

[View this email in your browser](#)



Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries July 2026 Newsletter

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

Check out our website: climate-cnumc.org



As we approach July 4th, and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, let us hold the United States of America and the whole planet in our prayers.

Sojourner's Magazine asked: How can we pray, with honesty and humility, for the United States of America? We [Sojourners] asked ministers, writers, activists, and faith leaders to write prayers for our nation. Some have roots in this land that run deeper than the Declaration of Independence, others are more recent additions to the American tapestry. With words of confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, they wrote from their hearts. Some prayers ring with hope, others carry the weight of years of harm to the land and people. But all these prayers are written with love, a love willing to tell the truth, even when it hurts; a love that never fails. This is the truest

form of patriotism. This is what it means to seek the peace and welfare of the land in which God has placed us (Jeremiah 29:7).

Click on the button to see the prayers - those who are not Sojourner subscribers should still be able to read 2 free articles.

Prayers for America

In this issue of our newsletter is a summary of our Climate Justice work at ACS, plus an advocacy alert and bills to watch, action items, ways to connect, and education opportunities.

[ACS](#) - Post-ACS Report

[Advocacy](#) - Oppose Legal Immunity for Big Oil; New Director of Environmental Justice at Church & Society

[Action](#) - Defensible Space, Fire-Resistant Plants

[Connection](#) - Sacred Ground in UM News; Feast of Creation worship resources; Fall Retreat in San Jose

[Education](#) - Climate.us; Project Cosmos

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

Healing the World

The 178th California-Nevada Annual Conference Session

June 26 - 29, 2026

Isaiah 58:12



The theme of this year's Annual Conference Session was Healing the World. Our Climate Justice Ministries Task Force submitted one piece of legislation to this year's Annual Conference Session [Urging Fossil Fuel Divestment of All Denominational Funds at Wespath](#), which was one of the model resolutions on the UMCJM website. In addition, the Retired Clergy Association submitted a recommendation to [Train Clergy in Climate Change and Disaster Response](#). We were pleased that both pieces of legislation passed. We had a display table in the exhibit hall, and a [video](#), where we asked the question What can you and your church do to care for the earth and bring healing to the world in a fair and just way? And for those who wanted to go paperless, all our [handouts](#) were made available on our website. Read our full report:

[Post-ACS Report](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Advocacy

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

climate-cnumc.org/advocacy

Oppose Legal Immunity for Big Oil



As climate disasters like floods, fires, and hurricanes intensify, Big Oil companies are lobbying Congress for blanket immunity from any laws or lawsuits that could hold them accountable for fueling the crisis. On April 16, 2026, Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WY) and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) introduced identical bills in their chambers to immunize fossil-fuel companies from climate damage lawsuits. We suggest these 3 actions: **sign the petition** from Green Peace, Third Act Faith, 350 and many other climate groups; **contact your members of congress** by email or phone; **share about this on Social Media** and tell your friends and local church members.

Oppose Legal Immunity for Big Oil

New Director of Environmental Justice at Church & Society



Darina Regio is the new Director of Environmental Justice at the General Board of Church and Society, where she leads the agency's work on climate justice, sustainability, clean water, and food justice. Her focus is on advocacy, coalition-building, and engagement with faith-based and secular partners to advance healthier and more resilient communities. In this article, in which Darina introduces herself, she shares some **creation justice related Federal Bills to watch**.

Creation Justice issues to watch

[Back to Top](#)

Action

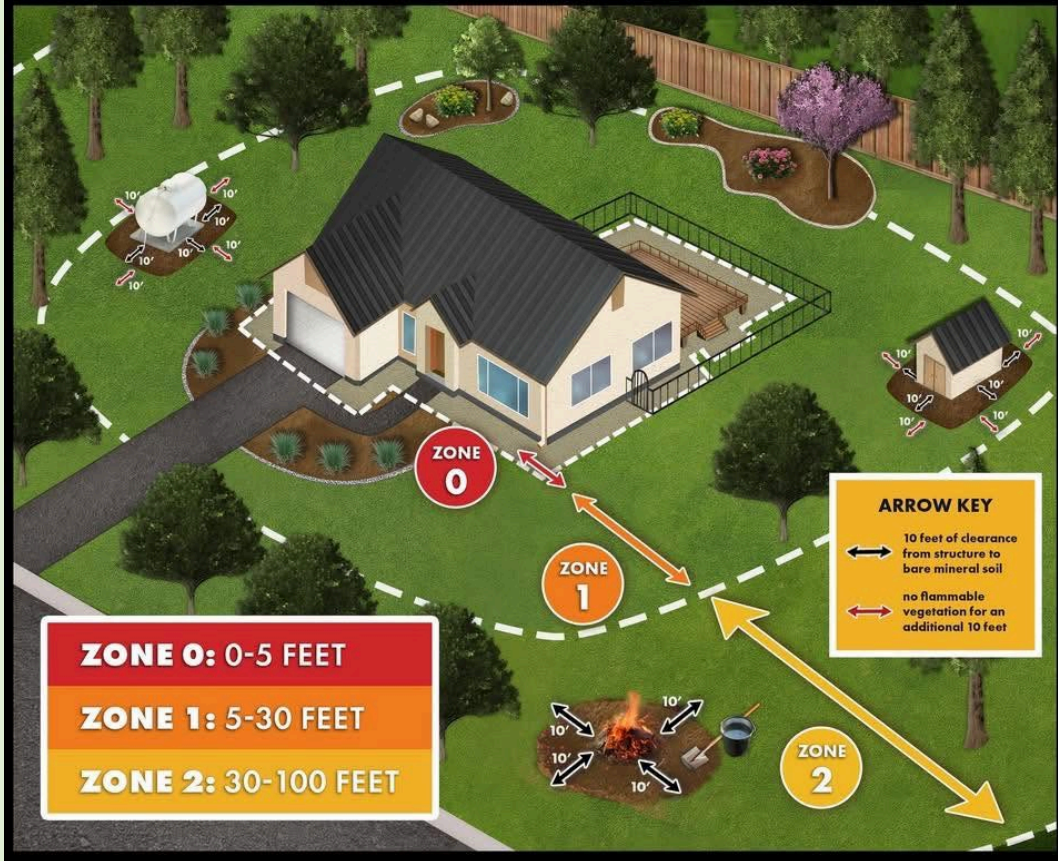
Action to care for the earth through changed individual habits and church green teams

climate-cnumc.org/action

Defensible Space



THREE ZONES MAKE UP 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE



Defensible Space is crucial for your home and church's wildfire safety. It's the buffer zone you create between your property and the surrounding wildland area. This space is key to slowing or stopping wildfire spread and protecting your home from embers, flames, or heat. It also gives firefighters a safer area to defend your property. **Do you have elderly neighbors who need some help to prepare their home?**

Cal-Fire Defensible Space

Fire-Resistant Plants

What is a "Fire-Resistant" Plant? *Fire-resistant plants are those that do not readily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. These plants can be damaged or even killed by fire; however, their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to the fuel and fire's intensity. There are several other significant factors that influence the*

fire characteristics of plants, including plant moisture content, age, total volume, dead material, and chemical content. (Source: [Sustainable Defensible Space](#)). At the bottom of the article below is a list of fire-resistant native plants.

Fire-Resistant Native Plant List

Share these 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

Sacred Ground in UM News

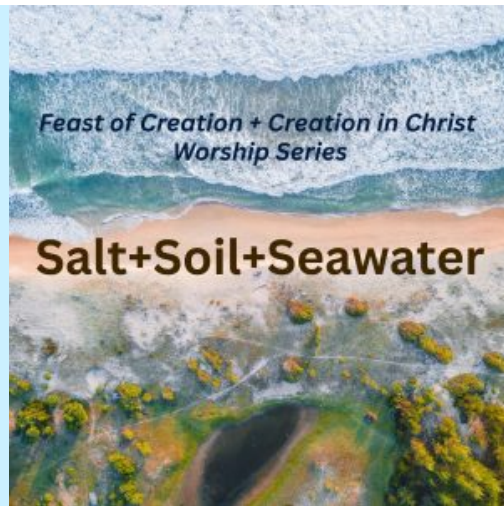


In May, UM News did an in-depth feature article entitled *Connecting with creation on Sacred Ground*. [Sacred Ground](#) is the project of Rev. Laurie Bayen, from Windsor UMC, who is also a Global Ministries EarthKeeper. The project connects visitors to over 110 beautiful scenic vistas, parks, and trails in Sonoma County and beyond combining creation care and Indigenous history with calls to action. Each location on the audio tour includes information on local challenges related to climate change, a land acknowledgment, an invitation to a faithful action we all can take to preserve and restore fragile ecosystems, and a mindful spiritual practice.

UM News Article

Sacred Ground

Feast of Creation Worship Series



In our May newsletter, we wrote an article about the new holy day, the **Feast of Creation** which falls at the beginning of the **Season of Creation**.

Feast of Creation

The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement has now released their new worship materials for this Season called *Soil + Soil + Seawater*. There is also an adult study to go alongside it.

Salt + Soil + Seawater

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

Cost: \$20

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](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Education

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

climate-cnumc.org/education

Climate.us

For nearly 15 years, NOAA Climate.gov was the U.S. government's premier platform for climate information for the public. In the first half of 2025, NOAA terminated Climate.gov's full-time federal and contractor staff, shutting down the site's daily operations. Now, former members of the Climate.gov team have joined together with nonprofit partners to launch [Climate.us](https://climate.us): a successor to Climate.gov outside the

federal domain. They have stepped up to rescue key climate resources—including the U.S. Global Change Research Program's now-deleted Fifth National Climate Assessment—and to ensure the public has continued easy access to the facts.

[Climate.us](#)

Project Cosmos

Project Cosmos was launched by *Carbon Brief* in June 2026 following an 18-month research and development effort. Their aim was to build the world's largest database of climate change research. *“Containing more than 1.8 million unique publications linked by 40 million citation relationships, the Cosmos database represents the most complete and expansive mapping of human knowledge on climate change ever assembled.”*

[Project Cosmos](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Did someone forward this email to you?

[Click to subscribe to this newsletter](#)

Or [Read past newsletters](#)

Connect with our Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries Task Force



[Email](#)



[Website](#)



[Facebook](#)



[YouTube](#)

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

climate-cnumc.org

Copyright (C) 2026 Cal-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)