



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.

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**Newsletter**  
December  
**15**  
**Deadline**



# Temecula United Methodist Church THE MESSENGER

December 2022



**RICK'S RAMBLINGS**

**Welcome, Bienvenidos, Maligayang Pagdating, Shalom**

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” (Romans 15:7)

This passage from Romans doesn't seem like a warm Christmas Scripture when we first read it, but I chose it because of the key word "welcome." As you may have guessed, the words in the title of my Rambling are welcome in different languages: English, Spanish, Tagalog (Filipino), and Hebrew. Biblical Scholar Jennifer Vija Pietz, New Testament Professor, Lutheran Seminary Saint Paul, MN shares "The word "welcome" can have various connotations. It serves as the standard polite response to being thanked and as an indicator of hospitality on doormats, but when used in this way, does it truly imply Jesus' teaching to welcome the stranger? Pietz goes on to point out that "the welcome" Paul describes in Romans 15:7 connotes something deeper than exchanging pleasantries or a general appearance of hospitality. The Greek verb behind it, proslambano, can also be translated as "accept" or "receive."

When I read this understanding of "welcome" as "receive," I thought of the blankets that wrap the newborn child and are presented to the parents by the staff in the maternity units at the hospitals. We call these blankets receiving blankets. The child is wrapped and welcomed by the parents without judgement, full of love and acceptance.

As we move through the season of Advent, the four weeks prior

Continued on page 2

### *Rick's Ramblings continued*

to Christmas, we are anticipating the arrival and the coming of God in the birth of God's son, Jesus. We will once again prepare to "receive" the Christ Child in the manner that Christ receives us, wrapped in the unconditional love of forgiveness and acceptance. Paul writes that the Christian community is to receive and accept without judgment so that the community can be reconciled and made whole, as the greeting of Shalom is translated.

As I reflect on the past year, it appears that too much emphasis has been placed on what causes division: the violence and hatred that shatters the community and the world, the acts that judge and exclude to push others into the minority of our society. I come back to this passage from Romans as this year's Christmas Message to receive one another, to receive the "others," the minorities of our society, as God in Christ receives each of us.

This Christmas, let us Welcome strangers, especially first-time visitors to our church. Let us invite our friends and neighbors to one of our special worship services or programs this year.

Sally and I want to share a special Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with all our Family in Christ.

Peace & Grace.

Pastor Rick

## Worship Scriptures and Themes

### December

**4 Scripture:** Isaiah 11:1-10

**Theme:** Jesus, At Work in Us

**11 Scripture:** Matthew 3:1-12

**Theme:** Prepare the Way of the Lord

**18 Scripture:** Luke 1:46-55

**Theme:** Christmas Song of Praise

**24 Scripture:** Luke 2:1-14

**Theme:** Christmas Story

**25 Scripture:** Luke 2:15-20

**Theme:** Christmas Story: Continued

### January

**1 Scripture:** Matthew 2:13-23

**Theme:** God with Us, 2023

## From The Breezeway

### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

Join us and invite your family and friends for a joy filled Advent and Christmas Journey.

**Christmas Party: Saturday, December 10 from 5:30 PM—8:00 PM.** Ham Dinner with traditional sides, games for all, and Christmas Singing. A special guest for the children will make a visit. RSVP by Tuesday, December 6 at the Church Office, [temeculaumc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:temeculaumc.secretary@gmail.com) or 951-676-1800 Ext 1.

**A Sunday of Music: Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 AM.** The Choir and other special musicians will provide a morning of Christmas music.

**Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24, 7:00 & 11:00 PM.** The community is invited to a service of Word, Music, and Candle Lighting telling the story of the birth of Jesus.

**Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 AM.** We will celebrate the birth of Jesus!



### GIVE THANKS TO GOD BY GIVING BACK

We have had the joy of hearing the stories of faith and stewardship and reflecting on how we can give thanks to God by giving back through our faith pledges for 2023. You are invited to bring your Faith Giving Pledge Cards to Worship on Sunday December 18. This will be a special Sunday of Christmas Music and giving back to God.

If you are not able to be in worship you can bring the card by the Church Office or mail it to the church. Just a reminder if you choose to do your giving online this is available by going to our website [temeculaumc.com](http://temeculaumc.com) and click on the Donate link.

### OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

A way to serve and support the Temecula United Methodist Church is by serving on one of the committees or teams. The Nominations Team is asking you to **prayerfully consider serving on one of the committees or teams listed below**. The name of the committee and a brief description is listed on page 3. If you feel the spirit moving you to offer your gifts to serve in one of these areas or have more questions please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Rick, by email at [pastorrick@temeculaumc.com](mailto:pastorrick@temeculaumc.com) or calling our office at

*From the Breezeway continued*

951-676-1800 ext. 2. These various teams enable and empower our Church Family to live out our worship, ministries, and missions.

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

In addition to those who serve on the Church Council by UM Book of Discipline policy, there are others who are invited to serve as persons from the congregation in general to help shape the vision, programs, and ministry of the Church. This group meets once a month, usually taking two months off throughout the year. Persons who wish to serve will do so on a year-to-year basis.

**WELCOMING AND OUTREACH**

This team works together to develop welcome material that can be distributed to newcomers and possible New Members. They help the Pastor host a New Member's Class as well as reaching out and contacting current members as a nurturing and "how are you doing?" connection. Prior to the worship service, the team also assists with the Welcome Table. People who serve on this team will meet every other month.

**MISSIONS**

This team makes recommendations and chooses the Golden Basket and other Special Mission offerings. They have chosen to support Global United Methodist Missionaries. They educate the congregation on local and global mission needs and support local Church Mission Teams.

**WORSHIP TEAM**

Persons from the congregation help with input on worship services and support those who volunteer in some of the worship tasks: liturgist, ushers, sound technicians, greeters, Altar set-up, Communion set-up, and take down. The Team meets quarterly.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE (AT LARGE MEMBERS)**

The Finance Committee oversees the income and expenditures of the Church which includes creating and recommending a yearly budget that is approved by the Church Council. The committee gives input and makes recommendations for expenditures. They also oversee the yearly Stewardship Campaign. The Committee meets once a month. Persons who wish to serve will do so on a year-to-year basis.

**SCRIP PROGRAM**

Janet Galbraith heads up a team of persons who are willing to help sell scrip after the worship service.

*From the Breezeway continued*

**FAMILY MINISTRIES TEAM**

Persons serving will help in developing Christian Education, Fellowship and Nurturing Ministries. Supporting Tiffanie Roman Family Ministry Director and Gian Adesso Youth Director. Persons serving on a year-to-year basis.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

People who serve on this committee oversee the physical care of Church Property. This also includes making sure the Church is properly insured. The Trustees review and oversee the groups that rent the facility. This group is the legal entity of the Church. People who serve are on a three-year cycle, from 2023 to 2025.

**STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

This committee is the group that acts as a liaison between the staff and the congregation. They make sure that the staff is supported by developing job descriptions and pay as well as supporting staff as they carry out their ministry jobs. The committee also makes sure all labor laws are followed and sets up policies that are in accordance with Federal, State, Local, and Church laws. This group meets every other month. Persons serving do so for a three-year term, 2023–2025.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

People serving work with the Pastor to connect with the congregation and seek people for various committees, teams, task forces, and leadership positions to nominate and recommend for service to be approved by the Church Conference. They serve for one to three years. Meet in the fall prior to the Year End Church Conference. Meet three to four times, plus online connections.

**TIME WITH FRIENDS TASK FORCE**

This task force is reformulating a former rendition of a previous Task Force, as a part of nurturing the church family in fellowship. If you volunteer to be a part of this task force, you will be a part of developing and coordinating opportunities for church family and friends to come together to fellowship in various ways, i.e., dinner groups, card players, movie nights, etc.

**All Church Conference Annual Report**



We'd like to invite you to attend the All Church Conference Report Meeting. The meeting will take place on **Wednesday, December 7th at 6:30 PM.**

## Golden Baskets for This Month

### December

- 4 Rancho Damacitas
- 11 Heifer International
- 18 Missionary – Rev. Andrew Soon Lee
- 25 No Golden Basket this Sunday

With your generous giving to the golden basket every Sunday we have donated to many organizations. We have given over \$14,000.00 as of 11/13/22.

I have shared with you all about the listed recipients for the golden basket offering in the past months. If you would like more information about them you may go to their websites, listed below.

[Rancho Damacitas \(Empowerment Village\)](#)

[Heifer International](#)

[Rev. Andrew Soon Lee, Missionary](#)

[Dream Cambodia](#) the organization where Reverend Lee is the director.



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 table outside by Pastor Rick’s office. 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.

## Prayers and Squares



We are currently in need of expanding our Prayers and Squares team. If you can sew, used to sew, or would like to learn to sew, please do come to Prayers and Squares. I can teach any willing person to sew. We meet the 2nd and 4th Friday mornings from 9:30 to noonish. You would be part of a meaningful

ministry, be part of the comraderies of quilting friends, and have fun too. If you are interested, please come and discuss it with me. We’d love to have you be part of this ministry.

Blessings,

Marlene Oaks

## United Women In Faith



**Dec 8, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

**Thursday, Board Meeting in Room 6**

**Dec 15, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

**Thursday, General Meeting in Room 1**

**Our Gathering For This Meeting:** Installation of Officers for the Year 2023 and a Christmas Celebration, including a Potluck. Devotional done by Marlene Oaks. There is a sign-up sheet for items to bring and Christmas carol singing. Please bring a gift of at least \$20.00 minimum cost.

### SAVE THE DATE

UWF is excited to announce the return of the Tea on **May 13th, 2023, Saturday.**

If you are interested in helping put on this wonderful event please contact Meghann Adesso at [Bigstar951@gmail.com](mailto:Bigstar951@gmail.com).



## Holiday Scrip

It’s time to start thinking of your Holiday Shopping! The Scrip Box has a wide variety of gift cards for grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, fast food restaurants and retail stores. Many gift cards may also be preordered with advance notice.

## Church Christmas Party

### ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>,

From 5:30 – 8 PM

Merry  
Christmas



Christmas Fun with Games, Music, Food, Friends  
and a **VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS COUPLE!**

Catered Christmas Dinner to include:

- Savory ham with side dishes
- Chicken nuggets (children only, please)
- Desserts and drinks

*Suggested donations:*

*\$10/adult; \$5/child ages 5 – 10; under 5 free*

*Immediate family up to four \$25*

## Christmas Poinsettias



Help adorn the Worship Center for Christmas by purchasing one or more Poinsettias. Do this in Memory or Honor of a Loved One. You can call or email the Church Office at (951) 676-1800 Ext 1 and

[temeculaumc.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:temeculaumc.Secretary@gmail.com) or fill out the order slip on Sunday. Deadline for ordering is **Wednesday, December 14th.**

# Anniversaries

Gerry & Andrea Nicholas .....	12/07
Nick & Joan Biddle.....	12/10
Samuel & Patricia Hill .....	12/16
Matt & Diana Roderos .....	12/18
Bill & Zoila Hillier .....	12/19
Bruce & LeeAnn Lumsden .....	12/21
Rowan & Sharon Johnas .....	12/22
Jo Anne & Larry Bullard .....	12/25

# Birthdays

Jake Eisenberg.....	12/04
George Wuertz.....	12/06
Matt Ferguson.....	12/07
Tom Baird .....	12/08
David Tayrien .....	12/08
Charlie Weaver .....	12/08
Ryan Nelson.....	12/09
Toby Hammett .....	12/11
Karen Budds .....	12/12
Leslie Hamilton .....	12/13
Olivia Sheaffer .....	12/13
Nila Gutierrez .....	12/14
Shelby Salyer.....	12/16
Rev. David French .....	12/20
Lisa Glenn-Edwards.....	12/21
Andrew Nelson.....	12/21
Micaela Reichenbach.....	12/21
Jamie Turner.....	12/22
Fiti Aumoecualogo .....	12/23
Chuck Washington .....	12/25
Jonathan Buehler.....	12/28
Sara Salyer .....	12/28
Antho Ramos.....	12/29
Wesley Teasdale.....	12/30
Lucille McGhee .....	12/31

## *Servant Volunteer of the Month for* *December, 2022 Penny Wagner*



It is a joy and a pleasure to share the wonderful Penny with you. She is a native Californian, born in Los Angeles and grew up in Van Nuys. Penny was adopted at birth by loving, hard working parents who also adopted her brother. At first, her parents did finishing work on tract homes, getting them ready for their new owners. Later, they purchased a pillow and hassock factory. They had well known clients such as J.C. Penny, May Co, Bullocks, Robinsons, and others.

This is where Penny first learned her sewing skills at the age of 9. At 12 years old, Penny's parents took in a baby girl from friends who could not care for her. A bit later they adopted the baby. Penny took care of her and frequently babysat.

Penny went to Van Nuys High School. She took many science classes as well as a nursing assistant course because she always wanted to be a nurse. She received an A.A. degree from L.A. Valley College. At San Diego State University, she received her B.S.N and worked for 2 years at the Los Angeles Children's Hospital.

In 1976, she married and moved to San Diego, where she worked at Children's Hospital San Diego. Her husband was a teacher of science and math and later an Apple Computer distributor who wrote computer programs. In 1978, they adopted Marta from the hospital. Penny took care of Marta for the first 22 months of her life there. Marta had special needs, including deafness, and required specific medications and long-term care. In 1982, they divorced but continued to work together to raise Marta.

In 1986, Penny adopted Vanessa. Vanessa spent 17 months in the hospital. Penny's big heart just had to add her to her family. She came home on oxygen and lots of meds. Both Marta and Vanessa were premies, which contributed to their special needs. At the time Penny brought Vanessa home, she was raising Marta, teaching at Pt. Loma College, working at the hospital, and completing her MSN. Her mom came to help, and sometimes Penny would hire a babysitter. Marta went to the California School for the Deaf when she was 12 to complete her education in an environment that would meet the educational needs of a deaf student.

In 1991, Penny bought her current home in Temecula, and her parents moved in with her to help with the children. Her dad passed in 1994 and her mom in 2018 at the age of 100! In 1992, Penny received her Pediatric Nurse Practitioner degree at USD. She worked at Children's Hospital until 1994, then in a pediatrician's office in Riverside as a Nurse Practitioner for 5 years. Then she became a school nurse for 15 years in Lake Elsinore and retired in 2012. She still works and continues to perform vision and hearing tests for school districts.

Penny got into theater here at our church when we used to put on plays. She became part of the Temecula Valley Players and had several roles. She also makes props, costumes, and does alterations. She is in the Temecula Valley Master Chorale and in our choir. Here she has served on many committees, including: Trustees, Trustee Secretary, SPRC, Worship Committee, Prayers and Squares, Scrip and wherever she can help out.

In 2007, her grandson, John, was born. She describes him as "the light of my life." Two years ago, she found her biological sister and has a wonderful relationship with her and her husband. Penny says she has been very blessed—God has always been there, showing me the way.

Penny describes her spiritual philosophy thusly: *"I do the best I can to do what I think Jesus would do." "I try to be kind and helpful and make life better." "God is part of our lives, and even if things don't go our way, it all makes us stronger."* What a blessing Penny is to us all here and, over the course of her life, to countless others.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Marlene Oaks