



Share The Spirit

Monthly Publication of the Carson Valley United Methodist Church September 2026

Summer Discipleship Bible Study

Book of Ezra

Praise be to God, whose Word endures eternally. During the summer, I facilitated a five-week Bible study centered on the book of Ezra. The objective of this study was to explore discipleship from a Christian perspective, specifically informed by Wesleyan principles as articulated within United Methodist tradition.

Each week, participants engaged with two chapters of Ezra, employing the four components of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral: Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. The book of Ezra narrates the account of Israel’s exile and subsequent release from Babylon after seventy years of captivity. This narrative encompasses themes of reconstruction, adversity, faith, and uncertainty. Weekly discussions incorporated parallels to contemporary situations within both church and community contexts, prompting reflection on the ongoing responsibilities of discipleship within these settings.

As your pastor, I bear the responsibility of educating and instructing congregants in the core beliefs of United Methodist Church (UMC) doctrine. Furthermore, the study sought to address contemporary challenges encountered by believers—including addiction, homelessness, mental health, and political differences—which often evoke varied perspectives within the faith community.

Throughout the discussion, participants were encouraged to articulate emotional responses to the scripture and to identify novel insights gleaned from the assigned readings. The diversity of perspectives shared by participants underscores the dynamic and inspired nature of the Word of God.

At the conclusion of the Bible study, participants partook in communion as a tangible affirmation of their responsibility to manifest the love of Christ within the community and the wider world. I hope that each individual was imbued with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.



In This Issue

2026 Reading Program	3
Car Show	3
Confirmation.....	3
Craft Faire Proceeds Part 7.....	6
Craft Workshops.....	5
Holiday Market Help.....	5
Pastor’s Message	7
Project School Days.....	4
Scripture & Sermons September.....	2
Summer Discipleship Bible Study ...	1
UWF Calendar	6
Welcome Back UWF	3



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Scripture & Sermons for September

“Lessons in leadership”

September 6, 2026 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Laura Bridwell

Matthew 18:15-20

Sermon Focus - Reconciliation in the community of faith or how we should approach in solving conflicts, disagreements, and problems within the church.

September 13, 2026 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon Focus - 18:35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Theme: Serving Mercifully

September 20, 2026 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon Focus - Matthew 20:1-2 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. (20:2) After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.

Theme: Working Together

September 27, 2026 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon Focus:

Matthew 21:24-25 Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.

(21:25) Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’

Theme: When we are questioned



The banner photo of hay harvest and Silver Lake are by Kathy Wicker. Sharon Hoelscher-Day gave us the UWF Summer Tea photos, and Project School Days is as yet uncredited.



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.

Fall Welcome Back UWF Meeting and Luncheon

Mark your calendar for Sept. 17, the third Thursday— this month only due to a scheduling conflict. 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 Brian Fitzgerald, president of the Carson Valley Arts Council and featured update on the Cinema/Community Arts Center.

Carson Valley Arts Council's youth and community programs, concert series and 6th Annual Carson Valley Art Studio Tour will also be highlighted.

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

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



Confirmation!

Pastor Latu, Laura Bridwell, and Nancy Deis are guiding middle schoolers at our church through six weeks of learning about prayer, faith, the sacraments, the Bible, and the United Methodist Church.

This class will celebrate their confirmation on October 11 (which also happens to be Children's Sabbath in the UMC). We encourage everyone to attend the first service that day to join in our celebration of and commitment to these students

2026 UWF Reading Program

All women of UWF are encouraged to read! We just submitted the names of nine readers who completed the reading program for 2026. 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. Expand your knowledge and spiritual growth by reading. Contact Pam Forest with any questions.

Many of us know George Takei as Captain Sulu on Star Trek. In the book *They Called Us Enemy*, George Takei describes his family's incarceration in two different Japanese internment camps in the USA during World War II.

While the book is a quick read due to many illustrations, it is very informative about the daily suffering in the internment camps and the injustice of the internment. It is important that we all educate ourselves about mistakes that have been made in the past so that history does not repeat itself.

Did you know that prior to WWII, immigrants from Asian countries were not eligible for US citizenship? This book along with many other educational books are available in the church library in the United Women in Faith bookcase.



Latu does not seem too sure of this particular critter.

Project School Days

Since originating in Douglas County 29 years ago, Project School Days has provided thousands of students and teachers with much needed school supplies to help support academic success. This program was started by two Carson Valley women, Marilyn Malkmus and Alice Nalder to help families experiencing financial hardship. Initially the supplies were stored in a barn. As time moved on, the location moved to our very own Methodist Church.

The process begins when administrators and teachers submit requests for supplies to help students have a successful school year. These items can include everything from binders, pencils, and backpacks to calculators, ear buds, and pencil pouches. The Project School Days committee shops for all of these needed items. After filling each request, the supplies are delivered to each school site during the second week of school.

The Project School Days efforts are made possible through donations from local businesses, individuals, and service clubs. These generous donations will continue to make this program a success in years to come.

The mission statement of Project School Days is “A Helping Hand for the Greatest Asset Douglas County Has — Our Children.”





Visitors: Rev. Dr. George Edd-Bennett and his wife Sonya, pictured here with Losa and Latu, visited Carson Valley UMC on August 30. Dr. Edd-Bennett is Director of Vital Leadership and Engaged Discipleship for our Conference.



Gwen and Sharon enjoying the very successful Sundresses and Sandals event.

Holiday Market - 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 for missions and charities. See the article on page six for information about two of those charities.

It is UWF's only fundraiser of the year. 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 Faire a success. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall or contact Market Chair, Sharon Calvert. Invite your friends and neighbors!

It's time again to start thinking about items for raffle baskets and the silent auction. We are collecting items for the themed raffle baskets and any donations would be appreciated. Items can fit any theme you wish. We will have a big variety and items will fit somewhere! There will be a collection tote in the narthex in October for donations. Thank you so much for your support. Contact Jan Pohlman or Linda Kozak with questions.

Silent Auction items are needed by Monday, October 27. and those donations can be "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.

UWF Craft Workshops!

Mark your calendar for every Monday from 9:30 - noon for the 2026 Craft Workshops beginning after Labor Day on September 14. 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 finished crafts are due at church November 2. November 2 -6 will be the set-up for Heavenly Holiday Market.

Timeless Treasures

Thank you all for your help! The next donation day will be September 21. It will be the LAST collection day, so act now. Your donations are the reason Timeless Treasures will be successful. Contact Alison Grey, Marsha Gallegos, or Brenda Hulphers with any questions.

Where Do Craft Faire Proceeds Go? - Part 7

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:

Boys and Girls Club of Western Nevada - Carson Valley Branch

In collaboration with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Western Nevada Club offers daily group and individual programs in 5 Core Program Areas: Character & Leadership, Education & Career Development, Health & Life Skills, The Arts and Sports, Fitness & Recreation. Learn more at <http://bgcwn.org/carson-valley/>

Kids & Horses

Kids & Horses is a non-profit organization that serves children and adults with disabilities in Northern Nevada through the use of horses.

Kids & Horses offers a variety of services, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and adaptive riding lessons.

All of the horses are owned by individuals in the community who lease them to Kids & Horses. Before officially joining the team, each horse must pass an intense 90-day trial. During the trial, they must demonstrate that they are comfortable with a variety of toys, wheelchairs, loud noises, having multiple people around them, different ways of mounting and more.

Serving those with special needs in our community, Kids & Horses was founded in 1999 and is one of only two premier PATH certified therapeutic riding centers in Northern Nevada, an area where children and adults with special needs are under-served. Learn more at <https://kidsandhorses.org>

Mind-Bending Observations

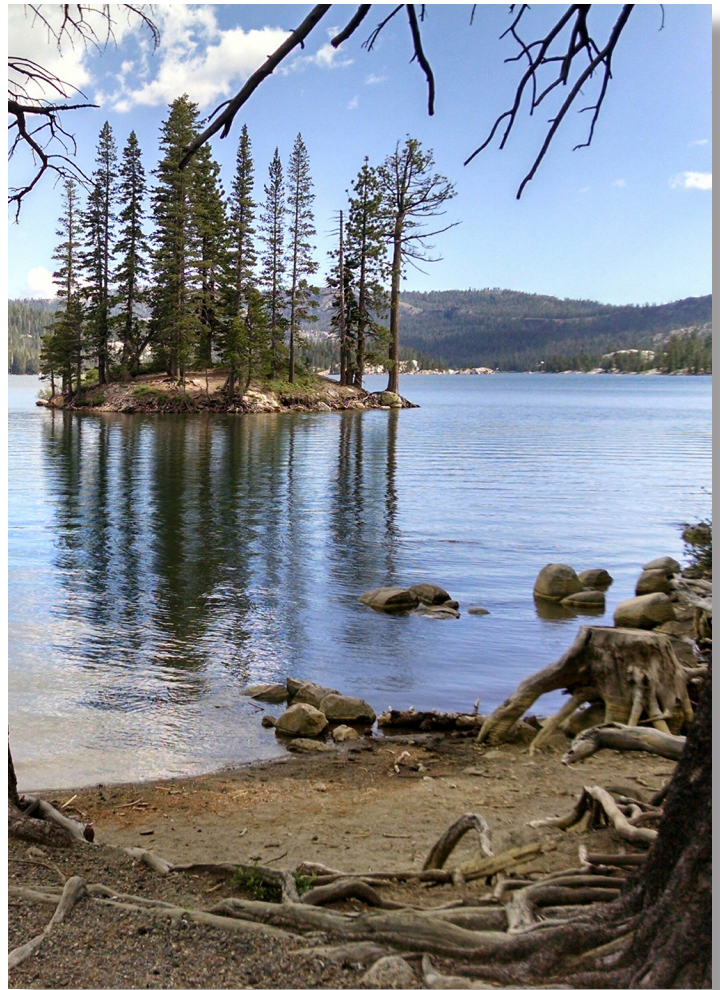
Domesticated Wind: Air conditioning is just indoor wind that humans have trained to stay cool.

Aging is realizing your body keeps receipts for everything you did in your twenties.

Sign in a hotel in Bucharest: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.

On a poster in Sydney: Are you an adult that cannot read? If so, we can help.

Pay no attention to the elephant in the room; it's ir-elephant.



Another amazing photo by Kathy Wicker. Nearby Silver Lake has an island in it that is not always in evidence. Sometimes the lake is too low, and the island blends into the shore.

UWF Calendar

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

Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28 - Craft Workshop 9:30 - noon

Sept. 17 - UWF Potluck Lunch and meeting - 11:30-1 p.m.

Sept. 21 - Timeless Treasurer donations - 10-am 12 p.m.

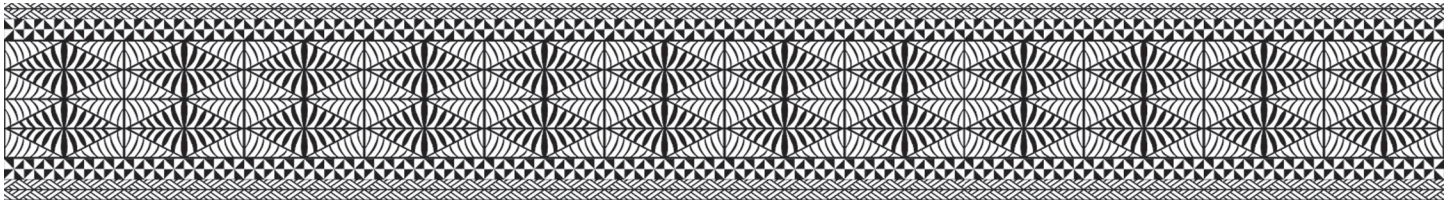
Oct. 8 - UWF Potluck Lunch and meeting - 11:30-1 p.m.

Oct. 10 - UWF Annual District Celebration

Nov. 2 - All craft due at church

Nov. 2 -6 - Set-up for Heavenly Holiday Market

Nov. 7 - Heavenly Holiday Market 9-4



As the fall season begins, we are reminded of God's enduring grace that has guided our journey into September. This year has proven significant for our faith community, marked by the celebration of numerous milestones within our church's ministry as well as collective mourning and mutual support during times of loss and adversity. The advent of a new month offers an opportunity for reflection and renewal. As C. S. Lewis asserted, "There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind." Within the context of the liturgical season of Pentecost, this transition invites us to critically reexamine and realign our faith journey, emphasizing Christ-like conduct as the foundation of our ecclesial identity.

The current worship series, entitled "Lessons in Leadership," seeks to facilitate communal re-engagement and self-reflection concerning the ethical imperatives of life in the body of Christ. Central to this series is an exegetical exploration of the Gospel of Matthew, wherein Jesus instructs his disciples on conflict resolution, merciful service, collaboration, and navigating complex questions.

It remains imperative to recall the mission statement of Carson Valley United Methodist Church: To know Christ and to help make Christ known in the world. Within contemporary society, characterized by violence, injustice, fear, and uncertainty, the church is called to embody Christ's teachings. Accordingly, our collective conduct must be governed by prudence and a commitment to manifesting hope, as exemplified by Christ's love and mercy.

God Bless You All, Pastor Latu



August 16 - Gwen Marsh (piano) & Lou Groffman (cello) performed the duet "Where Ere You Walk" written by George Frideric Handel.



Nancy's sheepdog, Sue Ann, revealed that she has been in obedience training as well as special training for guiding sheep away from danger.

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

Worship Schedule *Sundays*

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Hope to see you then & there.

