



# Share The Spirit

Monthly Publication of the Carson Valley United Methodist Church      October 2026



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## Monthly Devotion

Before I became a pastor, I really got to know Christ through rolling up my sleeves and serving my community. Growing up in the Bay Area, I saw firsthand just how many people struggled with homelessness across places like Vallejo, Oakland, Richmond, San Francisco, Antioch, San Jose, and Hayward. Most folks without homes lived in tent cities or stayed in shelters run by non profits.

Over the last five years, the number of people living on the streets has jumped by 73%. It shows just how tough it’s been to find real solutions. When I started my first year at Pacific School of Religion, one of our graduation requirements was to do a social transformation project for class.

Our class got invited to pitch in and help build tiny homes in West Oakland, right off the 980. A nonprofit and some generous donors backed the project and wanted to do something real about homelessness in the East Bay. They needed people to hammer nails, haul some materials, and show up for sponsored weekends.

I remember when we talked it over as a class, we all agreed to give up a couple of weekends to help out. We felt like it was a real way to stand up for people who don’t always get heard and to shine a light on what’s really going on. In this reflection, I remember one of this month’s epistles: *Philippians 3:8, which says, “More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”*

As we wrapped up the last few days of the build, my heart was full of all the emotions we’d shared. I finally got what Paul meant when he talked about loss—it’s not just about giving up something. It’s about making space for something way bigger, something eternal. I saw Jesus in those hard places, in the darkness, in the struggle. That’s what it means to really know God through Christ. My hope is that you can see your own losses as a way to find hope, growth, and something even greater in Christ.

“Bay Area Homelessness | Bay Area Council Economic Institute.” n.d. Bay Area Council Economic Institute. Accessed September 15, 2026.



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## Scripture & Sermons For October

“Walking With Jesus”

### October 4, 2026 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost (World Communion)

Matthew 21:33-46

Sermon Scripture - Matthew 21:42: Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’[a]?”

THEME: Jesus, the cornerstone

### October 11, 2026 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost (Confirmation, Sabbath)

Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon Scripture - Philippians 4:9 9 As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

THEME: Stand firm in Jesus

### October 18, 2026 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost (Laity Sunday) Recorded

Matthew 22:15-22

Sermon Scripture - Matthew 22:21 21 They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

THEME: Governance and God

### October 25, 206 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 22:34-46

Sermon Scripture - Matthew 22:37-39 37 He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38: This is the greatest and first commandment. 39: And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

THEME: The Law of Love



Banner photo is an old one by Tony Hoefner taken on one of his and Martha’s camping outings. The remainder are all 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 and organizations that are in need of prayer. Please stop by and take a prayer slip and pray for that person during the week.



## Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child's Shoeboxes are ready for packing! What a blessing to participate in this international ministry for the third year!! Little did Jill & David Cooke realize in 1990 as they filled & sent shoeboxes to Romanian orphanages that their efforts would become a worldwide outreach! Their project merged with Samaritan's Purse in 1993 and shoeboxes are now shipped from the United States, Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom to more than 175 countries & territories (12.2 million boxes in 2025)!

Please obtain an empty shoebox or two from the narthex! Each box contains lots of information, instructions, packing suggestions and a few items to aid in the "remove all packaging" request. This year organizers have noted that there is always a shortage of gifts for 10 to 14 year olds (hint, hint) and stressed the importance of including a small personal note. Return labeled gift-filled boxes to the wicker chest in the church's library no later than November 22nd and pray for the kiddo that will receive YOUR gift! Thank you for participating!

CVUMC will cover the \$10 handling donation for each box. HOWEVER, to track a box (QR code on age/gender label), you will be asked to donate \$10. For tons more information about Operation Christmas Child and Samaritan's Purse: [samaritanaspurse.org](http://samaritanaspurse.org).

## 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 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. Contact Pam Forest with any questions.

Julia Lamber Fogg's book *Finding Jesus at the Border* encourages us think about the Biblical parallels of current exiles and immigrants to the exiles and immigrants in the Bible. Jesus and his family fled the persecution of the Romans when they fled to Egypt. Fogg provides comparisons to recent immigrants who came to this country seeking asylum after death threats in their own countries. Ruth and Naomi were destitute immigrants when left to their own wits and resilience after husbands and sons died. They took the lowest of jobs and gleaned grain in the fields after harvest to survive, just as immigrant women trying to support their families now. The author provides the biblical verses that describe the role of the church in helping families in need. She examines Paul's role from a Roman prison as an exile proclaiming Jesus's message to the new churches across the Mediterranean. One example is husband and wife pastors who came to the US to study and overstayed their visas. When they tried to legally extend their visas, they were scammed by a fake lawyer and lost most of their money. Finally after 25 years of working hard, being pastors and trying to follow the rules they were deported.

Fogg closes her book with suggestions for what individuals can do to help current immigrants. 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!

Many of the books on the new UWF reading list are available at the Minden Library. One such book from the 2027 UWF Reading List is *A Council of Dolls* by Mona Susan Power. The fictional novel tells the story of three generations of Native American women through the dolls they each had. While the stories are painful at times, the book also tells of healing and love. The lives of the three women are impacted by the Indian boarding schools and historical massacres, and their dolls and their spirits tell of the trauma and the survival. By working backward through time, the book keeps you enthralled by the connections you see unfolding. Y'all should check this one out.

## Sweet Invitation!

From barks and brittles to truffles and toffees, candies make the holidays extra merry! The holiday flavors people crave around Christmas will again be available in the colorful CandyLand booth at this year's Heavenly Holiday Market on November 7.

We invite you to dust off your favorite candy recipes and donate a batch or two to this fundraising effort.

A sign up sheet is posted on the UWF bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. You can add your name starting October 1. It's vital for us to know ahead of Market day what candies to expect. Candy is due at church by noon on Friday, November 6. Many thanks, Ann Santos



## Calling all Bakers!

Share your favorite homemade cake, pie or cookie with the UWF's Holiday Market Bake Sale.

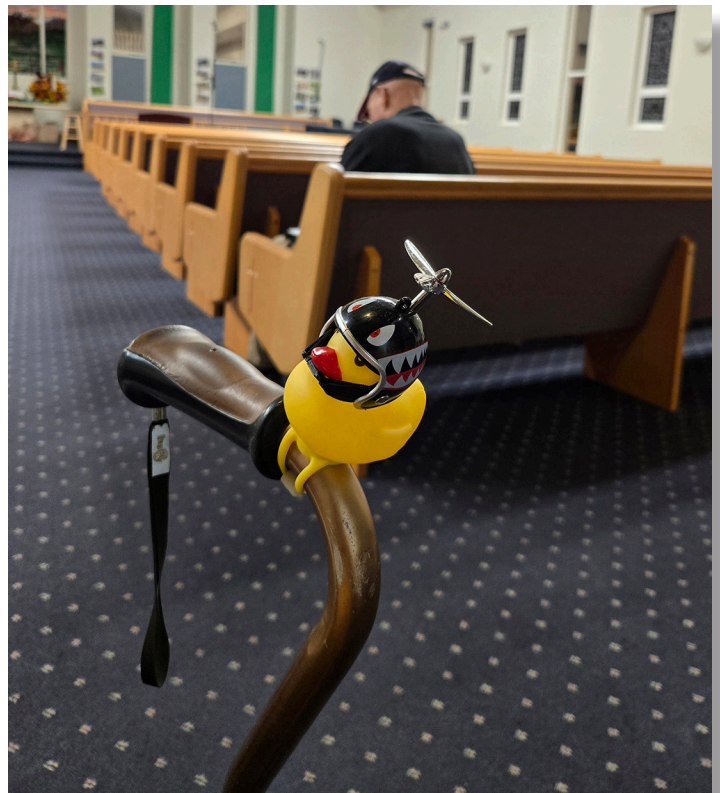
ALL baked goods are to be at the church by NOON on Friday, November 6.

ALL items must be shelf and sale-ready -- wrapped in clear wrap, labeled as to what it is, any "warnings" that might cause an allergy (nuts, coconut, etc.). Much needed are gluten-free and sugar-free items. Feel free, though, to decorate with stickers, ribbon, etc. Do not price as the bakery staff will do that.

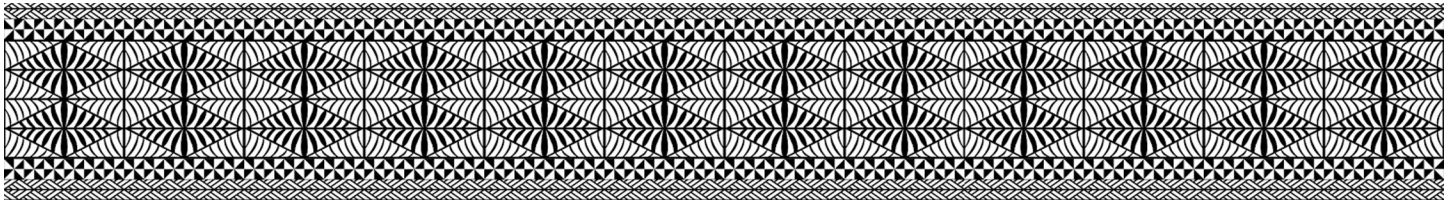
Please no cream pies or anything that needs refrigeration. (The kitchen staff will not let us into the kitchen!) All baked goods are due at church by noon on Friday, November 6. Contact Penny Puente with questions.



*We Thank You Lord!*



*Our friend Al may have a new hip, but he still has his old, familiar sense of humor. In case you are wondering, this is his cane.*



This month, our worship series, entitled “Pressing On,” serves to recenter the congregation as Christ’s church amid the demands of contemporary life, particularly as the Advent season approaches. The forthcoming holiday period is anticipated to bring an increase in responsibilities and objectives, reflecting the heightened activity characteristic of this time of year.

During these periods, individuals must navigate the complexities of fulfilling diverse obligations, whether pertaining to professional, familial, communal, or ecclesiastical commitments. The theme of “Pressing On” invites continued perseverance along these pathways, guided by the Holy Spirit, whose presence offers solace and the peace of God.

Inevitably, there will be periods of fatigue as we persist in our journey under the grace of God. The experience of busyness serves as an indicator of engagement with the multifaceted realities of life. Furthermore, as these journeys become increasingly demanding and formative, it is imperative to remain cognizant of our responsibilities and actions as members of Christ’s church within the broader world.

The majority of scriptural readings assigned for this month will extend ongoing discussions concerning the parables of Jesus, which collectively underscore the imperative of prioritizing time for God, even amidst demanding schedules. Allocating time for spiritual engagement transcends participation in Sunday worship and encompasses the pursuit of opportunities to serve God in various contexts. It is encouraged that individuals integrate devotional practices—such as scriptural study, prayer, and fellowship—within their daily lives, thereby embodying the role of Christ’s followers as exemplars within their communities.

Pastor Latu Paea

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## A Brother’s Duty

Last month, I traveled to my home state of California to fulfill an important family obligation: the baptism of my niece, Talafungani, daughter of my younger sister. The ceremony took place at our family’s church, Falehufanga United Methodist Church in Belmont, California.

One may wonder why I approach this responsibility with such seriousness. In Tongan culture, brothers are obligated to support their sisters and their families during significant milestones, such as baptisms, cultural birthdays, weddings, and funerals. This duty is a time-honored custom that pays tribute to the matriarchal nature of our culture, encapsulated in the proverb, “‘api ‘a fafine,” meaning a Tongan home is governed by women.

Tongan culture holds numerous traditions that honor women’s voices. I was taught that women safeguard our culture, maintain order within families, and nurture the community with love and empathy. As men, our role is to support and respect the women in our community, viewing every female as a sister or mother.

Within our individual families, women are regarded as the true treasures. The mutual respect between brothers and sisters is invaluable, as it

reflects the sacred unity of men and women within the community. Losa and I, alongside some of the most humbling people, dedicated time to honor my niece’s baptism by making a meal for our home church. I was relieved that friends and family shared the physical demands of the preparation as we prepared an entire feast for our home church congregation.

However, this obligation does not end with me; should I be absent, my children will continue to uphold this tradition of supporting my sisters and their families. I witnessed my father honor this custom throughout my upbringing, and I observed the happiness it brought him when fulfilled. Fulfilling such duties fosters honor, respect, mutuality, and humility among siblings. Personally, I found great joy in seeing my sister and her family happy, and this responsibility strengthened our family bond.

I believe that, as members of Christ’s church, we are called to support one another in both challenging and joyful times, for we are united as one church under the presence of God through Jesus Christ. I hope this reflection has provided some insight into my culture, which revolves around family, love, faith, and respect. May you continue to honor your own cultures and values as you live as instruments of God’s work.

## Where Do Craft Faire Proceeds Go? - Part 7

Each year our local UMW supports more than 20 charities and missions related to women, children and families with funds generated at our annual Heavenly Holiday Faire in November. This month we highlight three more:

**Project School Days** is a long-running non-profit organization in Gardnerville, Nevada, that provides school supplies and assistance to local students in need. Since 1997 Project School Days has provided thousands of students and teachers with much-needed school supplies to help support academic success. School Administrators and teachers can submit confidential requests for supplies to help students who would benefit from support in obtaining items for school. These items can include everything from binders, pencils, and backpacks to calculators, notebooks, and pencil pouches. As the program expanded and collections increased, our local Carson Valley United Methodist Church stepped in to provide a space large enough to accommodate the growing number of items.

**Awaken** is a faith-based non-profit organization on a mission to eradicate commercial sexual exploitation. With a focus on providing housing, education, and holistic restoration services, we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with survivors, giving them the tools they need to reclaim their lives and build brighter futures. We offer our Awaken Center, housing, and case management services for individuals affected by commercial sexual exploitation in Reno. Education, therapy, mentoring, employment and housing assistance are all offered. They also support victimized youth in the form of therapy, case management, education, and mentorship. Our education center, youth achievement group, and summer program help them achieve their goals and transition back into a normal life. <https://www.awakenjustice.org/>

**Xquisite** is dedicated to bringing freedom and empowerment to survivors of sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, sexual assault, and domestic violence to live healthy, flourishing lives. Xquisite provides around the clock services through Diamond Strong Freedom Center located in the heart of Nevada's Capital City. All services are at no cost to our diamonds. Services are always confidential, and with no strings attached. <https://www.xquisite.org/>



*The critter collection has grown. The current emphasis seems to be on African animals with one comparatively gigantic horse from North America.*



**Saturday October 31, 2026**

**4:30 p.m. -6:00 p.m.**

All children are invited to come in costume with a container to enjoy Trick or Treating, Bounce Houses, games & lots of fun!

**All free of charge!!!**

Get creative and decorate your trunk!! Add a simple game for the kids to play or just hand out some treats!!! Please see Laura Engel for more information!



# The Cross and Flame



The official logo of The United Methodist Church (UMC), known as the Cross and Flame, was created and formally adopted in 1968 following the merger of The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

## Creation and Design

- The Creators: The insignia was designed by Edward J. Mikula, an art director trained at the Art Institute of Chicago, and Edwin H. Maynard, an editorial director experienced in Christian symbolism and theology.

- The Process: Tasked by the uniting conference to build an expression of warmth, the creators developed over two dozen conceptual designs before settling on the final combination of a traditional cross and a single flame with two tongues of fire.

- Adoption and Trademark: The General Conference formally adopted the design in 1968 (in versions with and without lettering), and it was registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as No. 917,433 in 1971. The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) has supervised its use and integrity since 1996.

## Symbolism and Meaning

- The Cross: Connects the church to God through Jesus Christ.

- The Flame: Represents the Holy Spirit and recalls the Day of Pentecost ("tongues, as of fire" in Acts 2:3).

- John Wesley's Heart: Honors the spiritual awakening of Methodism founder John Wesley when he felt his heart "strangely warmed" on Aldersgate Street.

- Dual Tongues: Symbolizes the historic 1968 union of the two predecessor denominations.

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## Holiday Market is Coming!! - How can You Help?

Our local United Women in Faith use the profits generated by the November 7 Heavenly Holiday Market to support more than 20 local charities and missions that focus on women and children.

Last year more than \$14,000 was raised in one day for missions and charities. It is UWF's only fund raiser of the year, and there are many opportunities to get involved. October is the last

push for completing crafts to sell at the Heavenly Holiday Market. Baking, making candy, donating raffle baskets, food for lunch and silent auction items are just a few of the ways you can help to make the Market a success. Ingredients are needed for the cinnamon rolls this year, plus lunch ingredients. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Market Chair, Sharon Calvert if you would like to volunteer to help. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to attend.

It's also time to start thinking about items for raffle baskets and the silent auction. We are collecting items for the themed raffle baskets and any donations are appreciated (gift cards, items, or complete baskets). Items can fit any theme you wish. We will have a big variety and items will fit somewhere! Thank you so much for your support. Questions - Jan Pohlman or Linda Kozak. Baskets and any donations for them must be in by Tuesday, November 3. A container is in the front entrance for items. Please give Gift cards directly to Jan Pohlman.

Silent Auction items are needed by Monday, November 2. Silent Auction Donations could "Experiences," Timeshare weeks, Wild horse excursion, dinners, concert tickets, or items valued over \$50. Please contact Nancy Deis or Sharon Hoelscher Day with any questions or to donate an item.

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## Member Care Thank You



*Thank you to all who provided great food for the September Potluck. A special shout out to Chic Moxley for smoking the tri-tip and our Len for sharing his amazing car collection. It's always a great time when we can "break bread together" The next potluck will be in November. -- Member Care Committee*

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

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## United Women in Faith Craft Workshops!

Time is running short!! Mark your calendar for every Mondays from 9:30 - noon for the 2026 Craft Workshops beginning after Labor Day. 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.

All crafts are due at church on November 2. The week of November 2 -6 will be the set-up for Heavenly Holiday Market.

## October UWF Meeting and Luncheon

Mark your calendar for October 8, the second Thursday of the month. The UWF group will meet 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. September's program will be presented by Advocates to End Domestic Violence.

There are no dues for United Women of Faith, just come and enjoy the Christian fellowship and good food.