



Share The Spirit

Monthly Publication of the Carson Valley United Methodist Church

August 2026



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The Spirit of Gratitude

In my Tongan culture, we have a saying “ko e koloa ‘o e Tonga, ko e fakamalo.” This is translated as: the most valuable possession a Tongan has to offer is gratitude. Many times, I have witnessed how generous Tongan people are in their giving, in different ways. Whether it is a wedding, funeral, birthday, or special accomplishment, the gift of gratitude is shown in their giving. The gifts display the gratitude that settles in the heart of a person. I remember when my uncle was still alive, and he pastored with a saying: “Tongans do not give by thinking about it; we feel it.”

My parents, relatives, and ancestors have shown their gratitude in many aspects of the culture because it has a theological task of serving God and serving neighbors. I reflect on this month’s worship series, “Praise the Lord,” which focuses on the testimonies in the book of Psalms, revealing the godliness of gratitude. In Psalm 105:2, the Psalmist says: Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

I often reflect on how showing gratitude to God cannot be just one way of showing praise, but it is multiple acts of mercy that display this mind-set in real time. Gratitude can be service to the community or to one’s local church, but it also can be displayed in your acts of care or support to a friend.

However you show your gratitude, let it be shown from the heart, for this is where God reads our deepest intentions and truest thoughts. May your gratitude not be isolated through money, gifts, or compliments, for the kingdom of God also expects our generosity to be reflected in mercy, compassion, empathy, and justice.

How will you show your gratitude to God and my church family?

Pastor, Latu Paea



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Scripture & Sermons for August

August 2, 2026 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Communion)

Psalm 17:1-7,15

Theme: Seeing the face of God

August 9, 2026 - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b

Theme: Sing Praises to the Lord

August 16, 2026 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

(Blessing of the Backpacks)

Psalm 133

Theme: Living together in unity

August 23, 2026 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 124

Theme: Our help is in the Lord

August 30, 2026 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 27

Theme: Teach me your way Lord



The banner photo of the distant Sierra Nevada Range from the Bristlecone foothills was shot by Tony Hoefner several years ago. Other photos in this issue are from Kathy Wicker and Sharon Hoelscher-Day.

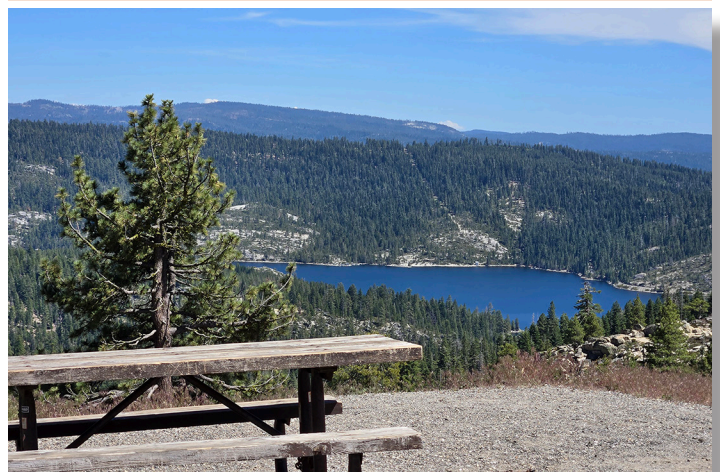


Prayer Tree

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.



Idyllic spot for a summer picnic? True Story: You unpack your sandwiches, potato salad and cokes, then... come the swarm of meat bees from out of nowhere.

Get Ready for New Flooring

Things are moving right along. We Have our new chairs, the front water-runoff concrete is in, and clean-up around the Church continues.

Next up is the installation of the new flooring in the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and Education Room. This is a big event - over 6000 square feet, and will take around two weeks. We know there will be disruption but work is scheduled between major events, so....

We are aiming for a start date of August 24. The materials have to be shipped from the east coast, and then the floor sanding and preparation. The plan is to start in the Education Room, then the Kitchen and then the Fellowship Hall.

Before the company can start, we will need to empty the Education Room. There are several large white cabinets to be emptied and moved and lots of stuff and furniture to shift out. Emptying the cabinets is already started, craft stuff is being moved into totes. The plan is to store the majority outside, under the overhang, and tarp off if necessary. Fragile items will go to the Fellowship Hall.

The week prior to start we will be asking for a lot of help getting the stuff moved. We will need an "All Hands" response for this, and again to return it after the floor is in. And, we have some large heavy pews in the Fellowship Hall to move in and out, as well.

So please mark your calendars to assist as you are able; the end result will be well worth our efforts. And, thank you in advance. Exact dates and times will be announced as we get closer to the big event.

Al Baumruck
Trustee Chair

September Car Show & Potluck

This is a real "potluck." Just sign up so we have a number and bring what you want. Member Care is providing meat, chicken, drinks, rolls and condiments.

Time is 11:30 following second service

Cars, coffee and donuts for drivers will be outside starting about 9 a.m.

Hope to see you then



2026-27 UWF Reading Program

All women of UWF are encouraged to read! Thank you to all the folks who turned in their 2026 reading form. Women or men can start reading now to complete the requirements for a 2027 reading certificate. To earn a reading certificate for 2027, one book from each of the following categories must be read: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. Below is just one of many excellent books available in our church library.

Review: *The Sun Does Shine*

Imagine being sentenced to death at age 29 years for two murders and one attempted murder that you did not commit. Imagine being abandoned by everyone after your conviction except your mother and a close childhood friend. Imagine being locked away by yourself on death row and only getting out of your cell for 15 minutes per day.

In the book *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life, Freedom, and Justice* by Anthony Ray Hinton, he discusses his conviction and sentencing for three crimes that occurred in Alabama that he did not commit (he was at work in a guarded warehouse!) Ray discusses a flawed justice system, his walk with God and all the emotions he encountered. It is a true story about a wrongful arrest, a wrongful conviction and a wrongful incarceration that occurred in Alabama in the 1980s.

This book is available in the church library in the UWF bookcase...along with many other books from the UWF reading list. Visit your church library! Contact Pam Forest with any questions.

UWF Summer Event

Don't forget to Sign up for UWF's "Sundresses and Sandals"

It's time to refresh, revive and rejuvenate at the UWF Summer Brunch Event, "Sundresses & Sandals" on August 22 from 10 a.m. Come for Food, Fun & Christian Fellowship! All women of the church welcome! Get ideas on how to take care of yourself, when life overwhelms us.

Sign up sheets are located on the UWF Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall. Invite your "gal pals" for a cool, summer day to refresh and renew. For Event Questions contact Ann Santos or Linda Malconia.



Report On Annual Conference

Laura Engel

This was my first time at conference. Needless to say it was overwhelming; I felt like a fish out of water. Friday started off with the drive down to Sacramento, more than an hour to get around the block because there were several activities going on at the Safe Union Convention Center. I finally arrived was greeted immediately by our wonderful Pastor Latu. I sat down with his family and started the learning curve on how our conference works.

The motto this year is “healing the world” and while I agree, we need to heal the world with love, I might have some different opinions on how to go about it. Some of the members of the CANV conference have very different opinions and interpretations of the Bible than I do.

The California Nevada conference is transparent. Conference is a place where everyone has a voice. The first order of business was recognizing the longer serving clergy and laity with our conference, some serving over 50 years. We heard a wonderful message from the president of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma, and then there was the nominating and voting of the delegates for the United Methodist Church. The laity took three votes, and the clergy took a few more. This tells me that there are several different opinions within our conference. I did not receive the bios on anyone and I was not voting, so I didn’t really know where the individual stood on the certain legislation. Next year, I hope to be more informed.

The morning concluded with several reports from different conference committees. After lunch we honored the retirees of our conference, and then we moved into various sessions. I listened in on a youth session. There was a panel of several youth all of an ethnic descent, and it saddened me that many of them felt discriminated against in this world. I personally do not see that as a teacher in rural Nevada schools, but it appears to be happening in other areas of our conference. The clergy session that I attended recognized the spouses and the special needs that they give to their partners in running a church. It also recognized our new committee to help churches grow and build in the rural parts of our district.

Saturday was a full day at first there was a youth worship service near and dear to my heart. I was amazed at these young people from high school to college, preaching the word to a huge congregation. They were very well spoken individuals from all over our conference. We went into the Board of Ordained Ministry report, some historical questions, and several lay ministry celebrations. United Women of Faith gave their report, followed by the presentation of certified lay minister certificates and the commissioning of deaconesses.

After lunch on Saturday, there were several workshops. I attended the Fresh Expressions workshop. This was led by Michael Beck from Southern California. They discussed the various ways of connecting with our seniors in assisted living homes and with our young people, I came away with several ideas to implement at Carson Valley United Methodist Church. We need to remember that main issue for our seniors living in assisted living institutions and our youth is loneliness. The whole point of Fresh Expressions was to get people involved one on one, not creating groups for preaching and sermons. Not necessarily bible studies either, but creating opportunities for individuals to feel welcomed and loved. I will say our Connections group on Saturday mornings helps fulfill that purpose as we meet outside of the church. We do short readings of the Bible and discussions, but we are all there for each other with lots of talk and support. I’m so proud of this group because we are fulfilling that need for individuals far and near.

We went back into the main congregation and remembered our saints; it was a touching, loving service about the wonderful things various lay and clergy have accomplished within our conference.

I did not stay late for the voting, quite frankly, I was exhausted. It was such a new experience for me that my brain couldn’t take anymore. I couldn’t vote as I was a guest this year. I pray that CVUMC has faith in me to represent our church at next year’s conference.

By Sunday morning, I just wanted to go home. I was confused; I was exhausted. Downtown Sacramento is a little bit of a scary place to be, especially walking by myself back to my car each day. That being said, Sunday morning was worth the entire weekend. There were more votes to be taken for the general and jurisdictional delegation, and then there were some panels. I listened to Kristina Gonzalez’ talk “Equity: Aspirations to Practice.” If we preach about unconditional love we shouldn’t

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And The Beat Goes On.....

Hello church family. This is a message from your music director Tammy Owens. By the time you are reading this, our summer break will be winding down. It will be time to start planning for our upcoming rehearsals. The bell choirs will be resuming their rehearsal schedule on August 31st and the choir will kick off the year with a pot luck dinner and rehearsal to follow on September 1st. Our church musicians are rested and look forward to getting back to their music making.

This is a great time to add new members to our music groups. I would like to invite anyone who enjoys making music to come and join us. All skill levels are accepted. Now I know many of you have very lovely voices because I hear you singing every Sunday.....Just saying. The choir could use more Altos, Tenors, and Basses. Also did you know that the bell choir is not just for women....men are encouraged to join too. It will be the best brain workout you could ever find. Again no experience is needed, I will teach you everything you will need to know to be successful.

If you are interested in giving it a try, please contact Tammy at 775-790-2108 for more information before September 1, 2026.



*Some dogs just have a knack for looking good.
Blessing of the animals June 13, 2026*



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 next workshops will be Monday, August 3 and 17 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. After Labor Day, the Craft Workshop will continue to be held every Mondays from 9:30 - noon.

Timeless Treasures

The next timeless treasure collection will be Monday, Aug. 17. Time is running out to bring your gently used or new items. 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.

Where Do Holiday Craft Faire Proceeds Go? - Part 6

Each year our local UMW supports a wide variety of missions related to women, children and families with funds generated at our annual Heavenly Holiday Faire in November. This month we highlight two more:

Backpack Buddies recently moved to its new headquarters at 1255 Waterloo this past summer. Backpack Buddies is a charitable non profit designed to provide non-perishable weekend food to 235 in-need students (Pre K-12) in Douglas County. A backpack containing non-perishable food for seven meals over the weekend is distributed to participating students each Friday. Parents are required to complete a permission slip each year. Many of the students who participate in Backpack Buddies qualify for free/reduced breakfast and lunch programs while at school. However, on weekends little food is available to them. Weekend food helps them achieve better academic success.

Suicide Prevention Network of Douglas County provides several support groups including: Suicide Loss Support Group (Suicide Loss Survivors) meets in Minden on the 1st Thursday of the month, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Suicide Prevention Network office. PTSD Support Group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Douglas County Community Center in Gardnerville. Teen Support/Advisory Group Living Out Loud is a group for teens who meet twice monthly and discuss how they can make a difference in their schools, with their peers. For more information, visit www.spnawareness.org or call 775.783.1510

The Mary Elizabeth Inn is a non-profit organization with a century's tradition of providing safe housing with two buildings and 157 units and supportive services to homeless women in San Francisco. Homeless women are more likely to have post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and other mental health disorders than other American women. Homeless women are also more prone to health problems such as anemia, asthma, chronic bronchitis, hypertension and ulcers. Mary Elizabeth Inn is a designated National Mission Institution, which United Methodist Women support nationally.



Daisy is obviously a very patriotic dragon, and she showed her colors to celebrate America's 250th birthday

UWF Calendar Items

August 10 -Bring Cookies to church for teachers/staff.

August 12 - Pack cookies for schools

August 22 - UWF Summer Event - Sundresses and Sandals - 10 a.m.

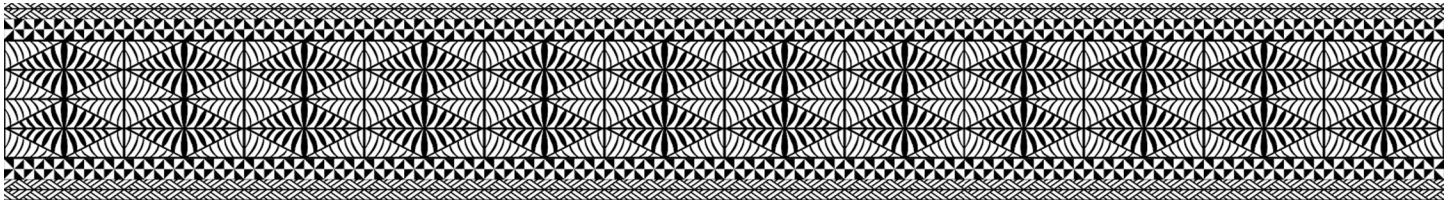
September 1 - UWF Board meeting - 10 a.m.

September 10 - UWF Potluck Lunch and meeting - 11:30-1 p.m. - Carson Valley Arts Council

October 10 - UWF Potluck Lunch and meeting - 11:30-1 p.m.

October 8 - UWF Annual District Celebration

November 7 - Heavenly Holiday Market



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in the season of post-Pentecost, as we continue to build God's ministry at Carson Valley United Methodist Church. We have so many great plans for this new month within the many branches of our church's ministries that reach out to our communities, preaching the good news of Jesus Christ in their own respective ways. With all these great things coming up, we have been blessed so far this year; we give praise to the Lord for His provision and mercy, enabling our church body to build the "kin-dom" of God through grace in Gardnerville.

Furthermore, I am presenting this month's worship series as "Praise the Lord." We will read from the book of Psalms as we reflect on the Psalmist's testimony to a faithful relationship with the Lord. The Psalms connect with many readers because they are filled with emotions and real-life situations that relate to our experiences as followers of God.

As we journey into this new month, I wanted to ask you to reflect on what you are grateful for that God has given you. Reflect on what you already have and the blessings that have been sent your way to establish your relationship with the Lord. Also ask yourself: what can I do to praise God in my actions, words, service, and presence?

May God bless you all.

Pastor Latu Paea

Cookies for Teachers!

Each year the United Women in Faith celebrate the dedicated teachers and staff at the Douglas County Schools with "Welcome Back to School" homemade cookies.

We will need lots of cookies to do this - at least 108 dozen this year. Please bake cookies, without nuts or frosting.

Start early and freeze for August. Cookies should be at the church by noon on August 10, and please label for "school." Packing to be done on August 12 at 1 p.m..

If you would like to deliver cookies, please contact Tamara Brewer or sign up on the list on the UWF bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



Report on Annual Conference

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have to worry about equity and DEI. We are human, we make mistakes and we judge. This is why we need to keep preaching God's love.

Many anniversaries were celebrated Sunday morning: the 30th anniversaries of Deacons, the 50th anniversary of UMWIM, the 70th anniversary of women being ordained in the United Methodist Church, and the most beautiful of all the 200th anniversary of Methodism in Tonga. The celebration included a 280 person choir, singing some beautiful hymns in Tongan. All of the Tongans were dressed traditionally - all in white. They were a beautiful sight as so many of them filled the front of the church.

After lunch, there was the installation of new ordained, elders and new licensed pastors, the laying of hands and celebrations. I left Sunday afternoon, exhausted and a little disgruntled by our conference. I regret not staying through Monday where the message was positive and recharging for us to go back to our congregations and work on "healing the world" through our individual church. My take away from CA-NV is that we are so blessed at Carson Valley United Methodist Church.

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


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