc.org](http://climate-cnumc.org)



As I wrote this introduction to our newsletter, the USA and Israel had just attacked Iran, and conflict was starting to spread across the Middle East. World peace remains a distant dream, and the casualties are mounting.

In contrast, on February 10th, nineteen Buddhist monks completed their 108-day, 2300-mile Walk for Peace from Fort Worth, Texas to Washington, DC that they began on October 26th, 2025. They walked silently in a single-file line, step by step, some barefoot, through heat and snow. They took no food and booked no lodging, relying on the kindness of strangers. A rescue dog, Aloka, walked much of the route with them. They walked to awaken the peace that already lives within each of us; the type of peace that can ripple outwards.

Climate justice is intertwined with all types of justice, it is not a single issue struggle; climate justice is peace with justice as well as racial justice, gender justice, immigrant justice, environmental justice, and economic justice. Let us pray for world peace, for our US troops, for the soldiers who have lost their lives and their grieving families,

and for the people of Iran and the Middle East. Let us pray for wisdom for our world leaders to turn from the escalation of violence and seek paths toward justice, reconciliation, and lasting peace, placing the protection of innocent lives at the center of every decision.

In this issue of our newsletter are some opportunities for ways to connect, take action, be an advocate, and to learn about climate justice.

[Connection](#) - Lenten Devotionals; Spring Earth Connect Retreat; Eco Farm Award

[Action](#) - Earth Day; Green Teams

[Advocacy](#) - Balcony Solar Panels; FEMA Act; Make Polluters Pay

[Education](#) - Become a Climate Ambassador; Read Some Good News

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

Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell

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

*Conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator*

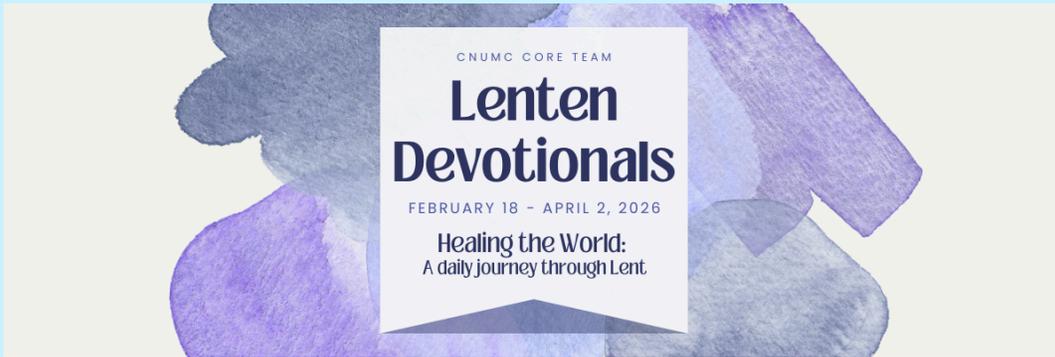
## Connection

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

[climate-cnumc.org/connection](https://climate-cnumc.org/connection)

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### Lenten Devotionals



Our climate justice work is an important part of this year's California-Nevada conference theme, which is ***Healing the World***. During Lent, our conference is publishing 40 days of devotions based on this theme. In Week 5, from March 16th to 21st, the devotions are being written by our Task Force on the theme *Restoring God's Good Earth - Healing Creation*.

Lenten Devotionals

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## Spring Earth Connect Retreat



**Register Now!**

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 now open to reserve your spot.

Full details can be found here at [climate-cnumc.org/retreat](http://climate-cnumc.org/retreat).

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

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## Eco Farm Award



**Congratulations to Dennis and Pat Hutson for receiving the EcoFarm Justice Award** recognizing farms and producers advancing regenerative, innovative, and community-driven agriculture. EcoFarm advances ecological and just farming and food systems through learning, convening, celebrating, and advocating.

TAC Farm in Allensworth in the Central Valley was founded in 2007 by Dennis and Pat. The farm promotes organic and regenerative practices, supports the Beginning Farmer Training Program, and strengthens climate resilience. They specialize in rabbit production, vermicomposting, and earthworm farming while developing community-scale technologies to remove arsenic from groundwater.

Dennis is the pastor of First and Grand Avenue United Methodist Churches in Porterville; he sees sustainable, organic agriculture as a means to help heal the planet and views farming as an aspect of his ministry.

Watch out in April for a more in-depth Conference news article.

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# Action

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

[climate-cnumc.org/action](https://climate-cnumc.org/action)

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## Earth Day



[Earth Day](#) is Tuesday, April 22, 2026. Events will begin on Saturday April 18th and continue throughout Earth Week to Sunday April 26 and beyond. *Our Power, Our Planet* is Earth Day 2026's theme reflecting a fundamental truth: environmental progress doesn't depend on any single administration or election. It's sustained by daily actions of communities, educators, workers, and families protecting where they live and work.

***Can your church put on an Earth Day event, or invite people to attend an event together?***

Find an Earth Day Event

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## Green Teams

Are you worried that your church green team is making no progress, or are you hesitant to even to start a green team? Take a read of this article on earthday.org entitled: [Why Imperfect Climate Action Is Better Than Perfect Inaction](#).

“Eco-perfectionism, [is] a mindset where anything less than total commitment feels pointless. And once shame enters the picture, participation drops. People disengage not because they don’t care, but because they feel they can never do enough. When individuals are stuck criticizing their own grocery bags or coffee cups, attention shifts away from systemic issues like fossil fuel dependency, corporate accountability, and environmental policy. Guilt breaks down the movement instead of strengthening it. Real, lasting change does not begin with perfection, it begins with participation. Small, imperfect actions we can sustain over time matter because they build habits, awareness, and confidence. They can even grow into new habits, or hobbies, that feel meaningful but manageable rather than overwhelming. Someone who starts by reducing food waste may later become curious about composting. Someone who learns where their recycling is processed may later be motivated to attend a city meeting in support of local climate policy. **Action creates momentum, and momentum fuels movements.**”

[Read the full article](#)

[Our Green Team Resources](#)

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## ***Advocacy***

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

[climate-cnumc.org/advocacy](https://climate-cnumc.org/advocacy)

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### **Let People Plug into the Sun**

An California Action Alert from [Solar Rights Alliance](#) to urge the passing of SB 868 to let consumers use portable Balcony Solar panels without utility red tape.

Balcony Solar, also known as Plug-In solar, are portable solar panels that simply plug into a regular wall outlet. Balcony Solar can safely, cheaply, and easily reduce a

consumer's electricity bill. Renters and homeowners alike can hang these off balconies, lean them against mobile homes, or put them in a yard or patio. It has a lot of potential, but the utilities are already trying to make consumers go through red tape and pay fees in order to use them.

Plug-In solar is already popular in Germany, where there are around 4 million systems currently in operation. Germany has not had safety issues because experts developed safety standards for these products. SB 868 follows Germany's example by baking safety into the law: it requires Plug-In solar systems sold in California to be certified by Underwriters Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized consumer safety organization. To further ensure safety, SB 868 also requires that Balcony Solar panels have a feature that prevents the panels from sending electricity into the grid during a power outage.

Plug into the Sun

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## Pass the Bipartisan FEMA Act

An action alert from the General Board of [Church & Society](#). As United Methodists, we recognize that the impact of climate change is worsening with more frequency and intensity of extreme weather events that lead to natural disasters across the world. FEMA's work supporting communities to prepare for and recover from natural disasters is more important than ever. The bipartisan FEMA Act of 2025 ([HR 4669](#)) is based on evidence-based expert recommendations for improving FEMA's effectiveness. It has passed out of the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Now is the time to urge your House of Representatives member to bring it to the House floor for a vote.

Pass the Bipartisan FEMA Act

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## Make Polluters Pay for Climate Disasters

An action alert from [Climate Reality](#) to urge Congress to reject legal immunity for fossil fuel polluters that fuel climate disasters. Fossil fuel lobbyists are plotting with

members of Congress and the White House to shield Big Oil from lawsuits and prevent states from taking climate action.

Make Polluters Pay

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## *Education*

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

[climate-cnumc.org/education](http://climate-cnumc.org/education)

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## **Become a Climate Ambassador**



The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society partners with Blessed Tomorrow. They are offering a free, self-paced, online Climate Ambassadors training course to empower and equip you to inspire your community, colleagues, the public, and policymakers to take action on climate change that makes a difference.

[Learn more here.](#)

Make sure you [select the UM training](#). This course includes 5 engaging video chapters, approximately 2 hours of content, 3 short quizzes, and 1 writing exercise. This course is provided in partnership by The United Methodist Church, United Women in Faith, United Method Creation Justice Movement, and Blessed Tomorrow. There is also an [ecumenical training class offered for clergy](#).

Rev. Laurie Bayen has recently taken the clergy Climate Ambassador training. [Read an update on her Sacred Ground work here.](#)

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## Read Some Good News

During the fourth quarter of 2025, Californians purchased 79,066 new zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), representing 18.9% of new car sales, and taking overall California ZEV sales to over 2.5 million.

California Energy Commission Report

EVs are supposed to clean up the air, but finding real-world proof has been surprisingly hard. A new study from the University of Southern California (USC) says the satellite evidence is finally strong enough to measure. As more zero-emission vehicles hit California roads, nitrogen dioxide levels are dropping in nearby neighborhoods.

EVs and Clean Air Article

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