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Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries May 2026 Newsletter

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

Check out our website: climate-cnumc.org



During this Easter Season let us celebrate the signs of resurrection and hope that we see in the world. In April:

- 57 countries, who are willing to commit to a phaseout of fossil fuels, participated in the **First International Conference for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels** held in Santa Marta, Colombia. See our news article [below](#).
- After overcoming two decades of permitting and construction delays, the **largest-yet U.S. clean energy project** has finally [come online](#)! The SunZia wind farm in New Mexico has 916 turbines totaling 3.5 GW of capacity! That's enough to supply 3 million people, or about 1% of the entire nation's electricity needs. A 550-mile power transmission line exports clean electrons to California.
- According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the latest Western Snowy Plover tally has just [reported a record 3,018 snowy plovers](#). In 1993, they were listed as threatened, and in 2000, there were less than 1,000.
- The Klamath Tribes' Ambodat Department (Fisheries Department, meaning "from the water") proudly [announced the first documented observation of naturally reproduced c'iyaaal's \(Chinook salmon\)](#) in tributaries of Upper Klamath

Lake in over a century. This historic event, recorded by the Klamath Tribes' Ambodat Department on March 18, 2026, is a major milestone in post-dam-removal restoration and monitoring efforts in the Upper Klamath Basin.

In this issue of our newsletter is some news from the First International Conference for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels and some opportunities for connecting, being an advocate, taking action, and learning about climate justice.

[Fossil Fuel Transition](#) - First International Conference

[Connection](#) - Feast of Creation; Eco Farming in Central Valley

[Advocacy](#) - US Forest Service

[Action](#) - Host a Movie Screening; Lawn to Garden Grants

[Education](#) - Chinese Wind Farms; Stories of Hope

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

As we now approach Pentecost, let us invite a fresh outpouring of the Spirit's renewing, breath-giving life force to empower us to move to protect, restore, and share all of God's creation.

Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell

Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator

First International Conference for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

The idea for a specific fossil fuel transition conference first emerged during tense end-game negotiations at the COP30 climate summit in Belém, Brazil in November 2025. That summit has just been held from April 24-29 in Santa Marta, Colombia, co-hosted by Colombia and the Netherlands with 57 countries participating. Attendance was limited to countries willing to commit to a phaseout.

Delegates adopted three workstreams to organize efforts before the next conference

in Tuvalu in 2027: one for designing roadmaps to transition away from fossil fuels that will also address supply side issues; one for addressing macroeconomic dependencies and financial architecture to innovate a financial system that can support the transition; and one for building fossil fuel free trade systems.

- Rev. Sharon Delgado has written a reflection on the Fossil Free UMC blog [Santa Marta Conference: Envisioning the Transformation of the World](#) where she urges United Methodists support the [Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative](#).
- Rev. Dr. Becca Edwards from Church and Society also has a reflection [A Telos Moment for Energy](#).

Here are some other links:

- Fossil Fuel Transition Conference [website](#).
- The Guardian has an article (that can be freely read) entitled [‘Historic breakthrough’: Colombia climate talks end with hopes raised for fossil fuel phaseout](#).
- Carbon Brief have an article entitled [Santa Marta: Key outcomes from first summit on ‘transitioning away’ from fossil fuels](#).
- The International Institute for Sustainable Development [lists the outcomes from the final day](#).

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Connection

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

climate-cnumc.org/connection

Feast of Creation



The Holy Spirit is bringing something new! On September 1st, the church celebrates a new holy day, the [Feast of Creation](#)! For United Methodist calendars, this day will be called [Creation in Christ Sunday](#). This new holy day comes about through the prayerful discernment of the world-wide Christian Church. It falls at the beginning of the Season of Creation, the annual Christian celebration of prayer and action for our common home from September 1st to October 4th.

[Feast of Creation Website](#)

[More about Creation in Christ Sunday](#)

The Worship Team of the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement (UMCJM) is offering an all new worship series for the Season of Creation which includes this new celebration, with worship notes, liturgies, and a six week adult study guide. Materials are even now being developed across Christian traditions.

[Methodist Resources](#)

[Ecumenical Resources](#)

The [UMCJM Movement Café](#) on zoom on Wednesday May 20 at 10 a.m. PT will offer a first look, a teaser sneak peak at what is to come! If you are unable to attend, then the video will be posted at the same link a few days after the Café.

[May Movement Café](#)

Snapshots of Healing



In our March newsletter, we reported that Rev. Dennis Hutson and his wife Pat received the EcoFarm Justice Award for their work on TAC farm in the historic community of Allensworth, California. And we said that an in-depth Conference news article would be published in April. That [article is now available on the conference website](#) as part of the *Snapshots of Healing* series. Dennis is the pastor of First and Grand Avenue United Methodist Churches in Porterville; we are grateful and inspired by Dennis' vision and commitment to healing the world through sustainable farming at TAC Farm and the community of Allensworth.

[TAC Farm Article](#)

[TAC Farm Website](#)

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Advocacy

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

climate-cnumc.org/advocacy

U.S. Forest Service



An Action Alert from the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement: Tell Congress to Block Funding for Relocation and Major Overhaul of the U.S. Forest Service.

In March of this year, Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins announced a sweeping restructuring of the U.S. Forest Service. The agency's headquarters will move from Washington, D.C. to Salt Lake City, Utah, and 57 of the 77 research stations across the country will close and reorganize functions under a single entity in Fort Collins, CO. On its website, the U.S. Forest denies that the reorganization will result in any major disruption of the agency's conservation mission, but, it is difficult to accept that this will not weaken or end long-term forest, watershed, wildfire, climate, and other important research projects, reduce capacity for climate-driven wildfire mitigation, and cause massive workforce turnover and job losses with the subsequent loss of expertise.

U.S. Forest Service Alert

Did you know that we have a resource page on our website to help you and your local church begin to do some advocacy work?

Advocacy Resources

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Action

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

climate-cnumc.org/action

Host a Movie Screening



Hosting a movie screening is a great way to spark discussion about climate change. This movie series from [California Interfaith Power & Light](#) provides low cost access to faith communities to screen several award winning films. You can download discussion guides for each film. Share this idea with your green team and ask them to hold a movie night.

[Movie List](#)

Did you know that we have lots of resources for green teams on our website and information about how to start a green team?

[Our Green Team Resources](#)

Lawn to Garden Rebates

Are you considering removing your church or residential lawn and planting a water-wise garden? Many California residents qualify for outdoor turf replacement rebates through their public water agency. Rebates up to \$3 per square foot for yard

transformation and direct install programs like low-flow toilets, washers, aerators, leak repair, rain barrels, etc., are available through local water agencies to conserve water.

Search your Zip code

Turfgrass Alternatives

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Education

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

climate-cnumc.org/education

Yes, There Are Wind Farms in China

In this April 2026 article in Sojourners magazine (you can freely read 2 articles), Bill McKibben drives a stake through what may be the most resilient—and incorrect and damaging—right-wing talking point on climate and energy, which paraphrased is: “Why should America bother to cut its global warming emissions? China will simply build more coal plants and fill the air anyway.”

As McKibben points out: *China’s coast is now dotted with vast wind farms; its ridges are as well. They produced more than 40% of all the wind power on planet Earth last year, cheaply and efficiently. ... So, make it an evangelistic task to find a few people you fear might be misled and tell them one of the most important facts on our planet: China is now reducing its carbon emissions while America is increasing ours. If you want to understand the world we’re living in, that’s one of the handful of basic facts you need to know.*

Stories of Hope

Amanda Royal is an investigator of hope. She is a former newspaper reporter and current eco-news junkie. She has two Nevada Press Association awards for environment reporting and a worldwide internal honorable mention from The Associated Press. Read her stories of hope on the [Earth Hope Substack](#).

The Earth Hope Substack features environmental success stories from around the globe, because hope is the foundation of progress. Royal writes solutions-based eco-news seasoned with media critique while focusing on solutions and inspiring action.

Earth Hope

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