



The Vision
of
Temecula UMC

TUMC is an inclusive, Reconciling and Affirming Congregation. All who seek God are welcome. Join our TUMC family to participate in worship, education, fellowship, ministry and mission, regardless of race, color or ethnicity, age, marital status, gender, sexual identity, expression, physical or mental ability...*anyone who comes to me, I will never drive away.* John 6:37

This is a place where you will find welcome, support, comfort, and strength for your life.

Pastor: Rev. Rick Malec
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. David French
Admin Secretary: Adriana Zarate
Music Director: Dr. Earl Richards
Accompanist: Dr. Corry Bell
Youth Director: Gian Adesso
LGBTQ+ Coordinator: Art Salyer

The Messenger
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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/temeculaunitedmethodistchurch/>
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IN THIS ISSUE

Altar Flowers	4
Amplify	6
Anniversaries & Birthdays	7
Book Buddies	4
Discussion Group	8
From The Breezeway	3
Golden Baskets	8
Lunch Bunch	8
Notes From the Office	3
Prayers and Squares	5
Project Touch	8
Rick's Ramblings	1
Scrip	8
Stephen Ministers	8
United Women in Faith	5
Worship Scriptures and Themes	4

Temecula United Methodist Church

THE MESSENGER

January & February 2024



Rick's Ramblings

Nurturing the Hope and Love in 2024

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 4:10-11

Ron Moreland, a good friend, faithful member of God's Church here at Temecula United Methodist Church, and faithful servant, whose life we celebrated at the end of last year, expressed to me several times the importance of expressing with others and sharing the way of Hope. Not a secular understanding of hope but a Christian understanding. Most people understand hope as wishful thinking, as in "I hope something will happen." This is not what the Bible means by hope. The biblical definition of *hope* is "confident expectation." Hope is one of the main pillars of our faith; in Paul's writing in his letter to the Corinthians (*1 Corinthians 13*), it is one of the three major pillars of our foundation of faith. "Faith, Hope, and Love, these three..." It is through the Love of God that we have the faith to have the confidence in the Hope that God will bring to fruition the Peace and Joy for our lives and a light that will bring an end to the darkness of our lives and that of the world.

As we come into the 2024 year, we look forward with Hope all that God will continue to bless us, as individuals, as families, the community, and the world. In response to the Hope and love we receive from God, we seek to live out our faith and be a part of this Hope to **Strive to End Spiritual and Physical Hunger**. We can do this in two very concrete ways:

Continued on page 2

In the middle of December, the Finance Team sent out as part of the Christmas letter Faith Giving Cards with the theme of *Nurturing the Hope and Love of God*. By prayerfully considering your generous gifts for the 2024 year we know our mission is to grow the Hope and Love of God through our ministries by making available and keeping up the facilities for the groups that offer hope and love for Children, Youth, and their families; those who are supported by self-help groups; a Jewish Congregation that worships faithfully and more.

Another way we will be able to make God's Hope and Love a further reality is by supporting our staff, who help make the programs and ministries a reality here at Temecula UMC and in the community. We have not provided a raise for our staff in over 5 years. It is long overdue. Through your Faithful Giving and bringing to worship or returning to the Church, we can plan on offering a budget that can fulfill the vision of Nurturing the Hope and Love of God in real and concrete ways.

The second way, I want to invite you to pray and consider how you can help *Nurture the Hope and Love of God* in *Striving to End Spiritual and Physical Hunger* in a real and concrete way by being a part of at least one of the Ministry Committees, Task Force, or Outreach Teams. I will briefly share with you many of the groups and how each group supports the overall Mission and Vision of the Church.

1. **Welcome and Outreach**: This group works to care for the Welcome Table on Sundays to welcome and include our first time Visitors (New to the Church Family). They also support other ministry groups of the Church in ways that are welcoming, inclusive, and reconciling. They meet once every other month on the first Thursday at 10 AM. (*If you can't make the meetings, you can still be a Welcome Greeter on Sundays and/or make up Welcome Bags*) Contact Pastor Rick.

2. **Missions**: This ministry group establishes the Golden Basket Offerings for the year plus other Mission opportunities for the Church to participate in, i.e. special food collections, putting together toiletry kits, and more. They usually meet quarterly after Church. Contact Diane Martinez or Pastor Rick.

3. **Staff Parish Relations Committee**: This group supports the Pastor and Church Staff. Setting job descriptions, making sure Employment rules, laws, and policies are followed. Also know about the staff and what they need to accomplish and fulfill their jobs and tasks. Contact Pastor Rick.

4. **Trustees**: This committee oversees the care of the facilities and equipment to make sure they are maintained for their appeal and functionality. They also make sure the Church has all the insurance coverage that is needed and the approval of outside groups that they fit within the vision and mission of the Church. Contact Pastor Rick.

5. **Worship Committee**: This group works with the Pastor to create the Sunday Morning and other worship opportunities that are inclusive, welcoming, and uplifting, with a message that is hopeful and loving. They offer Support for the Music ministry, Altar Care, Tech Ministry, Hospitality, Ushers, Liturgist, and Altar Flowers. It meets quarterly after Church. Contact Anita Accordino or Pastor Rick.

6. **Fellowship, Study & Outreach Groups**:

Sunday Morning Adult Sunday School: Meets in Room 6. Contact Joe Hughes.

Tuesday Ladies Bible Study: Meets at 9:30 AM on Zoom. Contact Karen Benvenuto.

Wednesday Bible Study: Meets at 10:00 AM in Room 6. Contact Pastor Rick.

Friday Christian Study Group: The group explores various Christian topics, books, and scriptures. Meets on the first and third Friday of the month in Room 6 at 10:30 AM. Contact Marlene Oaks.

Prayers and Squares Quilting Ministry: The group puts together and sews quilts to share as comforting gifts. Meets on the second and fourth Friday of the month at 9:30 AM in Room 1. Contact Marlene Oaks.

Book Buddies: The group selects a book to read for the month. Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6 PM at members' homes or on Zoom. Contact Ethel Takeguchi.

Out to Lunch Bunch: The group meets the first Thursday of the month at noon at various restaurants decided by the group. A sign-up sheet is located outside the worship center on a table. Contact Pastor Rick.

Youth Group: Meets for Faith, Fellowship, and Fun as well as planning mission opportunities. Meets twice a month on Sunday at 6 PM. Contact Gian Adesso.

Stephen Ministers: This is a group of trained individuals to be listeners for persons who are going through a difficult time in their lives, i.e., the death of a friend or family member, a transition in life, or other struggles. These people are not counselors but someone to listen. Contact Anne DiPardo.

Finance Committee: this group recommends the budget to the Church Council that will support the ministries, staff support, programs, and facilities. They oversee the Treasurer, Finance Secretary, and counters. Setting policy that adheres to the United Methodist General Council on Finance Administration Policies and Guidelines. Contact Karen Benvenuto or Pastor Rick.

I know there is a place and a way for you to be included as part of making sure we hear God's call to us to *Nurture the Hope and Love of God* by serving with your gifts and service. I look forward to having a conversation with you and you responding by saying, "Hear I am Lord, use me!"

Peace and Grace
Pastor Rick

New Member Inquiry Class

All who attend and participate in the life of the Temecula United Methodist Church are members of the Temecula United Methodist Church Family. If you are interested in becoming a member, the Welcome and Outreach Team would like to invite anyone who would like to explore becoming a member of TUMC to attend on **Sunday, February 11th, at 11:30 AM** (right after Church) in Room 1. This will be a time to meet with others who are exploring membership, as well as some of our members of the Church. There will be a light brunch provided so we ask that you RSVP by contacting Pastor Rick rick.malec@gmail.com or Adriana, Administrative Assistant at temeculaumc.secretary@gmail.com or 951-676-1800 ext. 1. If you are in need of Childcare, please note that as well.

Get Your Picture Taken

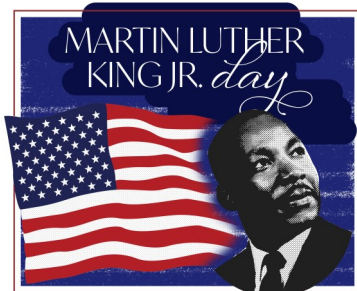
The Welcome and Outreach Team and Staff Parish Committee would like to invite you to get your Polaroid Picture Taken to add to our Church Family Tree located in the Breezeway Hall Way. This will help us put faces and names together and we will have them available for the new pastor when he or she arrives to get to know you. To begin, if possible, you can stop by the church office and Pastor Rick will be happy to take your picture. Please call the church office or email Pastor Rick to make sure he will be in the office or arrange another time. We will also set some Sunday dates after Church for you and your family to get your picture taken. (*Watch in your bulletin, Messenger or email blast for those dates*).



Notes From The Office

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, January 15th in Honor of *Martin Luther King Jr.* and **Monday, February 19th** in Observance of *President's Day*.



THANK you.

The TUMC staff would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for the generous Christmas gifts that were given to them during the holiday season.

March Newsletter Articles are due **February 15th**

Faith Giving 2024

As we, the Temecula UMC, continue to *Strive to End Spiritual and Physical Hunger* in 2024 through our Ministry, Programs, and Missions, the Finance Committee calls upon all to plan their giving in support of your Church. In December, a Faith Giving Card was sent to all Church Family Members. The Finance Committee asks if you haven't returned your card to do so either when you come to worship, by mail, drop by the Church Office. If the Church isn't open, you can drop it in the mail slot across from the office door. If you plan on giving electronically, please still fill out a card to help with our planning. If you have any questions, contact the Church office or Pastor Rick.

January



- 7 **Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-12
Theme: *What Shall We Give*
- 14 **Scripture:** Mark 1:4-11
Theme: *Beginning of Our Ministry*
- 21 **Scripture:** Jonah 3:1-10
Theme: *Mulligan*
- 28 **Scripture:** Mark 1:21-28
Theme: *Mission of the Church*

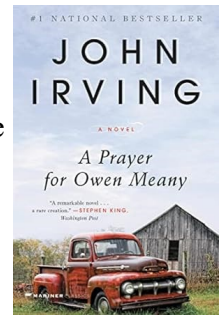
February



- 4 **Guest Preacher:** Todd Stall
Scripture and Theme: *TBD*
- 11 **Scripture:** Mark 9:2-9
Theme: *Shine, Jesus, Shine*
- 18 **Scripture:** Genesis 9:8-17
Theme: *God’s Promise Never Ends!*
- 25 **Scripture:** Romans 4:13-25
Theme: *More Jesus*

A Prayer for Owen Meany

“I am doomed to remember a boy with a wrecked voice – not because of his voice, or because he was the smallest person I ever knew, or even because he was the instrument of my mother’s death, but because he is the reason I believe in God; I am a Christian because of Owen Meany.”



Thus begins one of the very best American novels of our time, according to the Los Angeles Times. Join the Book Buddies book group at **6:00 PM** on **Tuesday, February 6** to discuss *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by the author, John Irving, at the home of our hostess, Sue Bradshaw. See Ethel Takeguchi or Sue Bradshaw for more information. Everyone is welcome. We greatly enjoy reading, discussing and socializing with others who share our interest and love of books.



On **March 5**, Cookie Gender will lead a review of *The Last Thing He Told Me*, by Laura Dave. The full schedule and list of books is available in the church breezeway.

Altar Flowers

SIGN UP to bring Altar Flowers in honor, celebration, or memory of a special date for you. Flowers may be brought to the church on the Sunday you signed up for by 9:00 AM and can be placed on the altar. You can pick up your flowers after the worship service.



You can sign up to donate flowers but if you need assistance getting the flowers contact Anita.

If you are not able to bring your flowers on the date you signed up for, please contact Anita Accordini at 714-655-0330 or araccordini12@verizon.net.



Announcing an Exciting Opportunity

Thursday, January 18, 10:30-noon

Meet the new CEO of
Community Mission of Hope and

Rancho Damacitas

Heather Sanford

Sponsored by UWF



Everyone invited—bring a friend too

For interesting and important information about a group that makes a huge difference in our community.

Community Mission of Hope/Rancho Damacitas exists to address food and housing insecurity in the Temecula Valley of Riverside County CA. Our passion is HOPE and creating space, resource and transformation for our clients to live life to the fullest.

Heather Sanford has joined our team as the new CEO Executive Director. She comes with a background of 26 years in Ministry both in the non-profit world as well as being a Pastor, having served 5 years on a local pastoral team in Murrieta CA, where she has lived since 2012. Heather is passionate, witty, strategic, a natural leader who lives authentically every day as she pursues love, mercy and justice.


For more information, please contact Marlene Oaks at marleneoaks56@gmail.com.

Prayers and Squares Needs Your Help

*So Many Prayer Quilts
So few hands to make them
Feeding spiritual hunger,
one quilt at a time*

If you sew or want to learn, please come the
2nd and 4th Friday mornings from 9:30-noon
You can be part of making a loving difference in many lives.
Contact Marlene Oaks and marleneoaks56@gmail.com





*am*pli*fy - v. to expand, to increase, to strengthen, to make louder*



Amplify is a growing community of Jesus followers and seekers who desire to gather together to draw closer to Jesus through worship, through the reading and study of Scripture, conversation and connection.

We seek to amplify our faith and hope in Jesus. We believe that Jesus was God incarnate—that he was God with us, and because we believe that the entire biblical story ultimately points to him, we want Jesus to be the lens through which we read and interpret all of Scripture.

We seek to amplify the love of Jesus. We believe that God is love; that Jesus is God’s love in person; and that he calls those who choose to follow him to love as he loves—without limit or exclusion; so, empowered by his Spirit, we want to actively look for ways to live out the love and grace of Jesus in our personal lives, in our families, in our churches, in our communities, and in our world.

We seek to amplify the invitation of Jesus. We believe all humanity is uniquely created in God’s image, each one dearly loved and valued by our Father and created with intention and purpose; and we believe that the good news of Jesus and

his kingdom invitation is for everyone; so we invite, affirm, and fully include all who wish to come, no matter their age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or mental or physical abilities, believing that Jesus reconciles all things and that he will never turn away anyone who comes to him.

We seek to amplify a culture of value and respect. We believe that all are deserving of honor and respect, so we want our Amplify gatherings to be a safe space where people feel welcomed no matter who they are.

We seek to amplify a community of care and support. We believe that the love and grace of Jesus compelled him to reach out with compassion, care, and comfort to those around him, especially those who were marginalized, hurting, or in need. Through small group care and support for parents, friends, and family of those in the LGBTQ community.

All Are Welcomed to drop by the Weekly Amplify Meeting from 6:30-8PM every Thursday in Room 1 at the Temecula United Methodist Church.

If you have any question feel free to reach out to me anytime at **818-371-1009** or lgbtministry.tumc@gmail.com.

Thanks—Art Salyer

JANUARY

Birthdays

Zachary Smith.....	1/01
Hallie Sebanc	1/06
Marika Matson	1/08
Bert Bjorklund	1/09
Peggy Cowherd	1/10
Savannah Hammett.....	1/10
Dwight Weaver.....	1/10
Steve Jones	1/11
Eva NTony	1/12
Judy Dermody	1/14
Doug Galbraith	1/16
Sally Malec.....	1/16
Gloria Galvez	1/17
Selasi NTony.....	1/23
Lesley Gregory	1/24
Danilo Gutierrez.....	1/24
Kathy Kasitz.....	1/27
Erik Toberman	1/28
Melanie Roth-Smith.....	1/31

JANUARY

Anniversaries

Robert & Jennifer Sayne.....	1/05
Jose & Channing Manacop .	1/10
John & Cookie Gender.....	1/22

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

Kent Galbraith	2/02
Sue Bradshaw	2/03
Susan Garcia	2/09
Kyle Hotchkiss	2/11
Sarah Hillier	2/12
Julie Tomaszewski.....	2/13
Debbie Barba.....	2/14
Jason Basa	2/16
Jeanette Frisbey.....	2/17
Hannah Sheaffer.....	2/18
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

FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

John & Vicki Cloutier	2/14
Chris & Allison Riché	2/22

Golden Baskets for January

- 7 Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- 14 Human Relations Day
- 21 S.A.F.E.
- 28 Dig Deep

Scrip

Scrip News

WHAT IS SCRIP?

Purchasing Scrip cards is a simple way of raising money for the church budget. Simply purchase gift cards at face value and the church receives a percentage of the sales. The Scrip box has a variety of cards including gas, stores and restaurants. You may also go to RaiseRight.com to see a full list of vendors. Cards may be preordered when orders are placed. Since the beginning of January, Scrip sales has raised \$520 for the church.



Cards can be purchased on Sunday mornings after service using cash, check or a credit card. Credit cards will have 4% service fee. Scrip cards are also available to purchase throughout the week during church office hours.

If you have any questions or would like to place an order contact Janet Galbraith. 951-764-3938 and ingalbraih5@yahoo.com.

Ralphs/Food4Less: If you shop at Ralphs or Food4Less, be sure to register your rewards cards to earn rebates.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SCRIP

Lunch Bunch

**Come Join Us for Lunch!
Great Food with Great People.
Everyone is Invited!**

Lunch Bunch

Thursday, February 1st at Noon
Location to be determined.
Deadline to sign up is January 28th

Discussion Group

Discussion Group News

In February, we will be exploring **Celtic Christianity**. We meet the **first and third Friday** mornings from **10:30AM-12PM**.



The Celts are said to have kept Christianity alive after Rome was sacked. They thought there were two scriptures: nature and the written word. Many leaders were women. It is a fascinating study.

We will begin with Marlene's little book as background. You may download it from Amazon for a nominal fee, or Marlene will email you a copy. Then we will study further.

If you are interested, please contact Marlene at marleneoaks56@gmail.com, and for more information, please check the breezeway.

Project Touch



A Quarter Can Change a Life

Project Touch Needs Quarters so those in the emergency shelter can do laundry

Save your quarters and bring them to church

And they need twin and double sheets, pillowcases, mattress covers and towels – used ok, if clean and no stains or holes, plus new pillows. *Hold the homeless in your heart and help feed spiritual and physical hunger.*

Stephen Ministers

TUMC's **Stephen Ministers** are volunteers trained to walk beside people experiencing difficult times. It's confidential and free, and available to anyone regardless of their affiliation with TUMC. If you'd like to know more, please contact Pastor Rick Malec at (951) 676-1800 or our Stephen Leader, Anne DiPardo (319) 331-1515.

