



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 DEADLINE**  
**February 15th**

# Temecula United Methodist Church THE MESSENGER

February 2023



WE LOVE  
BECAUSE HE FIRST  
LOVED US.

1 JOHN 4:19, NRSV

**RICK'S RAMBLINGS**

**Love Letter**

When I was in elementary school, I would look forward to Valentine's Day. My mom would take me to Montgomery Wards, Sears, or even Long's Drugs to pick out a box of Valentine's Day cards. I would get home and excitedly fill out the "To:" section for all my classmates and add "From:" Rick. Valentine's Day was a fun day! Yeah, we did some of our class work, but we had some of us bring cupcakes, and there were always little bags of candy we gave out with our Valentine's cards, especially the candy hearts with the cute sayings.

Valentine's Day and, by extension, February (for commercial advantage) is now deemed the month of love, but this isn't how this day was established. The tradition of this day is based on the account of St. Valentine of Rome ministering to the persecuted Christians in prison in Rome during the third century. This person became a martyr. It was much later that this celebration honoring the compassion of this person turned to romantic love.

In the Greek definition of "love," there are many words to break down this one word we identify as "love." We say we love ice cream, our cars, our homes, our country, and our spouses in a romantic way. We also say we love God in Christ. We use one word. In Greek, it would be at least three words. Philia would be the word used for love of things and of friends. Hence the name of the city of Philadelphia, "city of brotherly love." For love of spouse or significant other is Eros, romantic, passion. The love for God, self-giving and sacrifice is Agape. The celebration of Valentine's Day has turned from Agape to Eros and Philia.

Continued on page 2

### *Rick's Ramblings continued*

I believe we have an opportunity to recapture and remind ourselves of that sacrifice St. Valentine and many other followers of Christ have made throughout the centuries. That we as God's children are called to walk in Christ's path, to love one another as Christ has loved us, and to love God, neighbor, and self. We have a chance to make Valentine's Day more inclusive of all people, not just those with a love interest or significant other, but to include those who are alone and lonely, those who are left out.

The **MONKS Valentine's Breakfast** is a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor, single or married, young or old, to come and be with new friends and have the joy of fun with others. Remember **Saturday, February 25, at 9:00 AM** at the Church. Contact Dan Henley for more details.

(Dan is inviting all men to help with setting up, cooking, serving, and cleaning up after the breakfast.)

I close by sharing with you parts of the Apostle Paul's love letter for the Church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 13. It is read at many weddings, and it is not a letter of romance but one of giving and self-sacrifice. This is what the message of Valentine's Day is really about:

*If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal... If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends..and now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.*

Peace and Love  
Pastor Rick

### **M.O.N.K.S**

## **MONKS SERVE VALENTINES BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, February 25,  
9:00 AM**

**Ladies & Girls Free  
Men \$10**

**Come for good food,  
Fellowship and fun.**



## **Worship Scriptures and Themes**

### **February**

**5 Scripture:** Matthew 5:13-20

**Theme: Salt and Light People**

**12 Scripture:** Matthew 5:21-37

**Theme: Hard Gospel**

**19 Scriptures:** Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalms 27:1;  
Proverbs 3:13-18

**Theme: Christian Women Across History**

**22 Ash Wednesday: A Time of Reflection**

**26 Scripture:** Matthew 4:1-11

**Theme: Dealing with Temptation**

### **March**

**5 Scripture:** Genesis 12:1-4

**Theme: Luck, Fortune, Blessing**

## **From The Breezeway**



### **Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, which is the time of spiritual preparation that culminates on the greatest day of the Christian journey, Easter. The mark of the Ashes reminds us of the temptations Jesus faced during his 40 days in the desert. Lent is 40 days excluding Sundays in which followers are encouraged to add or grow a spiritual discipline such as prayer, fasting, and giving to those in need.

**This year, Ash Wednesday is on February 22. There will be two opportunities to have a time of prayer and receive the mark of the ashes: 8:00 – 9:00 AM or 6:00 – 7:00 PM.**

These will be open times to come in anytime during those hours to pray, meditate, and receive the ashes. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Rick.



**You Are Invited to The Bell Players Trio Performance**

We've heard them play wonderful Christmas Music in worship, and they had a great premiere at the Merc in Temecula. Now we can hear them share a special one-time performance at **Grace Presbyterian Church** at 31143 Nicolas Rd., Temecula, **Sunday, February 26, 1:00 PM**. You will be treated to works by Mendelssohn, Gaubert, and Kapustin. Plan to get brunch after worship before the concert.



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.



- Keven & Stacea Nelson.....2/06
- Dan E. & Joyce Little .....2/13
- John & Vicki Cloutier .....2/14
- Chris & Allison Riche' .....2/22
- Lynn & Brenda Wahlert .....2/26



- Kent Galbraith .....2/02
- Sue Bradshaw .....2/03
- Susan Garcia.....2/09
- Kyle Hotchkiss .....2/11
- Cherri Steele .....2/11
- Sarah Hillier.....2/12
- Linda Holland.....2/12
- Julie Tomaszewski.....2/13
- Audrey Argenbright.....2/14
- Debbie Barba .....2/14
- Jason Basa .....2/16
- Jeanette Frisbey .....2/17
- Hannah Sheaffer .....2/18
- Frank Benson.....2/19
- Tom Chapman-Wright.....2/20
- Connie French .....2/22
- Elizabeth Waddleton .....2/22
- Hope Zangl .....2/22
- Donna Gorman .....2/23
- Mark Matson .....2/24
- Nellie Hathorn .....2/25
- Vicki Cloutier .....2/26
- Jaynet Stevens .....2/28

## Golden Baskets for This Month

### February

- 5 Heifer International
- 12 Million Kids
- 19 Food Pantries
- 26 Inland Valley Habitat for Humanity

### Heifer International

#### Accelerating the Path to Living Incomes

Nutritious food. Shelter. Clean water. A decent education. Access to health care. And a safe and secure environment.

All are fundamental for a life free from hunger and poverty. Yet millions of people can't afford them. 821 million people go to bed hungry every night.

**Let's change that.**

Learn more about this organization by reading the Blog at <https://www.heifer.org/blog/index.html>

### Million Kids

#### Keeping Kids Safe from Predators

Their mission is to PREVENT child exploitation by empowering every kid, and those who interact with kids, through education on predators and to INTERVENE by providing support services to those families and children in crisis. Learn more about Million Kids by going to their website <https://millionkids.org/>

### Food Pantries

Temecula residents go hungry and homeless every single day. Your generosity is what changes lives.

The money collected for this golden basket will be divided evenly between the two food pantries located in Temecula.

**Community Mission of Hope (CMOH)** operates a food pantry that serves hundreds of families every month. They partner with over 25 grocers and food merchants in Temecula to deliver fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats to anyone in need. Their large warehouse in Temecula is where they store and distribute donations.

**St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry** operates at St Catherine Of Alexandria Catholic Church in Temecula. Community food drives and donor funds feed an amazing, giant-scale collection and distribution warehouse, where their quality control staff inspects and processes truckloads of donated food every day before it is used at the food pantry.

### Inland Valley Habitat for Humanity

The mission of Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley, in partnership with God, is to facilitate the dream of homeownership, as well as improve living conditions for those in the community. Learn more

<http://www.habitativ.org/>

## 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 am to noonish.**

Blessings,  
Marlene Oaks

## United Women In Faith

**Feb 09, 2023 - Board Meeting - Thursday, 10:30 a.m.**  
in Room 1

**Feb 16, 2023 - General Meeting - Thursday, 10:00 a.m.**  
Field Trip

**Our Gathering For This Meeting:** is a field trip to the Orthodox Church.

*Reminder: Sunday, February 19, 2023, United Women In Faith will lead Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. We need Ushers and Greeters!*

## SAVE THE DATE

### We are invited to tour the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Murrieta

Hear about the Orthodox Faith, walk, learn about icons and more! Learn about the Eastern half of Christianity!



They want to offer us refreshments, so please sign up in the breezeway so we can give them a count..

**February 16, 2023 at 10 a.m.**

*We will meet in our parking lot at 9:30am, if you wish to carpool.*

If you have any questions, please see Marlene Oaks

## Christian Women Across History

Meet 8 women and hear their faith journey:

St. Bridgid, Mechtild of Magdeburg, Hildegard of Bingen, Julian of Norwich, Jeanne-Marie Guyon, Sojourner Truth, Evelyn Underhill, and Nona Brooks.

**Sunday, February 19, 2023**



## Earl Fields, Servant Volunteer of the Month February, 2023

It is with great joy that I share the life of Earl Fields. He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and went through schools there. He attended the City University of New York, where he earned a B.A. in sociology.

At Boys High School in Brooklyn, N.Y., Earl was part of a choral group called "The Melody Men." He also sang with the New York All City High School Chorus for 3 years. All members had to audition to join, and the competition was quite rigorous. It was an honor to be selected.

Earl's father was a Church choir director in addition to his regular daytime job, and his mother was a Soprano soloist. While in high school, he began attending the Concord Baptist Church in Brooklyn along with his three older brothers, Carl, Sylvester, and Ralph Jr. Concord became Earl's home church. His brothers also set academic examples for Earl. His oldest brother, Carl, was the first African American selected Dean of an Ivy League University, Princeton University, in Princeton, New Jersey. Sylvester was a musician, writer, arranger, and Choral conductor. Ralph Jr. was a physical-ed teacher and part time commercial musician.

His maternal grandfather was a Baptist minister, and his paternal grandfather was a deacon and a musician. All of Earl's brothers also played and sang in church settings throughout their lifetimes.

In 1958, Earl and Pauline were married at the Concord Baptist Church in Brooklyn, pastored by Rev. Dr. Gardner C. Taylor. Earl says that Pauline is and has been his light and his rock for 64 years, and by the grace of God, they have three wonderful children, Cheryl, Mark, and Leslie, all of whom have received advanced degrees.

Earl's working career has included stints at the U.S. Bureau of Customs and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 1970, HUD initiated a nationwide reorganization of the Department and transferred Earl from New York to its Los Angeles, California, office. In 1978 he was appointed Director of the HUD field office in Santa Ana, CA, by HUD Secretary Pat Harris. Under his direction the office became one of the top five production offices in the country.

His music life experience has included opportunities to perform in major venues e.g. Carnegie Hall in New York, The Kennedy Center in D.C., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in L.A. In 2006, he went to Italy with the Temecula Master Chorale on a 5-city tour, which included singing for Mass at the Vatican on a Sunday afternoon.

Earl is still an active choir member and soloist, thrilling us with his amazing voice. Here at church, he was also asked to be chairman of the COVID Response Team and is on the SPRC. He was also one of the interviewers when we hired Earl Richards and Adriana Zarate.

Earl shares that God has been a major factor in his entire life. He remembers that when he was a teenager, he heard his grandfather give a sermon that changed his life. He doesn't recall exactly what the words were, but he remembers being struck deeply, and he was on his feet and ready to fully commit his life. He was baptized when he was 14 and never turned back.

To us, he says, "Keep on keeping on." He feels his life has been blessed with amazing experiences, a wonderful wife and children and now, grandchildren. He says he truly enjoys being a part of the TUMC family.

What an honor to present Earl Fields!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Marlene Oaks

To nominate someone to be Servant Volunteer of the Month, submit a name to Pastor Rick or to Marlene.





# **YOU ARE INVITED ADMISSION IS FREE!**

The Bell Players - founded by Corry Bell, pianist. Corry has a doctorate in piano from USC and has studied at Juilliard and University of Indiana. He also performs as a jazz artist.

Kirsten Vogelsang Eyerman has a Bachelor in Cello performance from Mannes College of Music (now part of the New School), studied at Juilliard and completed her education at Yale with a Masters in Composition. She worked for over 30 years in the film and TV industry as a composer and recording musician.

Debbie Barba earned a Bachelor's Degree and Teaching Credential from USC in Music Education and worked for 25 years in the public schools as an elementary vocal music teacher, retiring from the Solana Beach School District, while performing regularly as a flutist.

**In Performance:**  
**February 26 \*\* Grace Presbyterian Church \*\* 1pm**  
**Works of Mendelssohn, Gaubert and Kapustin**