Monthly Publication of the Carson Valley United Methodist Church **April 2026**

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First Year of Residency Toward Ordination

Peace be with you, church family. I am happy to share that I have finished my first year of residency toward elder ordination. You may ask: "What does this mean?" In the United Methodist Church, clergy are defined as those who are "set apart." This does not mean someone is better than others; it means they have authority given by the church's legislative group (the annual conference) to lead certain church matters.

All UMC clergy, retired and active, have one thing in common in their ministerial service: they are to preach or teach the Word of God, administer the sacraments, be the administrative officer of the church, and embody the teachings of Christ in service and ministry. I am giving you the short version of the occupational objectives, but there are more details of these tasks in our UMC Book of Discipline.

Furthermore, UMC clergy have different emphases in their ministerial tasks. Licensed pastors are authorized to perform their ministerial duties within their local church. For UMC Ordained Elders, they are itinerant, expected to fulfill their ministerial services, and to avail themselves for extended ministries within the conference. Moreover, at the annual conference, there are specific sessions in which only Ordained Elders can vote on church legislation or policies.

Indeed, the path that I am currently walking towards is the Elder Ordination process. There are some educational requirements for an ordained elder: they must possess a Master's Degree from an accredited educational institution. For a clergy member to transition from a licensed to an ordained elder, they must be voted on by their own District Committee on Ordained Ministry as a provisional elder. When a clergy member is installed as a provisional elder, they are put in a residency program for a minimum of two years to shape their ministry, theology, and service through seasonal academies.

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The banner photo of a beautiful mountain/lake reflection is by Kathy Wicker. Sharon Hoelscher-Day gives us Abbey's Crossing donation, and Women of the Bible - UWF March program + two others by Kathy.

Prayer Tree

God answers prayers, everyone needs a prayer said for them. A prayer of praise, a prayer of need or a prayer for comfort.

There is a prayer tree in the back of the sanctuary with several names and organizations that are in need of prayer. Please stop by and take a prayer slip and pray for that person during the week.

Scripture & Sermons For April

Journey's End/ New Start

April 5, 2026 - Easter/Resurrection Sunday - Communion

Matthew 28:1-10

Matthew 28:5-6 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 28:6 He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

Theme: He is not here

April 12, 2025 - Second Sunday of Easter - Holy Humor

John 20:19-31

John 20:21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Theme: Peace Be With You

April 19, 2025 - Third Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-35

Luke 24:13-14 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 24:14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

Theme: Let's talk about it

April 26, 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still water. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall fallow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Theme: The Lord is my shepherd

God's Table Potluck

Acts of the Apostles 17:26 From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands.

Let us all celebrate our different heritage in fellowship with the Lord. On Saturday May 2, at 6:00 p.m. the church staff will be hosting a cultural dinner to celebrate all the cultures in our Church. *We will be celebrating "persons from every tribe, every language, every people and every nation" Revelation 5:7.*

There will be three designated tables of Tongan, Greek, Mexican and a fourth table for the melting pot of Americans.

No sign ups, come as your are and bring a favorite dish from your cultural background or of one the tables listed above. Let's break bread together in the Lord's name.

Tongan dancers performed numbers from several island cultures at our original Tongan feast back when Latu and Losa were first with us in August of 2023.

2026 UWF Reading Program

All women of UWF are encouraged to read! Women or men can start reading now to complete the requirements for a 2026 reading certificate. All UWF books are located on the UWF bookshelf in the conference room at church. Books from 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 suggested reading list are available and will count for credit in 2026. We are currently in the process of selecting books to purchase from the 2026 reading list. The 2026 books will be available by February for checkout. To earn a reading certificate for 2026, one book from each of the following categories must be read:

Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. Contact Pam Forest with any questions. Here is a book review of one of the new books.

The Women of the Bible Speak by Shannon Bream is an intriguing book, according to Gwen Marsh It captures the wisdom of sixteen women and their lessons for today. Throughout the Bible, women are at the center of some of the most critical events. Think of Sarah, Rachel, Esther, Deborah and the many Marys. Some unsuspecting outsiders, Tamar, Rahab and Ruth, became the only three women included in the genealogy of Christ as recorded in the gospel of Matthew.

Throughout history, God has valued women as a part of His plan of salvation. From the women of ancient Israel who helped raise the future leaders of the people of God to the courageous early Christians, the women of the Bible experienced struggles in their lives, but yet were able to live lives of faith, hope and love.

We can find hope and insights in the stories of these women that can transform our lives today. This book is in the CVUMC library in the UWF Reading List.

UWF Officer

Barbara Graham is the new UWF Vice-President for Program. She was born and raised in Minnesota, second oldest of six kids in the Maloney family. The family moved to Northeast Iowa in 1969, where Barb went to high school. After graduation, she returned to Minnesota for undergraduate studies in Winona MN, and graduate school in Rochester MN at Mayo Clinic in Physical Therapy.

She began her 47-year career as a PT in Marshfield, WI, where she met and married Steve Fisher, and had Robin. She grew up in the Catholic church but became an Episcopalian while in Wisconsin.

After her mother's death in 1983, and many western travels, Barb longed to escape the humidity and extreme cold of the upper Midwest, and find real mountains to ski on, so with 2-year-old Robin, they migrated to the Reno area. Barb worked at St. Mary's for a year, but they moved to Gardnerville which was smaller and more beautiful! They built a home in Fish Springs and welcomed Jill to the family in 1987! Barb has gone back and forth between being a "Gardnervillian" or a "Mindenite" for 42 years!

At the Coventry Cross Episcopal Church, Barb was on the vestry, played the piano, did the major fundraising projects, As her girls got older, they wanted a more active youth group, which the Methodist Church had! Pete and Cathy Nelson were pastor, dance instructor, and friends, and the church was very welcoming!

With working full time doing home health PT at this time, raising two girls, caring for acreage, horses, dogs, cats and chickens, as well as hiking, skiing, cycling, clog dancing, it was a busy time. In addition, she became involved in the Tres Dies movement, attending and working at many 3-day retreats, and becoming on fire for the Lord!

Steve and Barb parted company after 20 years, and eventually she met and married Ron Gould, who came to Nevada from Alaska. During this time, Barb earned her second graduate degree, in Gerontology, from UNR.

Ron passed in 2006, and the church family provided significant support during this time. This has been proven true over and over again during recent difficulties. The Lord sent a wounded, lonely soul up her driveway 3 years ago, named Jim Peterlin, a kind, intelligent, talented, sweet man. Together, we have had many fun experiences and also start every day with Bible studies. After retirement two years ago and more time available, Barb answered the call to become a board member of UWF, somewhat reluctantly, but have been enjoying the new challenges! Barb looks forward to seeing all of your smiling faces at our monthly meetings, dear sisters in Christ!

From all their smiling faces I would say the choir is having a very good time. One member in particular is having the most fun!

United Women in Faith Craft Workshops!

Mark your calendar for the first and third Mondays from 9:30 - noon for the 2026 Craft Workshops. The workshops will be Monday, April 6 and 20 in the Education Room.

Everyone is welcome! All levels of skill and talent! Craft supplies are provided so just bring yourself and any ideas you might have for new crafts.

UWF Calendar

*April 9 - UWF Luncheon Meeting - 11:30-1 p.m.
*May 5 - UWF Board Meeting - 10 a.m.
*May 14 - UWF Luncheon Meeting & City of Refuge Baby Shower - 11:30-1 p.m.
*May 15-17 - UWF Assembly in Indianapolis. Sign up on UWF website
*May 29 & 30 -Mission U - St. Paul's UMC Reno

It is definitely Spring out there, but wether or not it is "False Spring" remains to be seen. Anyway, this Finch seems to think it is time to hang out with the budding plant life. Photo by Kathy Wicker.

Timeless Treasures

Please bring your boutique-quality treasures to the church education room on the 3rd Monday of each month between 10 AM and 12 noon. Timeless Treasures isn't a rummage sale. If you think someone would like receiving an item as a gift, it probably will be perfect for us. No clothing, please.

Thank you all for your help! Your donations are the reason Timeless Treasures will be successful. Contact Alison Grey, Marsha Gallegos, or Brenda Hulphers with any questions.

First Year of Residency

Continued from page 1

During residency, the provisional elder's academic journey and ministry are annually evaluated by a team of residency advisors at an assigned location. Intrinsically, when the years of residency are completed, the advisors would have to vote to submit the provisional elder's name to the Board of Ordained Ministers (Boom), and from there, it is determined if they are to be finally voted on by their peers at the annual conference clergy session.

This process is long because each clergy member has strong support and accountability. As your pastor, you are part of my journey. You have seen my growth and challenges along the way. Please keep praying for me as I enter my second year of residency. I will continue to serve as your pastor and lead you in faith. Together, let us continue to walk in faith, support one another, and remain steadfast in our commitment to God's calling for our community. Your encouragement gives me strength, and I am honored to share this journey with you.

Pastor Latu Paea.

April UWF Meeting

The United Women in Faith (UWF) will meet on Thursday, April 9 in the Carson Valley United Methodist Church, education room. The monthly potluck luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. and the program begins at 12:15 p.m. on Celebrating Earth Day, conservation and sustainability by the Carson Valley Trail Association.

Everyone is welcome. We will be voting on the Heifer International project that we will support this year. The project options are on the UWF bulletin board. UWF is also working on plans for their May meeting and the annual City of Refuge Baby Shower. Watch the UWF bulletin board for a list of needs and other events this summer.

If April Showers bring May flowers, what do Mayflowers bring.

Pilgrims

L-R: Naomi - Mary Stoll, Herodias - Penny Puente, Rahab - Nancy Deis, Jael - Ann Santos, Deborah - Ann Robar, Sarai/Sarah - Gwen Marsh, UWF President - Tamara Brewer

Women in the Bible

If you missed the six outstanding presentations of Women in Bible at the March UWF meeting, you can view them on our church YouTube channel. A BIG Thanks goes to the amazing Ken Struven for videotaping and editing the presentations for our YouTube channel. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGKF2yURBZt4QZv-i0tCvSg.

Cynthia, a staff member at Family Support Council with Beverly Griffith Williams, UWF board member, receiving donations from Carson Valley United Methodist Church United Women in Faith donations to Abbey's Crossing, local domestic violence shelter.

April Devotion

John 20:18 - Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her. Theme: I have seen the Lord

As I reflect on this month's worship series, Journey's End and a New Start, I remember when we were first called into ministry in 2023. I remember receiving the call from the District Superintendent to travel to Gardnerville, Nevada, for an intake interview by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

I remember telling Losa about serving in another state with the intent of leaving our families behind to serve the church. At first, Losa was full of grief knowing she would leave her immediate family behind in California. I felt very obligated to convey my spouse's feelings to our pastor, and he called both of us in the very same week after Sunday worship to "Go with God and serve diligently."

We went, with the encouragement of our pastor and our church family, across state lines to serve at Carson Valley United Methodist Church. Indeed, Losa still refused to speak with me for almost two weeks because of the realization of "leaving the nest," but this was all going to change. As we approached Gardnerville on Interstate 89, Losa and I saw the beautiful landscape of the Sierra Nevada mountains and the crisp air.

We both concluded that, as we were driving into Woodfords toward the gateway to Gardnerville, we saw the beauty of God's creation, which lit a fire in our hearts to serve diligently, because we had seen the Lord when we arrived in Carson Valley.

I believe this is what Mary Magdalene saw when she arrived at the tomb: something was very different, something never seen before. It was the beauty of the Lord in conquering death through resurrection. We all have many testimonies to tell about the Lord's presence in our lives.

As we reflect on how the world is facing war and division, one of the things we all as people look forward towards; Jew, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Unbeliever, or Outcast, is peace on earth. Peace is the Lord's presiding beauty that reminds us that we have not seen anything yet until we have had a relationship with the Holy Spirit. I am optimistic that our language of mercy, compassion, peace, love, and justice can be powerful vehicles for bringing relief to our situation today.

My church family, how have you seen the Lord in your lives?

Journey End and New Start

Greetings, church-family, in the name of Jesus Christ. We arrive in April and continue into a new month, accompanied by new ideas, perspectives, and expressions as God's church. We speak of this newness because we are living proof of Christ's resurrection established by the Holy Spirit.

Our worship series will continue last month's theme, Journey End and a New Start. This worship encourages us to be like Mary Magdalene, who witnessed the stone being rolled away from Jesus' tomb and ran to the disciples to tell them that Christ had risen. Yes, our worship series ends our journey to the cross, but it is a new beginning from the tomb to the world.

This month, we will observe Holy Week, commemorating Jesus' Last Supper and his crucifixion on Good Friday. On the first Sunday of this month, we will have an outdoor early sunrise service on Easter Sunday at 6:30 am (weather permitting) and a Resurrection Sunday service for both hours of worship. Let us not forget holy humor Sunday, which is held the week after Easter to celebrate Christ's victory over death.

Indeed, our new journey this month is to prepare our spirits for the liturgical observance of Ascension and Pentecost on May 8. In this new month, live your life in the resurrection of Christ. He died for all people who have faith in Him to have everlasting life. May you continue to read your scriptures, say your prayers, and uphold your life in service to our church and community.

Pastor Latu Paea

Where Do Craft Faire Proceeds Go? - Part 2

People sometimes ask, "Why do United Women in Faith members work so hard to raise money with their craft faire?" Good question! If you or someone you know is in danger, our 24 hour crisis line is here for you.

The profits from the UWF Heavenly Holiday Craft Faire the first Saturday of November are given away to local, national and international charities and missions that focus on women and children. Two of the charities are Abbey's Crossing and Heifer International.

Abbey's Crossing

Abbey's Crossing is a local, confidential domestic violence shelter sponsored by the Family Support Council. It provide a short term place for women and children to go. It can house up to 13 women and children for 90 days. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call this 24 hour hotline - (775) 782-8692

Heifer International

Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities. For 75 years, Heifer International has partnered with local communities and farmers in 21 countries in Asia, Africa, South and North America, including the United States.

If women farmers had access to the same resources as men, more than 150 million additional people would have enough food to eat. Heifer International provides support for women's groups, entrepreneurship, training in gender equality and the means to send girls to school. Their projects include irrigation pumps, hives of bees, tree seedlings, rabbits and chickens, biogas stoves, goats, sheep and other animals.

Visit their website at https://www.heifer.org for more details on current countries and projects.

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Worship Schedule
Sundays
Worship 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship time follows morning services
Loving child care provided

Inside

Women of the Bible presentation can still be seen on our YouTube channel - see page 6 for the URL, and check out the book review on page 3.

God's Table Potluck - We will be celebrating "persons from every tribe, every language, every people and every nation" Revelation 5:7.
See page 3 for more information