

Share The Spirit

Monthly Publication of the Carson Valley United Methodist Church

February 2026



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The New Container

You may have noticed, or maybe not, there is a new, smaller, container out behind the Church. No, they do not re-produce by fission, the newbie belongs to the California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church (CNUMC), more specifically the Disaster Response Ministry (DRM). It contains various supplies intended for assisting disaster victims clean up after an occurrence. Buckets, masks, sifting frames, hygiene kits, solar powered phone chargers, etc.

Previously it was stored at a location in Lassen County and was not accessible during winter months. They needed a better more accessible location, we have the space, and after establishing a Memorandum of Understanding, we got it. Yes, they fully understand that we do get bad weather conditions too, but our situation is way better than where it was.

So, for our part we are providing a location, keeping a key in case they need one, and we have painted it to match ours for neatness. (See photo on page 6.)

Our Church is not responsible for the contents, we are not doing inventory or issuing materials, and we are not responsible for purchasing, donating or adding to the supplies. Insurance is their responsibility. No cost to us and no rent charges for them. A good deal all around. Hopefully the contents will not be required very often, but the preparedness is a good ministry.

Al Baumruck, Trustee Chair

2025 Year End Summary

From The Finance Committee

This is your annual summary of the work the Finance Committee has been doing and our one chance to thank you all for your support. Your generous and regular giving to your Church made it possible to pay all our bills for the year including staff salaries, utilities, insurance expenses, office expenses, cleaning services, building maintenance and we paid all our tithe to the greater Church. We did this and still finished 2025 in the black. So, my Church family we are on solid ground financially and looking forward to 2026.

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We have been seeing some spectacular sunrises during the past few weeks, but the sunsets are keeping up. Kathy Wicker is keeping up as well. Thanks for this lovely banner photo Kathy. Sharon Hoelscher-Day gave us UWF pics, and Al Baumruck contributed the Conex photo.



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 February

Worship Series: Glory Revealed

February 1, 2026 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8
Sermon Scripture - Micah 6:8
Theme: What is good?

February 8, 2026 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a, 9b-12
Sermon Scripture - Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Theme: Call to Action

February 15, 2026 - Transfiguration Sunday

Matthew 17:1-9
Theme: Listen to Him

**Lenten Worship Series: Renewed in Mercy **

February 18, 2026 - Ash Wednesday

Psalms 51:1-17
Sermon Scripture - Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, Oh God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
Theme: A Clean Heart and a New Spirit

February 22, 2026 - First Sunday in Lent

Matthew 4:1-11
Theme: Serve only Him

February UWF Meeting

The United Women in Faith (UWF) will meet on Thursday, February 12 in the Carson Valley United Methodist Church, education room. The monthly potluck luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. and the program on Heart Health begins at 12:15 p.m.



Heart Health by Barrett Lichau, Exercise Physiologist & Maria Knight, Cardiac RN with Cardiac Rehabilitation, Carson Valley Health,

Everyone is welcome to start the new year with UWF.



Please Don't Feed The Animals

Yes, we now have **Horses** on the property behind the Church. The owner has asked that we not feed them. - Thank you, *Len Frueh*

But. . . Feeding the People is Okay:



Thank you to all who attended and brought soup, chili and desserts to go with the "delish" cornbread provided by the Member Care Team at the February "Warm Your Heart"

potluck. Watch this space for future Member Care events.

Love Your Neighbor Spaghetti Dinner

February 20

"Don't you just love a fun, family spaghetti dinner fund raiser? Please join us on Friday, February 20 at 5 p.m. for our First Annual 'Love Your Neighbor' dinner. (Dinner served from 5-6 p.m.).

Dinner includes Al's famous spaghetti meat sauce, garlic bread, salad, beverages and homemade desserts. **Tickets** are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 10 years and under. Tickets are available to purchase Sundays after each service up to the event. We will also have tickets at the door.

All proceeds go to our Community Needs Fund which covers rent assistance, utility bill assistance, propane refills, gas and bus money. If you can't make the dinner, please consider a monetary donation.

Bakers are also needed to provide desserts. See or email Julie Franklin if interested. Event is chaired by Julie Franklin and Al Baumruck. The Lord asks that we always Love Our Neighbor... what a fun and fellowship filled way to serve the needs of others. See you there!



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. We are currently in the process of selecting books to purchase from the 2026 reading list. The 2026 books will be available in February for checkout. To earn a reading certificate for 2026, one book from each of the following categories must be read. Contact Pam Forest with any questions.

New 2026 Books (with their Categories) are available in the church library

Education for Mission Category

• *Grace Can Lead Us Home: A Christian Call to End Homelessness* by Kevin Nye

• *Trash: A Poor White Journey* by Cedar Monroe

• *What We Remember Will Be Saved: A Story of Refugees and the Things They Carry* by Stephanie Saldaña

Leadership Development Category

• *The Deepest Place: Suffering and the Formation of Hope* by Curt Thompson

• *Leading Well* by Jeanne Porter King

• *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* by Janae Marks

Nurturing for Community Category

• *Namesake: Reflections on a Warrior Woman* by N. S. Nuseibeh

• *The Talk* by Darrin Bell

• *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

Social Action Category

• *Everyday Ubuntu: Living Better Together, The African Way* by Mungi Ngomane

• *Flowers of Fire: The Inside Story of South Korea's Feminist Movement and What it Means for Women's Rights Worldwide* by Hawon Jung

• *Seventy Times Seven: A True Story of Murder and Mercy* by Alex Mar

Spiritual Growth Category

• *God's Ghostwriters: Enslaved Christians and the Making of the Bible* by Candida Moss

• *A Faith of Many Rooms: Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity* by Debie Thomas

• *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

Year End Report

Continued from page 1

The 2025 Stewardship campaign was a rousing success. Using the theme of “Sowing the Seeds for the Harvest of God’s Church” members were encouraged to submit pictures of their favorite flowers with the estimate of giving card. All were amazed at how fast the estimates came in. Thank you all for your support.

More good news can be found in a review of those funds which are separate from the General Fund. A significant improvement can be seen in our Endowment Fund. This fund’s investments will eventually provide us with the stability we need to pay for all our grounds and building upkeep. Thanks to this year’s donations, we have nearly \$100K in the endowment fund, still a way to go to reach our goal of \$250K, but we are on our way.

The birthday bank was active again this past year. Cash is placed in the birthday bank each week during service to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, special events, etc. More than \$3500.00 was raised this year and subsequently given to organizations in Carson Valley designed to help children. Those organizations include: Douglas High School Hardship Fund, Carson Valley Youth Day, The Food Closet, Kids & Horses, Douglas County Library Children’s Programs, Kids’ Fishing Derby and the Arts Council.

Let me highlight two other programs that are used to help families in need in our Church and in our valley. These funds are also outside the General Fund and called Community Needs and Parish Outreach. These funds are sourced by donations from caring members and organizations in this Church including the UWF and from monthly Communion offerings. In 2025 nearly \$40,000 dollars were made available to help families in need from being evicted, utilities from being turned off, assistance with necessary auto repairs and a myriad of other necessities. This unique assistance gets little notice, so we are taking this moment to highlight the generosity and the love for one another that it represents.

Priorities for the 2026 budget execution and fund management will continue to focus on the Endowment Fund. As mentioned, it was strengthened significantly in 2025 and remains our long-term strategy for maintenance and upkeep of church property. Another priority for 2026 remains our general maintenance accounts. Significant improvements were made in 2025. The parking lot was repaved at the tune of \$22K. Outside and inside painting projects

were accomplished. Grounds maintenance was performed. All woodwork within the Church has been refurbished. As our building and grounds continue to age, we find ourselves needing to repair and replace failing equipment on a regular basis. This was extremely expensive in 2025 and will likely continue into 2026. The Trustees and this Finance Committee will keep our eyes on it.

So, in summary, 2025 was a blessed year for CVUMC finances. My thanks to the members of the finance committee for their service during this time. My appreciation to our pastor and our treasurer for their guidance. But most of all, thanks to our loving congregation for your faithful support of this Church.

Steve Hamilton, Finance Committee Chair



Kathy Wicker has a remarkable “eye” for catching the decisive moment in photos. Above she has caught a pair of doves on the cross. Reminds me of the song lyrics to “Wings of a Dove” written by Bob Ferguson in 1958. The song alludes to a passage from the Bible about God sending Noah a dove during the flood in Genesis 8:6-12. The title is inspired from Psalms 55:7 (“wings like a dove”).

Abbey's Crossing

The United Women in Faith is collecting supplies for Abbey's Crossing again this winter. Abbey's Crossing is a confidential shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. It is run by Family Support Council of Douglas County.

There is a list of needs on the UWF bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The March UWF meeting is the final collection date for Abbey's Crossing items. Contact Beverly Griffith Williams with any questions.

United Women in Faith Assembly in May

United Women in Faith is excited to announce that registration is now open for Assembly 2026, an unforgettable gathering of Christian women committed to putting faith into action. The event will be held May 15–17, 2026, in Indianapolis, Indiana, and is expected to draw thousands of women from across the country and the world.



Assembly 2026 is a once-every-four-years gathering of women committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. Picture a weekend that uplifts your soul, strengthens your faith, and brings you together with an unstoppable sisterhood.

With the theme “Dream it! Believe it! Do it!” Assembly 2026 will ignite hope and momentum as women come together for worship, sisterhood, workshops, and action. It's a space for spiritual renewal and bold imagination — where dreams are born and faith becomes movement.

For more information or registration, visit <https://assembly.uwfaith.org/website/82390/home/>

Timeless Treasures

Please bring your boutique-quality treasures to the church education room on the third Monday of each month between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. The first collection day will be Monday, February 16.

This is the perfect time to donate any Christmas (and other) items you no longer want! 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.

Contact Alison Grey, Marsha Gallegos, or Brenda Hulphers with any questions.

2026 UWF Officers and Board

The 2026 United Women in Faith Officers and Board members were installed by Maxan Hylton at the January UWF meeting. Photo: Right to left:

President: Tamara Brewer

VP - Programs: Barbara Graham

Secretary: Linda Malconian

Treasurer: Susan Hamarlund

Social Action: Beverly Griffith Williams

Spiritual Nurture: Marsha Gallegos

Communications : Sharon Hoelscher Day

Reading Program: Pam Forest

Sunshine: Carol Lucas

Hospitality: Nancy Deis

Craft Faire Chair: Sharon Calvert (not pictured)

Members at Large: Brenda Hulphers (not pictured) Nancy Raymond and Ann Santos

Thank you to outgoing UWF officers for your service; Ann Robar President, VP Program, Ann Santos, Reading program, Carol Coleman.



Pictured: all of the officers listed above and “Two Anns Retire: VP Ann Santos/President Ann Robar

Safe in the presence of the Lord

Psalm 32:7

One of the things that I look forward to in my week is spending time with my family after my hours in the office. I love having conversations with my wife on our daily endeavors and playing with my son as he tries to speak to me in his own toddler language. Spending time with family is one of the priorities that I am not willing to sacrifice because I know it is a stronghold that keeps me grounded as a father and husband. My family is my safe haven. I feel safe around my loved ones because I know they will provide, support, and comfort me in times of need or when I am at my most vulnerable.

I reflect on Psalm 32:7, which says You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. The psalm is authored by David, who recalls a time when the Lord's mercy was his hiding place. David faced many challenges in his life that tested his faithfulness to the Lord. What stood out in this psalm was the testimony of David that the Lord has forgiven his transgressions and restored him to prosperity. I would say David felt secure, safe, and confident in the new phases in his life, knowing how much God has shown him compassion and love.

In many Psalms, David runs to the Lord for shelter, calling the divine a refuge, a stronghold, or a shepherd. This also reminds us, as Christians, of the safe places that help us grow, thrive, and contribute the gifts and talents the Lord has blessed us with. I believe that in our nation, we are in the midst of hostility and fear, feeling that there is no safe place for immigrants or communities that are deemed to be excluded. Our call in the Lent season is to be a safe space for prayer, worship, and fellowship, free from the challenges of politics and propaganda.

I encourage all of you, brothers and sisters, to continue to lead with the mercy and compassion of Christ shown on the cross, and to remain a safe haven for all people who come to witness Christ in you.

God Bless You,

Pastor Latu Paea



These critters, believe it or not, are wild turkeys. They have been in hiding (on my computer) during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Another great shot by Kathy Wicker.

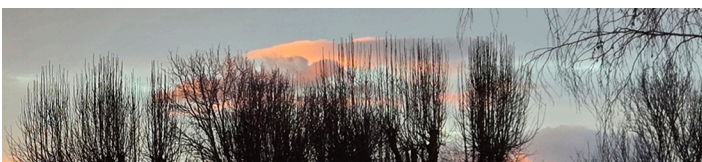
Please Be Careful

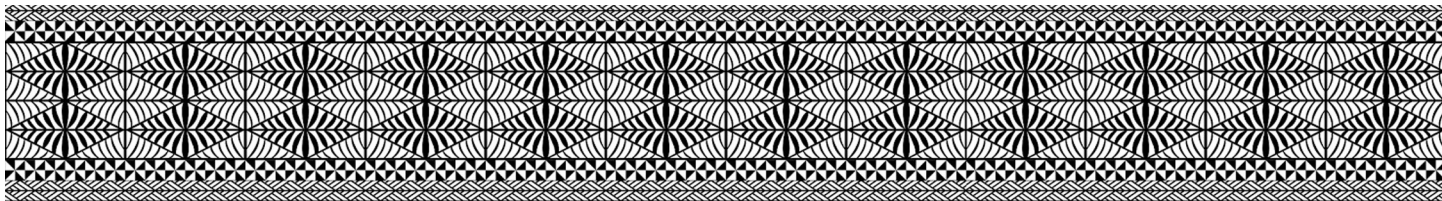
Once again one of our Congregants has received a fake email claiming to be Pastor Latu. As a reminder, Latu would never send a personal email or Text requesting donations, assistance or help. If you receive something allegedly from him and you are not sure, you may always contact me for verification.

Be aware, be smart and be safe - **Len**



The new disaster cleanup container (left) belongs to CNUMC. The unit was moved from its former home to this location with better winter weather.





Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that the journey of Epiphany has held you faithfully as you continue your walk of faith as a light of Christ in the world. This month, we are finishing up our “Glory Revealed” worship series on February 15, 2026, as we transition into the liturgical season of Lent.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Indeed, we will have an evening service on this very day at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel to begin our observance of the Lenten season, as we witness the last days of Jesus before he was unjustly captured, beaten, and crucified.

Moreover, during the Lenten season, we will have a six-week Bible study on the scriptures related to the events leading to Jesus’ crucifixion, while we are applying the theological lens of the gospels to our current context and social location. The Bible study will begin on February 18 at 10:00 am in the chapel and end on March 25, 2026. We will study the Bible and a chapter book titled “Why Did Jesus Have to Die?” By Adam Hamilton. The objective of the Bible study is to dive deeper in understanding the death of Christ and its impact on Christianity. I am praying for grace to gather us in this Bible study, inviting the Holy Spirit to deepen our understanding and to open our hearts and minds as we discuss the Word of God.

Lastly, the Lenten worship theme will be “Renewed in Mercy.” This worship series will entail climbing deeper and further into scripture to discover the loving essence of God’s provision in Jesus Christ. Lent is a time of introspection, but also a call to action as we seek to be the pilgrim people of God, seeking God’s kingdom and shaping God’s kin-dom in worship and in service. I invite you to experience the renewal that comes from God’s never-ending mercy and then to walk with our Lord on a journey to new life.

*Be Well,
Pastor Latu Paea*



The table is set. . .

United Women in Faith Craft Workshops begin in March!


Mark your calendar for the first and third Mondays from 9:30 - noon for the 2026 Craft Workshops. The first workshop will be Monday, March 2 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.



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

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Inside



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UWF - meetings, projects, May assembly - See pages 2 and 5



Fund Raiser spaghetti dinner February 20 - See page 3



New container on the lot - See pages 1 and 6