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Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries September 2026 Newsletter

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

Check out our website: climate-cnumc.org



Does your church have solar panels? Are you considering installing them? There is a new UMC Solar and Battery Pilot Program offering UMCOR **grants of up to \$100K** to 20 qualifying UM churches across the USA. **And** there are some other major funding organizations associated with United Methodists that are considering offering solar grants in the future - for that to happen they need some data - **please have your church complete the church solar survey** whether you have solar panels, are thinking about, have decided not to install panels, or have never contemplated it. [More details here.](#)

As Bill McKibben, author of *Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization*, said in a [recent TED talk](#), "In a world where many, many, big things have taken a very dark turn this decade, this is the one big thing that is going right. We have, quite suddenly, the opportunity to build a clean, abundant future if we simply seize it... So the mantra for this moment is clear. Energy from

heaven, not from hell.”

Our prayers go out to the people of Nepal and Tibet after the catastrophic flooding caused by the collapse of a melting glacier amid unusual heat. Glaciers and permafrost around the world are being weakened by global warming, caused by the burning of gas, oil and coal. We pray especially for the families and loved ones of those who have died or remain missing, and for those who have lost their homes and livelihoods. [UMCOR has already given a solidarity grant](#) to partner United Mission Nepal and is exploring opportunities to scale the response further.

Three events this month not to miss:

1. The Livestream of the [Feast of Creation Ecumenical Worship Service](#) on Tuesday September 1.
2. Our Climate Justice Ministries [Fall Retreat](#) in San Jose on Saturday September 12.
3. The September United Methodist Creation Justice [Movement Cafe](#) on Wednesday September 17 as they discuss *Engaging Younger Generations in Creation Justice Work*.

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

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

[Action](#) - Solar Grant Opportunity; Solar Survey; Engaging Young People

[Education](#) - Books for Children's Sermons; Climate Debt Cancellation

[Advocacy](#) - Support Home Energy Choice; Three UMCJM Alerts

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

Wishing you a blessed Feast of Creation Day,

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

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 Ecumenical Worship Service Livestream



Join with Ecumenical leaders in celebrating the new Feast of Creation in Christ in an ecumenical worship service. While the Feast of Creation has been an established Christian festival day for many years, this year marks the first inclusion of this Festival day in the Revised Common Lectionary, the 3-year cycle of readings for most Christian communities.

Hosted by the Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Engagement at Seattle University and its partners, including some from the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement worship team, this service draws on the new lectionary texts and diverse theological liturgical resources. It will focus on the sacredness of Creation, Earth care, and Climate justice.

Watch the service livestream on [Tuesday September 1 at 6:30 pm PDT](#), or watch the recording afterwards:

[Watch the Livestream](#)

[Feast of Creation Information & Resources](#)

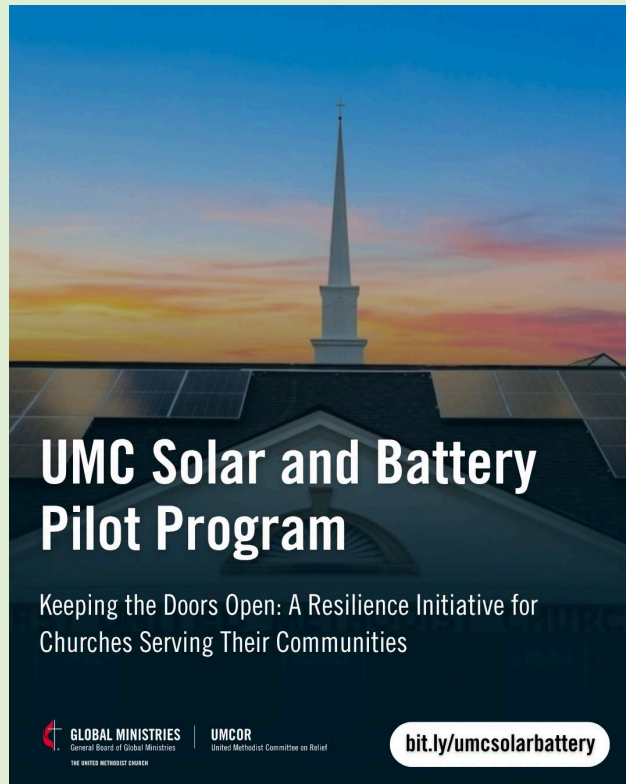
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Action

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

climate-cnumc.org/action

Solar Grant Opportunity



Up to 20 United Methodist churches in the USA, with ministries serving underserved communities, will be selected to receive up to a \$100,000 grant from UMCOR to install solar and/or battery systems.

Those selected for the **new UMC Solar and Battery Pilot Program**, developed by Global Ministries and UMCOR, will participate in a cohort-based training to receive start-to-finish guidance on how to purchase and install solar and/or battery systems. Participating churches will complete a number of tasks to prepare for successful procurement of new technology, and will then be able to apply for the UMCOR grant.

Many United Methodist churches providing critical services to vulnerable populations. But what happens when a natural or humanmade disaster strikes, and the power goes out? Or the grid fails to supply electricity? Many of these ministries are disrupted, and some even have to close their doors to those in need. The process for adding solar and battery storage can be challenging to navigate. Mentorship and support throughout the process can make a real difference.

Applications will be accepted through Nov. 2, 2026.

Learn more and see if your church is a good fit for this program:

Solar Pilot Program

Solar Survey



[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

Engaging Young People

The topic for the September United Methodist Creation Justice Movement Café is ***Engaging Younger Generations in Creation Justice Work*** with guest speakers Audra and Jacob Stone.

Pastor Audra Hudson Stone and Jacob Stone are the co-convenors of the Environmental Justice Taskforce of the Michigan Conference UMC and the North Central Jurisdiction Network of the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement. In November 2023, they served as young adult representatives of the UMC to the 2023 World Council of Churches Eco-School, focused on faith-based responses to climate change and environmental degradation.

Attend the Café on [Wednesday September 17 at 10 a.m. PDT](#), or watch the recording afterwards. *Note that it usually takes a few days after the café for the recording to be uploaded.*

September Movement Café

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?

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Education

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

climate-cnumc.org/education

Books for Children's Sermons



Need a children's moment? Picture books capture the attention of all generations—it's amazing how quiet a room can get when someone starts to read a picture book aloud. Picture books are also a great way to distill big ideas into smaller understanding, start discussing a tough topic, or simply create an intergenerational moment. There are SO MANY good books out right now about appreciating God's Creation and what humans can do to help preserve and protect it. **Try these books recommended by United Methodist Creation Justice Movement that are short enough to read during worship.**

Children's Booklist

Climate Debt Cancellation in Africa

The Unjust Burden: Why The United Methodist Church Should Support Climate Debt Cancellation in Africa.

This article published by [Fossil Free UMC](#) was written by Jefferson Boye Knight, who is the Director of Human Rights Monitor for the United Methodist Peace with Justice Program of the Liberia Annual Conference.

The global climate emergency has created a severe moral and economic paradox. Low-wealth developing nations, particularly across Africa, contribute less than 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, these countries bear the heaviest burden of climate-induced disasters, including prolonged droughts, catastrophic floods, and devastating sea-level rise. Rather than receiving direct compensation or non-repayable grants, these nations are routinely forced into a compounding cycle of debt to recover from extreme weather events they did not create. For Africa, climate debt waiver is no longer a matter of policy preference or international charity; it is a fundamental human rights imperative.

Learn more about how viewing climate debt cancellation through a human rights lens shifts the international framing from charity to accountability and reparative justice.

Fossil Free UMC Article

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Advocacy

Advocacy through petitions, phone calls, letters, visits, boycotts, marches, protests
climate-cnumc.org/advocacy

Support Home Energy Choice

An action alert from California Interfaith Power & Light (CIPL): help California move beyond gas and toward cleaner, safer energy by urging your senator to vote yes on the Home Energy Choice Act.

Assembly Bill 2313 (Berman), the Home Energy Choice Act, would give California households a choice when their gas service line is scheduled for replacement. Instead of the utility automatically digging up your yard – without any choice by the property owner - to replace an aging gas line, you could instead choose to receive an incentive to electrify your home and permanently end gas service.

This bill has already passed the state Assembly and is now in the Senate. Thanks to strong environmental support, including from CIPL advocates, it has also cleared a critical vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Our commitment to caring for Creation means not only naming our values, but putting them into practice through the policies we advocate for and the future we help build. [Please take a moment to contact your senator today: click here for a sample letter in support of AB 2313.](#)

Send a Letter

Three UMCJM Alerts

This month, the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement has three advocacy alerts.

1. Contact your representative and senators to **support and/or co-sponsor HR 9901 to block the implementation of redefining “Harm” in the Endangered Species Act** as excluding habitat destruction—limiting “harm” only to mean the direct killing of individual animals or species. Also sign on to petitions generated by the Center for Biological Diversity and/or EarthJustice.
2. The US Forest Service has filed a **proposal to rescind the national 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule**. This will allow more roads to be cut into wilderness areas leading to increased traffic and the habitat destruction of wildlife, benefiting timber, mining, and oil production industries, and not the general public. Make comments on this proposed rule change before September 21st.

3. Demand that Congress Defend Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments. Sign on to the petition by the Sierra Club to reverse the executive order to drastically reduce the size of these national monuments. Click the button for the full details.

September UMCJM alerts

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