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# Cal-NeV Climate Justice Ministries June 2026 Newsletter

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

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



Celtic Spirituality is grounded in a way of living that observes and celebrates the ordinary acts and encounters of life. In times of trouble, I have found that looking around in the world for what there is to be thankful for helps me to put things into perspective. Pictures of wind farms are signs of hope to me and I took the above picture while traveling in Northern Ireland a few years ago. With the current news full of war and with the federal government’s support of fossil fuels, it is easy to become disheartened. Cathy Velasquez Eberhart, from United Methodist Creation Justice Movement, has just published an article entitled [Energy & Transformation](#) featuring the good news that can be found in the world’s energy transformation, which is being partly propelled by the war in Iran. She summarizes some of the latest news that she has run across from a variety of sources on the state of this transition and also provides a few suggestions on how we might help to accelerate it.

Energy & Transformation

In this issue of our newsletter is some information about ACS, plus an advocacy alert, education opportunities, an action item and ways to connect with God, creation and others.

[ACS](#) - General info; Advocacy & Justice Dinner

[Advocacy](#) - Roundup is being sprayed in record amounts in California's forests

[Education](#) - Faith + Climate Film Series; EarthKeepers Training

[Action](#) - Plastic Free July

[Connection](#) - Feast of Creation; Fall Retreat in San Jose

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

Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell

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

*Conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator*

## ACS

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



### General Info

Annual Conference Session is from June 26 to June 29 in the Sacramento Convention Center. The theme is *Healing the World* and more details can be found on the conference site [cnumc.org](https://cnumc.org).

We are busy adding posts to our website at [climate-cnumc.org/acs](https://climate-cnumc.org/acs). There you can currently find our report, and details about the Advocacy and Justice Dinner and Action Fair. Coming soon are our pages on climate justice legislation, our digital display, online copies of our display handouts, and general climate justice information about ACS. We will send out a special pre-ACS email later this month.

[Climate Justice ACS Pages](#)

## Advocacy and Justice Dinner and Action Fair

The California-Nevada Conference Advocacy & Justice Committee, which is the committee that our task force falls under, is holding a special dinner and action fair during ACS on Friday June 26, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Sacramento First UMC. **The dinner is open to all who are interested- you do not need to be a member of ACS to attend.** The cost is \$25 and you must [register](#).

The evening will highlight the six task forces that serve under the Advocacy and Justice Committee—Climate Justice, Philippines Solidarity, Palestine, Reparations, Peace with Justice, and Truth Telling—each addressing different ministries yet united in confronting the ongoing realities of racism. We will also have special guests speaking on the topics of Anti-Racism and White Christian Nationalism. Together, these task forces reflect our conference’s shared commitment to equity, repair, and faithful action. Following the meal, participants will have the opportunity to speak with the presenters, ask questions, and learn about important anti-racism actions they can take part in.

[Advocacy & Justice Dinner & Action Fair](#)

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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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# Roundup is being sprayed in record amounts in California's forests

Mother Jones released an investigative article in the May/June of their magazine on [Bombarding America's Forests with Roundup](#) about their year long investigation showing that the US Forest Service and timber companies are spraying glyphosate in record amounts in California's forests in an effort to regrow timberland that's been decimated by years of megafires. "The forest floor was nothing but patches of brown. No ferns, no brush, no flowers, and definitely no wildlife. Everything was dead except for rows of hand-planted baby trees."

They also released a separate article on May 22 about [spraying herbicides on Forest Service Land around the Tahoe Basin](#).

## Feather River

In a post on April 29, about [the secret plan to cover the Plumas National Forest in herbicide](#), the Feather River Action group asked for people to contact the Plumas National Forest offices in Quincy, and demand they halt plans to spray chemicals in the Feather River watershed, and hold immediate public meetings to answer urgent questions from the public. Call them at 530-283-2050 or [contact them online here](#). (Unrelated to the Feather River Action group, but found by a search), there is also a [petition here](#).

## Tahoe Basin

Sierra Club (Toiyabe Chapter posted on May 24) is asking for help to [Tell Congress to Protect Lake Tahoe from Herbicide Spraying](#). There is also a petition on [change.org](#).

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## Education

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

## Faith + Climate Film Series



This new Faith + Climate Film Series produced by [Blessed Tomorrow](#) brings together powerful voices representing many faith traditions to explore how our spiritual traditions call us to care for creation and each other. Each of the seven 20-minute films is paired with a study and discussion guide designed for faith groups seeking deeper engagement. Watch the trailer and learn more:

Faith + Climate Film Series

**Blessed Tomorrow** is a coalition of diverse religious partners working to advance climate solutions in faithful service to God. The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society partners with Blessed Tomorrow. They also offer a **Climate Ambassador training** (choose the UMC option) to empower and equip you to inspire your community, colleagues, the public, and policymakers to take action on climate change that makes a difference.

Climate Ambassador Training

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## EarthKeepers Training



Applications are now open are now open for the in-person Fall EarthKeepers training from October 1 at 4 p.m. ET to October 4 at 1 p.m. ET in Atlanta, Georgia. The program will include a field trip on Saturday, October 3, to the Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design. The application deadline is August 1.

Global Ministries EarthKeepers is a training program that guides U.S.-based United Methodists to develop and lead environmental sustainability projects in their communities. Training topics include eco-theology, antiracism, community organizing and project planning. Projects include community gardens, energy initiatives, food security projects, reforestation efforts and more.

EarthKeepers Training

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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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# Plastic Free July



Take the pledge and choose to refuse single-use plastics for the month of July and maybe discover some 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.

In the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement’s monthly [tips for June](#) you will find tips about Styrofoam boxes, polyester and nylon fabrics, balloons, and single-use bottles and bags.

Chemicals sourced from fossil fuels make plastic, and both plastic production and disposal contribute to greenhouse gases. In 2022, scientists estimated that only around [9 percent](#) of all the plastic waste generated globally is recycled. Plastic can break down into smaller and smaller pieces in the environment, in landfill, or in our streets, green spaces, rivers and oceans. We are only beginning to find out about effects on microplastics on human health, and we already know the damage it is doing to our oceans.

Share this idea with your local church green team or those you know who want to make sustainable choices.

Plastic Free July

UMCJM tips

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

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## Connection

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

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

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### Feast of Creation



In our [May newsletter](#), we wrote an article about the new holy day, the **Feast of Creation**. In Mid-May, the UM Creation Justice Movement Café introduced the new UM materials, worship series and study guide. Learn more and watch the movement café video here:

Feast of Creation

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### Fall Earth Connect Retreat in San Jose

# Earth Connect Retreat

**Saturday, September 12**

**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Willow Glen United Methodist Church, San Jose**

**Registration: [climate-cnumc.org/retreat](https://climate-cnumc.org/retreat)**

**Cost: \$20**

We are pleased to announce that our next Earth Connect Retreat is on Saturday September 12 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Willow Glen UMC, San Jose.

[Fall Retreat Details](#)

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