



The Vision  
of  
Temecula UMC

Temecula UMC is a Reconciling Congregation. ALL are welcome to the compassionate TUMC family to participate in worship, education, fellowship, missions and ministry, regardless of race, ethnicity, color, age, sex, or sexual orientation. We are people of God that live out our faith every day following Christ.

**Pastor:** Rev. Rick Malec  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Dr. David French  
**Phone:** 951-676-1800  
**FAX:** 951-308-2694

**The Messenger**  
42690 Margarita Road  
Temecula CA 92592

**Website:** [www.temeculaumc.com](http://www.temeculaumc.com)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/TemeculaUnitedMethodistChurch](http://www.facebook.com/TemeculaUnitedMethodistChurch)  
**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/temeculaunitedmethodistchurch/>  
**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/TemeculaUnitedMethodistChurch>  
**Office e-mail:** [TemeculaUMC.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:TemeculaUMC.Secretary@gmail.com)

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# Temecula United Methodist Church THE MESSENGER

September 2022



## RICK'S RAMBLINGS

### Pastor's Discretionary Fund

From time to time, I get the question what does "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" mean? What is it used for? To answer these questions, I want to share my experience over the 30 years of my ministry regarding Pastor's Discretionary Funds. In every church, I have served, either as an Associate or as Pastor in Charge, the church had in its budget or as a special fund a Pastor's Discretionary Fund. These funds are created by the local Church to allow the Pastor of the Church to offer help to those in the community or in the congregation in some way of need. Contrary to what the name might imply this fund is not to be used by the Pastor to use for business lunch or car or travel expenses related to business. Pastors, including me, have items in their salary package that cover business expenses. Let me share a couple of examples of real stories in which I used the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Allison (not her name) and her husband live in their van. She does her best to hold down a job. Usually, these jobs are at a gas station convenience market. They pay minimum wages and are usually part-time. She doesn't make enough to get housing let alone have enough for food and gas. Because I have access to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, I am able to help her from time to time to get her scrip/gift cards for gas and food. The next experience is with Joe (not his name). Joe has disabilities due to past drug use and other issues. Even with the help, he gets from other resources in our community there are times he runs short of money for food. With the fund, I'm able to get him scrip/gift cards. This bridges the gap until the next government help arrives. Finally, let me share this story. Mary (not her name) found herself in an abusive situation. She needed help with a couple of nights at a motel where she and her kids can be safe until other resources

Continued on page 2



## Rick's Ramblings continued

are available. These are just three examples of the numerous ways I have been able to help those who have needs just to survive because our Church has made available to me a Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

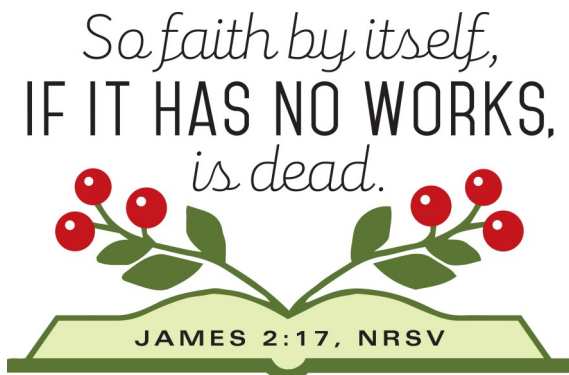
How do we fund our Pastor's Discretionary Fund? Unlike some churches that include it in their operating budget, our congregation over the years decided to provide a special fund with gifts and offerings from you and the many church family members. We have taken Golden Basket offerings during the year; others have shared additional offerings plus the Missions Team has generously shared some of their funds available to them through the Missions Undesignated Fund. There are times when the need is greater than the resources. This is such a time in part due to the results of the Covid Pandemic fallout and in part with the uptick of inflation.

Thanks to the support of the Church Council, I'm able to continue to offer help where there is a need. In addition, the Church Council with the support of the Finance Team is exploring an additional way to help support the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. The plan is to create a way for you to help by obtaining script/gift cards that will be passed on to me so that I can use them for those seeking help. Watch for more information and the unveiling of this giving opportunity. In the meantime, I invite you to continue to offer your gifts for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund when there is a Golden Basket or direct offerings earmarked for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. I share this invitation not instead of your giving to the ministry of the Church but as a possible additional gift. *"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."* James 2:14-17

I invite you to contact me if you have any questions.

Peace & Grace

Pastor Rick



## Worship Scriptures and Themes

### September

**4 Scripture:** Philemon 1:1-21

**Theme:** *The Hard Issues*

**11 Scripture:** Luke 15:1-10

**Theme:** *The Real World*

**18 Scripture:** Luke 16:1-13

**Theme:** *Making a Choice*

**25 Scripture:** Luke 16:19-31

**Theme:** *Growing our Faith*

### October

**2 Scripture:** Luke 17:5-10

**Theme:** *Increase our Faith*



Introducing a new opportunity. For 3 to 4 minutes on Sunday morning, share your faith story with everyone. Maybe it was long ago, or maybe it was last week. The precious moments of "touching the hem of the garment," the moments of feeling God's Presence, the spiritual aha that was meaningful or....

Spiritual stories from those we know are deeply meaningful.

As we share our stories, we strengthen and encourage one another. In these perilous times, it is so important to lift one another.

There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table. Please give us the gift of your stories.

If you are too shy, write up a paragraph and send it to the office to be in the newsletter.

We pray you will give the gift of yourself and your stories to your spiritual family here at TUMC.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Rick or Marlene Oaks.



**ANNIVERSARIES**

Rob & Naila Tayrien	09/03
Ray Wellman & Kerry Keester-Wellman	09/07
Matt & Lynn Ferguson	09/12
Raymond & Marilyn Landry	09/15

**BIRTHDAYS**

Lyn Gruber	09/01
Ethel Takeguchi	09/08
John Clark	09/10
Hayes Riches	09/11
Karen Benvenuto	09/12
Marie Orillion	09/12
Jennifer Sayne	09/13
Monica McCullough	09/14
Stephen McKown	09/14
Stephanie Strand	09/14
Thelma Loud	09/15
Diane Greer	09/17
Carlyn Buehler	09/19
Mary Jean Gordon	09/20
Ace Aumoecualogo	09/21
Rob Tayrien	09/21
Vincent Villanueva	09/21
Aaron Zolna	09/22
Lloyd Bradshaw	09/23
Romano Villanueva	09/24
Annabel Matson	09/25
Benjamin Benson	09/26
Marilyn Landry	09/26
Pat Lain	09/28
Matthew McCullough	09/28

**United Women in Faith**



We will be introduce something brand new and exciting.

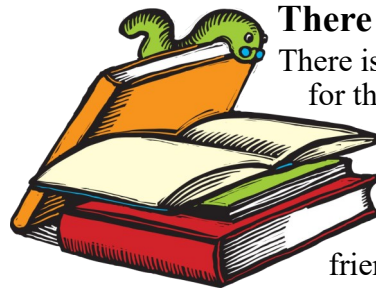
We can make a difference together.

Join Us On  
Thursday the September 15  
at 10:30am in the Room 1

Gifts for everyone and refreshments

September 8 the Executive Board will be meeting at 10:30AM in Room 6.

**Do You Enjoy Reading?**



**There is a group for you!**

There is just a small group activity for those who enjoy reading, discussing, and socializing with others who share your interest. Participation is open to all members and friends of TUMC.

The Book Buddies book group meets at 6:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month from August through December and February through June in our homes and through Zoom. On Tuesday, September 6, we will discuss *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, by Taylor Jenkins Reid; our host is Karen Benvenuto. We follow with *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, by Pip Williams, on October 4.

Please join us. Contact Ethel Takeguchi or Sue Bradshaw for more information and the complete schedule of books and meetings. You will also find it in the breezeway.





# Golden Baskets

## This Month

- 4 Guatemala Student Scholarships
- 11 Prayers & Squares
- 18 Calexico Neighborhood House
- 25 Mama Lynn Rape Center in the Congo

### Guatemala Student Scholarship



The Guatemala Government provides teachers at local schools. However, family of students are required to pay nominal school

fees, all school supplies, such as pencils, pens, paper, books, etc. The Student Scholarship fund is used for students (K-University) who are unable to attend school because their families cannot afford to pay these school expenses. Scholarships are given to children who live in an area where the "Guatemala Mission Project" has completed service projects in the highlands of Guatemala (Chichicastenango, Guatemala) Students in need of scholarship are identified by their teachers and School Director. Parents can also contact a local "Guatemala Mission Project Leader" regarding their need.

### Prayers and Squares



The Prayers and Squares organization started in a United Methodist Church, is now a multi-denominational prayer quilt ministry. The rules we must agree to are: the quilts are free, no charge; keep a record of all quilts given in writing and with a photo; urge sponsors to clear with prospective recipient before

submitting request form; use official labels; put prayer ties in each quilt; it's about the prayers and not so much about the quilt.

*Golden Baskets continued in next column*

### Calexico Neighborhood House



Neighborhood House of Calexico, Inc. serves the Imperial Valley region, with a specific focus on the needs of low-income women and children.

Thanks to the generous support of the community, Calexico Neighborhood House is able to provide direct services to much of the community. We offer specific thanks to individuals, organizations, and collaborative partners who continue to help make our services available to the community through participatory or monetary support.

### Mama Lynn Rape Center in the Democratic Republic of Congo



#### Rebuilding Lives as the Build a Place of Refuge

While rape happens in every country and corner in the world, it is particularly perverse and

rabid in eastern Congo. The United Nations has called the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo the rape capital of the world and the most dangerous place on earth for women. These survivors are cast out of their homes, left to raise babies on their own, often infected with HIV/AIDs.

#### You can help build a place of refuge and empowerment.

Survivors need resources to recover physically, spiritually and emotionally. Your gift can be a burning light of hope by offering transitional housing, counseling, and income-generating skills.

## The Choir NEEDS



Choir rehearsal resumes Wednesday, September 7 at 7:00PM. Contact Earl Richards, earlrichards02@gmail.com for more information.