

# Share The Spirit



Monthly Publication of the Carson Valley United Methodist Church

June 2026



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### “Kainga”

Reflecting on this month's worship series of forming family and preparing a people reminds me of the Tongan word for family, “kainga.” The lens of family in Tonga is not limited to the essence of biological relationship; it is a communal bond of respect, mutual care, humility, and loyalty.

In Tongan culture, everything must have significant meaning, whether in actions, words, or devotion. When I was a teenager, I took a trip with my father to a family wedding. My father introduced me to my relatives and educated me on the structure of our families. He emphasized that each family member has a role to uphold in the structure of “kainga.”

In Tongan culture, there is a shared responsibility of matriarchal and patriarchal standards. Since the wedding was for a female cousin of mine on my father's side, our uncles (his brothers) instructed us to handle the outdoor chores, prepare the food, set up the tents, and do the heavy lifting before the event. I learned at a young age that upholding the responsibilities of kainga is not performed alone but as a family.

Furthermore, when we work as a team, we share in language, support, care, and encouragement. I was overwhelmed by the volume of love I received in performing my duty for my family. My father was also emotionally overwhelmed as I participated and worked together with relatives and loved ones.

When I reflect on the aspect of kainga, I remember the importance of Christ's church. The ecclesial aspect of the body of Christ nurtures our gifts and talents. We all have a role to uphold in building the kingdom of God in Carson Valley United Methodist Church. Our mission is to make Christ known to the world in our gifts, words, service, and presence. Let us lift up our baptism as the component that unifies our differences and transforms the world in the loving kindness of God through Jesus Christ.



## Carson Valley United Methodist Church

Pastor - Latu Paea  
Office Manager - Len Frueh  
Email: cvumclen@gmail.com



<http://www.carsonvalleyumc.com>  
Web Master - Julie Franklin  
Email: juliefranklin15@yahoo.com



Carson Valley United Methodist Church  
Email: cvumclen@gmail.com



*Share the Spirit*  
Editor - Cecile Brown  
Email: cezil@mac.com



Bell Choir Director - Tammy Owens  
Musical Accompanist - Gwen Marsh  
Choir Director - Tammy Owens



*Sunday School*  
Laura Bridwell Engel  
Email: shufnatic@gmail.com



The banner photo of nearby Bodie is by Cecile Brown, Pickleball by Laura Engel, and Church interiors by Kathy Wicker.

## 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 that are in need of prayer. Please stop by, take a prayer slip and pray for them during the week.

## Blessing of the Animals

June 13, 2026 at 2 p.m.

In the Dog Park

## June 2026 Sermon Titles and Scriptures

### June 7, 2026 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

#### Genesis 12:1-9

Scripture focus: Genesis 12:1-2 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 12:2I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Theme: Blessed Journey

### June 14, 2026 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

#### Genesis 18:1-15

Scripture focus: Genesis 18:6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes."

Theme: Joy in the comfort of Hospitality

### June 21, 2026 - 4th Sunday after Pentecost (Father's Day)

#### Genesis 21:8-21

Scripture focus: Genesis 21:17 And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.

Theme: The voices of suffering or grief

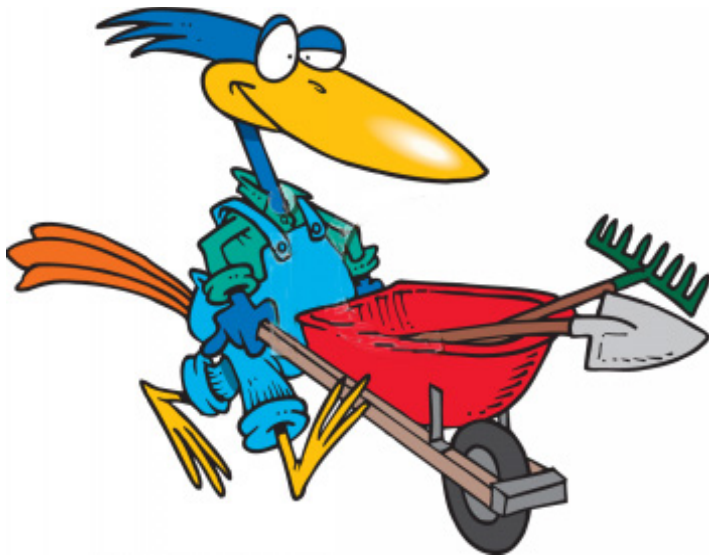
### June 28, 2026 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost

#### Genesis 22:1-14

Scripture focus: Genesis 22:14 So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

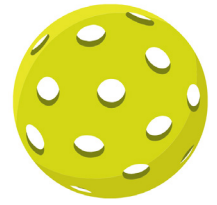
Theme: Jehovah Jireh





## Have you heard of Pickleball?

Recently, Pickleball has become a very popular sport for all ages. It is easy to play, gentle on the body and a great cardio workout. Pickleball is a social game for the young and old, it is an approachable game that people can easily pick up and play. Pickleball is more than just a game, it is a social sport. It is a game that keeps the mind engaged, and that benefits cognitive health as well as hand-eye coordination, flexibility, balance, and agility.



## Weeds! /wēdz/

*A weed is generally defined as any plant growing where it is not wanted, competing with desirable plants for space, nutrients, and light.*

“Please join us on Saturday, June 20 from 7:30-11am, for a morning of weed pulling. We will be focusing on the front of the church (not the parking lot island, as that looks good!) and the back area of the memorial garden.

This is not a traditional spring clean up day, but a labor intensive, hot morning of just pulling weeds. Please join us for this event if you feel this is a good fit for you. We invite you to work the whole morning or as long as you wish.

Please bring a weeding bucket, sun hat, sunscreen, cushion to sit/kneel on and plenty of water. Snacks will be provided. We hope to see you here!”





## Bishop Sandy Olewine - Call to Holy Conference 2026

To all Lay and Clergy Members of the California-Nevada Annual Conference Session:

Greetings in the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit! I am honored to call us to the 178th session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference, June 26-29, 2026, at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento, California. I invite you to prayerful preparation that our gathering will be a time of holy conferencing during which we celebrate what God has done, is doing and will do through us. As we seek to fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church, to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, this year our focus will be the third part of our vision, to Heal the World.

The scripture guiding our gathering is Isaiah 58:12, “Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.” This life-giving promise comes as we are faithful to the call in verses 7 – 11: sharing our bread with the hungry, bringing the homeless poor into our houses, covering the naked, gathering in the presence of our kin, removing the yoke from among us, end the pointing of the finger and the speaking of evil, and satisfying the needs of the afflicted. What a calling! Annual Conference gives us an opportunity to reflect on how we are fulfilling it, where we have fallen short, and where God is urging us to move.

This year we gather for the first time as part of a regional church after the overwhelming adoption of the constitutional amendments which we voted on last year. Besides receiving reports, considering legislation, participating in workshops, the joy-filled youth service, the commissioning and ordination service, and the remembering of our faithful departed, we will be inspired by Dr. Ashley Boggan, General Secretary of Archives and History, who will help us discover the Methodist roots that provide strong foundations for being the church in our time. We will elect delegates to the 2028 General and Jurisdictional Conferences, celebrate 30 years of the Order of Deacon and 70 years of the ordination of women. We will welcome the President of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma, Reverend Dr. Semisi Turagavou, and celebrate 200 years of Methodism in Tonga. We will celebrate our newly retiring and those being appointed for ministry in the coming year. We will pray, learn, cry, praise, laugh, dance and rejoice!

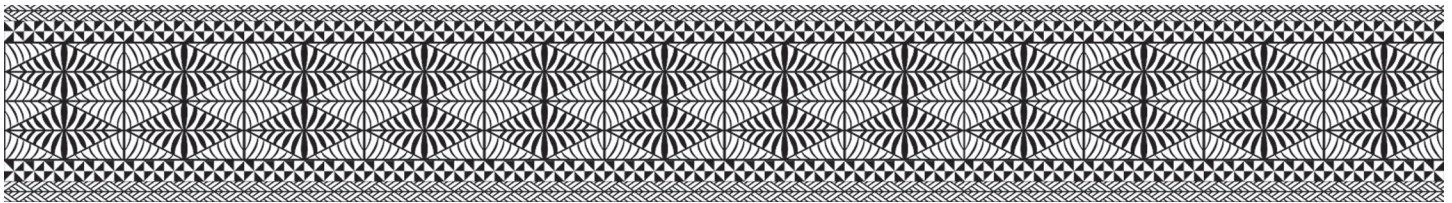
The Commission of the Annual Conference, chaired by the Rev. Gary Pope-Sears, has been working faithfully to plan for our gathering, striving to create a spirit-filled time of conferencing! Following this call is information you will need to register and to be ready for our time together. The Commission and the Communications team are working conscientiously to make sure everyone has what is needed to fully participate.

I cannot wait until I see you face to face at the end of June and am giving thanks for how God is equipping us to participate in healing the world!

Blessings,

Bishop Sandra K. Olewine

SOURCE: California Nevada UMC website, <https://www.cnumc.org/eventdetail/18797945/newsitem/19647861>



## Forming a Family/Preparing a People

For the month of June, I have titled our worship series “forming a family and preparing a people.” The worship series will focus on the importance of “family” reflected in the story of Abraham. Biblical scholars describe Abraham’s relationship with the Lord as a prime example of true faith, naming him the “faithful father.”

As we read in the book of Genesis this month, I want you to reflect on the journey that Abraham experiences with God. Abraham’s life becomes itinerant as he answers the Lord’s divine call to leave his homeland for a foreign land. He even experiences fatherhood late in life, becoming a parent to two sons who would eventually shape Israel’s future. Furthermore, the core foundation of Abraham’s story is his transformation as a person who displayed faith as the living substance of his works.

Intuitively, as we immerse ourselves in the story of Abraham, let us focus on how God forms his family through the essence of faith in the midst of different challenges. As Christ’s church, we are a family continually being formed in grace to live faithfully as siblings, bringing transformation to one another and the world.

The family of Christ is a community of love, mercy, compassion, and justice. We are diverse in our thoughts, ethnicities, cultures, and social beliefs. What we learn from Abraham, is his dedication in keeping his family together and displaying the importance of compassion in this month’s worship series.

How will you invite others into our family Carson Valley?

Be well my friends.

*Pastor Latu*



*Two Views. The beauty of our Sanctuary was captured on camera by Kathy Wicker - a view as one enters and a view of the reverse. Pentacost Sunday was celebrated all over the church by members of the congregation wearing red, and reinstalled banners for the occasion. The pastor and Len promise more attention to the banners in the future.*

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

Carson Valley  
United Methodist Church  
1375 Centerville Lane  
Gardnerville, NV 89410  
Phone: 775-782-4600  
Fax: 775-782-1230  
www.carsonvalleyumc.com



**Who:** The Member Care Team & You  
**What:** Summer Picnic  
**When:** Saturday, June 6th, at 11:30  
**Where:** The Church

*NOT Carson Valley Days, Graduation or Fathers' Day weekend. Burgers, hot dogs, rolls and condiments will be provided. Sign up in the lobby to bring your favorite summer side dish or dessert by May 30.*



- Blessing of the Animals
- June 13, 2026 at 2 p.m.
- In the Dog Park - rear of the church