



Share The Spirit

Monthly Publication of the Carson Valley United Methodist Church

May 2026



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Current and Future Church Projects

The Board of Trustees are charged with management and maintenance of the Church and property, and of the Parsonage. Most of our activities are routine and easy, and generally low cost and low key, the sort of “stuff” any homeowner needs to do.

However, issues do arise which do not fit into routine categories. Our Church building is more than 28 years old, and we are beginning to experience age related problems. We on the Board feel that you as the congregation need to know of the concerns that affect our Church.

The following are issues of importance for which the Board of Trustees feels should be brought to your attention. These concerns were discussed at the Church Council meeting on April 18, and are in this newsletter for further dissemination.

1. Replacement of the concrete water run-off area in front of the Church. This area is essential for efficient removal of storm water. It was broken, crumbling, and a tripping hazard. We contacted a contractor and received an estimate of \$10,500.00 for the removal of old concrete and a durable replacement. Len arranged for a funding source, and it has been completed.

2. Replacement of the 150 Dining Room chairs. These chairs are original to the Church and are increasingly showing wear and tear. George Wennhold has been re-installing, cushions, replacing feet, and cleaning stains, but it is a losing battle. “Estimated” cost is \$85.00 per chair, and we are trying to find ones that will fit our existing carts, and have better stain resistance and durability.

This project has been discussed by Finance Committee and Church Council voted to go with an “Adopt a Chair” method for financing.

3. Replacement of the flooring in the Fellowship Hall, the Kitchen and the Education Room. These areas show the age of our building the most. The concrete slab under the vinyl tiles is cracking and

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Many photos this month by
Kathy Wicker, and one by 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.

Scripture & Sermons for May

Worship Theme: Stories that matter

May 03, 2026 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 14:1-4

Sermon Scripture: John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Theme: The way to God

May 10, 2026 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

John 14:15-21

Sermon Scripture - John 14:21 - They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Theme: They who keep the commandments of God

May 17, 2026 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

John 17:1-11

Sermon Scripture: John 17:11 - And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Theme: One in Jesus Christ.

Worship Theme: God Poured Out

May 24, 2026 - Day of Pentecost

Acts 1:1-21

Acts 1:1 - When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

Theme: Come, Holy Spirit.

May 31, 2026 - Trinity Sunday

Matthew 28:16-20

Matthew 28:18-19 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Theme: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And The Beats Goes On....

Greetings once again from your friendly music director, Tammy Owens. By the time you are reading this the choir and the bell choirs will be coming to the end of their performance season. The last bell performance will be May 10th and the choir will end on May 31st.

These three groups work very hard for 9 months preparing music for each service. They are very dedicated to learning the music which often requires them to practice at home in addition to our weekly rehearsals. It is safe to say that we are all looking forward to our summer break to recharge for the Fall.

We will start rehearsing again the last week of August so that they may continue to serve you.

Mission U is Coming!

Each year, United Women in Faith develops three justice-focused Biblical curricula for adults, youth, and children, all on a common theme. In 2026, our theme is Experiencing Emmanuel. There will be two more Mission U sessions this summer: June 20 - Mission U - Willow Glen, San Jose and July 24-26 - Mission U - ECCO, Oakland.

Mission U program and registration information is on our UWF bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall or visit the UWF website at https://mcusercontent.com/fe2d796c442f648c939d899ae/files/2590afa4-5865-460d-db94-ec5b4816ba96/Mission_u_2026_flyer_with_registration_and_QR_code.pdf

Current and Future

Continued from page 1

shifting and damage to the old tiles is becoming increasingly noticeable. The hope is to find a good laminate that can be placed over the existing floor. We hope to avoid the need to remove all the tiles and then grind the concrete to level!!

Estimated cost is in the range of \$60,000.00 and several financing options are being explored.

4. Replacement of the existing reader sign. Our reader/announcement sign dates back to the old church. Upgrading to a modern, easier to operate system, has been under consideration for some time. However, it has been tabled due to the priority of the above items.

As progress on these items occurs, we will keep you informed.

Al Baumruck, Trustee Chair

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. The 2026 books are available on the top shelf of the church library 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.

Ghostwriters: Enslaved Christians and the Making of the Bible

Have you ever wondered who actually physically wrote the Bible's New Testament? Candida Moss explains how the New Testament was written in her book *God's Ghostwriters: Enslaved Christians and the Making of the Bible*.

Enslaved Christians were instrumental in the spread of Christianity. The disciples dictated Jesus's teachings to enslaved workers who used shorthand to capture their stories on wax tablets. The enslaved persons later transferred the information from the wax tablets into parchment paper or papyrus. This was a very arduous process.

Other enslaved people were trained readers who would deliver the gospel at parties and gatherings hosted by their enslavers.

Candida Moss's book provides a glimpse of what life was like in the Roman occupied areas. She also explains how the enslaved workers were so important in the spread of Christianity.

This book can be checked out of the church library. It is located in the UWF bookshelf along with many other interesting books. Please visit our church library and broaden your horizons!

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.

Where Do Craft Faire Proceeds Go? - Part 3

People sometimes ask, “Why do United Women in Faith members work so hard to raise money with their craft faire?” Good question! All of the profits from the UWF Heavenly Holiday Market the first Saturday of November are given away to more than twenty local, national and international charities and missions that focus on women and children. This month we will highlight Empty Bowls and Earth Angels that receive funds from our local UWF.

For 25 years, **Earth Angels** has provided support to families experiencing disease, death or emergencies. Helen Clark started this group of volunteers to help families grieving the loss of a child. Over the years they expanded their effort for children in the hospital or foster care, veterans going through cancer treatment, and others in need of comfort. Earth Angels is there with handmade blankets, hats gowns. They work with hospitals and community health centers in Northern California and Nevada.

During 2025, Earth Angels volunteers provided 541 children’s quilted or crocheted blankets, 730 comfort blankets for women, men and teens, 123 adult and teen hats, 128 baby & child hats, 174 full tern baby hats & booties, 125 blessing gowns for premies or babies that have passed away.

Empty Bowls brings together community groups and individual potters to make bowls. The group holds a dinner fundraising event in October where local restaurants donate soups, salads and pastas and attendees can purchase the handmade bowls. Douglas County Empty Bowls donates its proceeds to the Carson Valley Community Food Closet. Community. Diners are encouraged to purchase bowls that serve as a reminder of those struggling with hunger in the community. In past years UWF have made bowls for the event.

May UWF Meeting

The United Women in Faith (UWF) will meet on Thursday, May 14 in the Carson Valley United Methodist Church, education room. The monthly potluck luncheon begins at 11:30 am and the program with the City of Refuge Baby Shower begins at 12:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

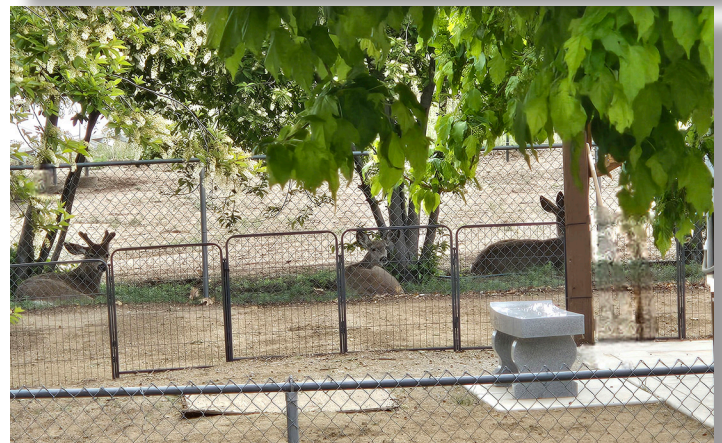


The list of City of Refuge needs are posted on the UWF bulletin board. If you can not attend, please bring your wrapped gift and put in the baby basket in the Narthex.

April UWF Meeting Recap

The program for the April UWF meeting was presented by Juan Guzman and Judy Larquier of the Carson Valley Trail Association. <https://carsonvalleytrails.org/> They shared information on the development of local trails and how land can be conserved for open spaces. Their website has information on more than 60 miles of trails in our local area.

UWF also voted on their selection for a Heifer International \$500 donation which included a gift of clean water, a goat, Earth Gift basket and a flock of chickens.



Men Resting - Above: Three men from the choir take a break in the Fellowship Hall. Below: A buck deer and his small harem also taking a break. Kathy Wicker caught both groups on the same day.

Empty Bowl Illustration by Ali Raza on Unsplash

United Women in Faith Craft Workshops!

Hope to see you on the first and third Mondays from 9:30 am - noon for the 2026 Craft Workshops. The next two workshops will be Monday, May 4 and May 18 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. The Heavenly Holiday Market on Saturday November 7 will be here before we know it!



In the Carson Valley even the storms are beautiful! Here is a retreating storm captured by Kathy Wicker.

May Devotional

John 20:25 *So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”*

Beholding one another’s wounds

I often reflect with my wife, Losa, on how far we have come as a married couple. Even though we have been married for only five years, we had known each other for more than four years before she said yes to my proposal. Through our time together, we have experienced early storms of disagreements, challenges, and shortcomings.

We have walked a short walk in marriage with one another, but we continue to embrace the journey of holy matrimony as a pastoral family for the church. I remember when we were called to Gardnerville in the year 2023. I was fresh out of

seminary, and I had passed my licensing interview with the District Committee in the Bay Area. The month was May. My family and I were about to experience a major change in our lives that required us to relocate away from our families.

Moreover, I was working my shift one afternoon when I received a call from the District Superintendent of the Great Northern District, asking me to serve in northern Nevada. We had a brief conversation, and he gave me a whole day to think about this important appointment in another state. I shared with Losa my interest in serving as a pastor to a community with no Tongan people, far from family, and in a different climate.

Eventually, I accepted the appointment to Carson Valley UMC, which brought early signs of grief and separation anxiety in both of us because we would have to leave our families. The relocation was a challenging factor for Losa; she had never lived outside of California. As we furthered into the weeks of the Annual Conference, we did a lot of praying, talking, and crying. Things were changing, and our lives were transitioning from civilian to church clergy.

My name was called before the conference as a licensed pastor and appointed to Carson Valley UMC. Our families were emotional, and we were still anticipating how this next step would unfold. As we traveled to Nevada, we drove past Kyburz, Strawberry, and Markleeville. I held my wife’s hand as we approached the opening roads of the 88 into Gardnerville. My wife was relieved and at peace because the scenery was not only majestic, but the calmness of the summer season and the layout of the valley from afar brought a sense of relief to all of us. It was different. It was transformative. It was holy.

Learning from this month’s devotion, we are like Thomas. To justify his faith, he had to see Jesus’ wounds. This was new to him, and he was terrified. He held Jesus’ hands, felt His wounds, and wanted to see Him for relief. I often reflect on how much “hurt” exists in the world as I watch the news, scroll through social media, and listen to interviews about our current social climate. Sometimes I ask: Does the world need its hand held in this new transition of life?

Church family, what wounds do you bear with one another? What is our community or world calling on us to hold in care and support? Will you be a cross-bearer in these challenging times of war and hostility? May God continue to reign and build his kingdom among His church. Amen.

UWF Secretary Linda Malconian

One of the continuing United Women in Faith officers is Secretary, Linda Malconian. She grew up in Southern California, the eldest of six siblings. Linda's childhood summers were at the beach, Disneyland or Knott's Berry Farm, and skiing at Big Bear in winter. Living there allowed her to see the Beatles at Dodger stadium in 1964, ride in Goodyear blimp in 1999, and attend many concerts at the Hollywood bowl, including Tom Jones, Rod Stewart, Cyndi Lauper and John Williams concerts.

Linda had 2 children- son, Michael and daughter Randi and 2 grandchildren- Leilani -20, Zayden - 12. She worked in banking then got into corporate work for Mitsubishi Electric, which she loved for almost 30 years

One of her passions was philanthropy at Mitsubishi, chairing their philanthropy committee. She was always involved planning and organizing fundraisers and service projects for children with disabilities. Her work allowed her to travel all over the country. She's used her talent to help plan several UWF special events.

Linda retired from Mitsubishi 2020 and moved to Gardnerville to help her Mom. She enjoys people, outdoor concerts, board/card games, movies, golf, amateur photography (clouds and sunsets) and scrapbooking. It took her four years to make her mom a scrapbook of her life. She gave to her mom on her 80th birthday.



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. The next collection day will be Monday, May 18

If you think someone would like receiving an item as a gift, it probably will be perfect for us. No clothing, please.

Thank you: Alison Grey, Marsha Gallegos, & Brenda Hulphers.

Did you Know?..... Fun Fact #3

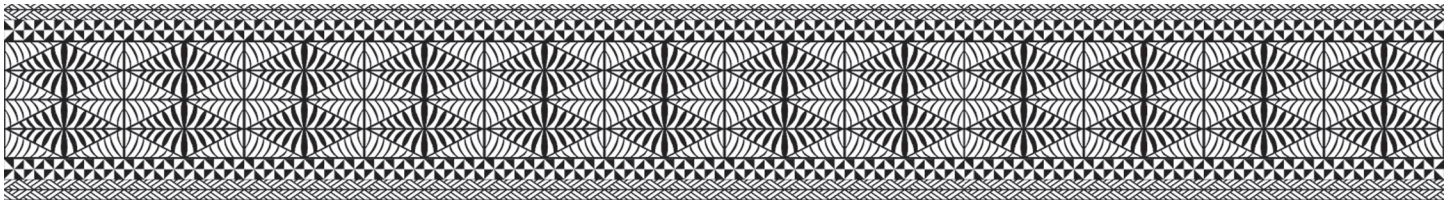
by Tammy Owens

Many college/university alma maters are set to traditional hymn tunes. Some examples: University of Pittsburg is set to the tune "O Tannenbaum", Georgetown University is set to the tune "All Through the Night" and Ohio State used "Come, Christians Join to Sing," also known as "Madrid." Other hymns used are "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" and "The Church's One Foundation"

BUT... the most common tune used was "Annie Lisle" composed in 1857 by H. S. Thompson. This melody has been used by over 100 colleges for their alma maters. The lyrics were changed to fit each individual school. Just to name a few of the schools: Cornell, Michigan State, Colorado State, William and Mary, and the University of Alabama.

Writing lyrics to already existing songs has been a common practice for hundreds of years and is still widely used today. Two well known examples are: (1) Most people think that the melody for Twinkle twinkle little star/ABC song was written by Mozart but in fact the melody was a French folk song composed in 1761 entitled "Ah! Vous dirai-je, maman." Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart composed 12 variations on this existing melody (K.265) in 1781. (2) The melody of "God Save the King" written in the 1590s was used by Samuel Francis Smith in 1831 to write the patriotic song "My Country 'Tis of Thee" (America). He used this melody because it was already widely known throughout Europe and in America.

I bet that many of you at some creative/silly point in your life have changed the words to a favorite song to better fit your mood or situation, I know I have. If you haven't, try it sometime....it can be really fun!!!



For the month of May, I wanted to introduce a new worship series titled “Stories that matter.” The worship series will examine key stories in the gospel accounts that offer truthful testimony from followers who wrestled with the message of death and resurrection. Jesus has a way of preparing his disciples for the life-changing events ahead, in which each disciple has a distinct curiosity about what will happen next.

I would say that we all have our own ways of questioning our journey of faith as believers of Jesus Christ. Many of us are similar to the disciple Thomas, needing to touch or witness a physical entity to draw our faith closer to the Lord. Maybe some are like the Apostle Paul, experiencing a traumatic event that changes one’s trajectory of defining the gospel in one’s personal life.

Furthermore, our stories matter. When Jesus’ disciples are commissioned, as referenced in Matthew 28:16-20, he instructs them in these words: Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you. Part of teaching and being a light of hope in the world is sharing our experiences as disciples of Jesus. If we are not able to share our stories with one another, then we avoid acknowledging the grace of God that continues to be with us.

As we move deeper into the worship series, we will discover the objective of Jesus’ words to his disciples. His words were meant to encourage them to share their testimony of discipleship with the world, because it would reveal a life lived in true transformation. The apostle John tells us in his last chapter: This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

Carson Valley, what is your story as a follower of Christ? Have you shared your experiences with a neighbor or someone in church? Could your story draw someone in the community closer to Christ? May your stories continue to live on, for Christ is risen, He has risen indeed!



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

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