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Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries August 2026 Newsletter

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

Check out our website: climate-cnumc.org



As I write this introduction to our August newsletter, a fire on Dunwich Heath in Suffolk on the east coast of England has burned 250 acres including parts of the Minsmere nature reserve, which is home to rare birds and reptiles. I took the heath photo above in May 2021 before the purple heather flowered, but while the gorse was in bloom. It was a small fire compared to the large California fires, but it was large for England. In recent weeks, with heatwaves across Europe, devastating wildfires have spread in Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Algeria, and Tunisia, as well as Canada and the north west of the United States, causing human casualties as well as massive environmental and economic damage.

While we should take the time to lament, let us also look for the hope and not be totally filled with despair. History will remember us for what we do in this moment. With the choices we make, and the tools we have, let us each make the most difference that we can, as we work to heal the world. Christian hope is not found in avoiding suffering, but in walking through it with courage and virtue while we anticipate the hope of resurrection and life everlasting in God's new creation.

In this issue of our newsletter are some action items, ways to connect, advocacy alerts, and things to learn more about, finishing with some stories of hope.

[Action](#) - Peace with Justice Grants; Helping Churches to Go Solar

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

[Advocacy](#) - Election Resources; Oppose the EPA Proposal to Reduce Public Comment Opportunities

[Education](#) - EV rebates; Stories of Hope

For other UMC creation justice opportunities & news, read the August [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

Action

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

climate-cnumc.org/action

Peace with Justice Grants



Do you have a project that your church wishes to do that could benefit from a grant?

Offerings collected by congregations on Peace with Justice Sunday are distributed in two ways. You can apply for a grant from our conference and/or from the Church & Society grants program:

Conference Peace with Justice Grants

The Advocacy and Justice Committee of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church offers grants, of up to \$2000, funded by offerings collected by congregations on Peace with Justice Sunday. The grants support social justice advocacy initiatives by United Methodist congregations, committees of local churches, or individual members. They are intended as seed money to help support new projects or initiatives including creation care and climate justice projects with an advocacy component. **The next deadline is October 15.**

[Details & Grant Application](#)

Church & Society Grants Program

The Church & Society 2026 Peace with Justice grants support programs and projects that witness to God's demands for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world. Awards range from \$2000 - \$5000. Grant funds may not be used to fund individual scholarships, salaries, purchases of equipment, purely administrative costs, or direct delivery of services. **The deadline is August 31 at 2 pm PST.**

[Church & Society Grants](#)

Helping Churches to Go Solar



[A group of UM solar advocates](#) and leaders from a variety of states and conferences have joined together to find ways for churches to go solar in an environment of hostility to renewables from the federal government. The removal of tax incentives has been a particularly difficult obstacle, but these determined solar advocates are finding alternatives to finance solar projects for churches. **To help move this process forward, the solar leaders group is asking any and all UM churches to complete a brief survey about their interest in going solar.** Results from the survey will be shared with some major funding organizations associated with United Methodists as a way to help them understand the interest and demand from grassroots churches.

Solar Survey

Share these Action ideas with your local church green team or those you know who want to make sustainable choices.

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

[Back to Top](#)

Connection

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

climate-cnumc.org/connection

Fall Earth Connect Retreat in San Jose



Register now for our Fall Earth Connect Retreat on Saturday September 12 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Willow Glen UMC, San Jose.

Fall Retreat Details & Registration

Feast of Creation



On September 1st, 2026 the church celebrates a new holy day, the **Feast of Creation!** United Methodist Churches are invited to celebrate it on the first Sunday of September, or any Sunday in September. Some churches will also be celebrating the **Season of Creation** from September 1 to October 4.

Our May newsletter contained news of this new holy day and our July newsletter pointed to the United Methodist resources. We have now updated the Feast of Creation article on our website to also point to some resources from other denominations including a great explanatory video made by the Church of England, and added a link to the new lectionary passages.

[Feast of Creation Article & Video](#)

Sustainable Richmond Expo

SUSTAINABLE RICHMOND EXPO 2026

RICHMOND THROUGH ITS SUSTAINABLE LENS

INAUGURAL EVENT

Richmond is stepping into a more sustainable future — and you're invited to be part of it. Join residents, businesses, nonprofits, and community leaders at the inaugural Sustainable Richmond Expo 2026 to explore green technology, clean transportation, urban agriculture, environmental initiatives, art, education, and local solutions shaping the city's future.

sustainablerichmond.com

EXPO EXHIBITORS

Green Tech & Renewable Energy
Climate Justice & Environmental Equity
Urban Farming & Food Sustainability
Hydroponic Farming/Gardening
Industrial Hemp & Sustainable Materials
Youth Innovation & Education
Electric Vehicles & Clean Transportation
Faith Based & Community Action
Art & Culture

JOIN THE EXPO

Exhibitor Applications Open: Highlight and showcase your products participate in Richmond's signature environmental event.
Apply: sustainablerichmond.com/app
Sponsorship opportunities available.
Information: 510-620-6524 | 510-412-2023

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SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
11AM-4PM



City Council Chambers
440 Civic Center Plaza



11:00AM - Opening
Ceremonies w/Mayor
and Representatives



FREE - ALL ARE
WELCOME!

**EXPLORE SUSTAINABLE
BUSINESSES, PRODUCTS
& INNOVATION**

MEET WITH CITY LEADERS

**HONOR SUSTAINABILITY
PIONEERS**

**YOUTH LEARNING
& DISCOVERY**

PRESENTED BY

The Sustainability/Business, Industrial
Hemp Subcommittee
of the Economic Development
Commission
with support of the Economic
Development Department
and our Fiscal Sponsor RCF Connects

THANK YOU SPONSORS



If you live near Richmond in the Bay Area, then check out their inaugural [Sustainability Expo](https://sustainablerichmond.com) on Saturday September 26 from 11 am to 4 pm. You will be able to explore green technology, clean transportation, urban agriculture, environmental initiatives, art, education and local decisions shaping the city's future. One of our task force members, Gloria Sewell-Murphy, is on the organizing team.

[Back to Top](#)

Advocacy

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

climate-cnumc.org/advocacy

Election Resources



The midterm elections on November 3 will be very important this year. Your vote holds power. With it, you can protect the air you breathe, the water you drink, your cost of living, and how prepared your community is for a changing climate. Election Earth is a program of [EcoAmerica](https://EcoAmerica.org) that helps you to exercise your voting power. It equips you with trusted, nonpartisan tools to vote with clarity, purpose, and confidence.

Election Earth Resources

Make sure your name has not been purged from your voter roll. Federal law prohibits the removal (purge) of any names within 90 days before a federal election. After August 3rd, check that you are still registered (do not assume you are; be cautious and check).

Check your Voter Registration

The [CA deadline](#) to register to vote: [Online](#) or Postmark by October 19, 2026 or you can [conditionally](#) register and vote at your county elections office after the 15-day voter registration deadline.

The [NV deadline](#) to register to vote: postmarked mail-in application by October 6, 2026, [online](#) by November 3, 2026, same-day in-person registration and voting available on November 3, 2026.

Oppose the EPA Proposal to Reduce Public Comment Opportunities

The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement is calling on us to Oppose the EPA Proposal to Reduce Public Comment Opportunities by submitting a written testimony to the EPA by August 21. If this passes, it would pass along to state agencies the ability to approve new sources of major pollution that would circumvent the Clean Air Act, including gas-fired power plants for data centers and hundreds of back-up diesel generators for data centers. Click the button for the full details.

Oppose Reducing Public Comment Opportunities

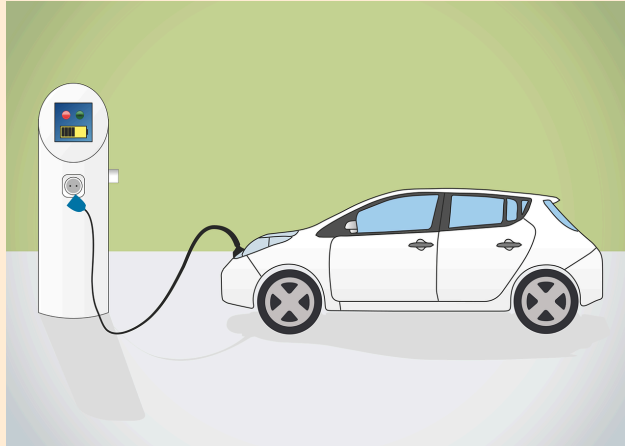
[Back to Top](#)

Education

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

climate-cnumc.org/education

EV Rebates in California



Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 168 into Californian law on 13 July 2026. The legislation requires the California Air Resources Board to establish a new incentive program for first-time zero-emission electric vehicle buyers. The program is called [MyFirstEv](#).

Later this summer, 13 automakers will start participating in California's program to offer families buying their first zero-emission vehicle \$3,500 off a new vehicle (with MSRP up to \$50K) or \$1,750 off a used model (up to \$25K through manufacturers' pre-owned vehicle programs). **Source:** gov.ca.gov.

Explore options, learn about charging, and find a dealer at the non-profit [Electric for All](#). Or use this clean vehicle buying guide from the California Air Resources Board website called [Drive Clean](#).

Two Stories of Hope

After 12 Years of Advocacy, Presbyterian Church USA Approves Fossil Fuel Divestment

A message from [Fossil Free UMC](#): *To all United Methodists who support fossil fuel divestment because of the harms caused by climate change: Take heart from this story from the PC (USA). It took them 12 years to succeed in getting this passed. In the United Methodist Church, Fossil Free UMC has been working about that same length of time, but we are not stopping. Annual Conferences are passing fossil fuel*

divestment resolutions and next year will be voting to submit petitions to the 2028 General Conference for full divestment. Let's keep the fire alive.

Fossil Free UMC Article

Solar Canal Canopies

[A story of hope from Climate Action Now](#): California has fully completed the Nexus Project, installing 1.6 MW of solar canopies over two stretches of irrigation canal near Turlock in the Central Valley. This proof-of-concept will both generate clean power and help prevent water loss to evaporation — and they might also improve water quality by reducing sunlight for algae growth!

The potential is immense: California alone has over 4,000 miles of irrigation canals. A recent study calculated that if appreciable portions were covered with solar panels it would provide 13 GW (13,000 MW) of new electricity-generating capacity and power 2 million homes while saving up to 63 billion gallons of water each year — enough to irrigate 50,000 acres or supply 2 million people!

[Back to Top](#)

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

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