

Temecula United Methodist Church

THE MESSENGER

January 2025

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. Drew Davis

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. David French

Admin Secretary: Adriana Zarate

Music Director: Dr. Earl Richards

Accompanist: Dr. Corry Bell

Youth Director: Gian Adesso

LGBTQIA+ Coordinator: Art Salyer

The Messenger

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TemeculaUnitedMethodistChurch>

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DREW

Welcome to a new year, which will be our first complete calendar year together. I have already been blessed in my first six months here to see the potential and possibility of what we can do as a community of caregivers.

There has been a common theme in my conversations within our community. Each generation, both young and seasoned, has shared the same desire. We are a community wanting to be out, active, and caring. This year, as we continue the Annual Conference focus on “flourishing,” I hope we find ourselves flourishing as the hands and feet truly caring for our community.

In the latter half of 2024, we have already begun to take gigantic steps in helping our LGBTQIA+ siblings see that we are a welcoming and affirming community with no hidden agendas open to them. I have been speaking with the California Pacific Annual Conference Justice and Compassion Coordinator, Rev. Dr. Denyse Barnes, and she will be coming to our church on the evening of January 12 to help us take that a step further.

There is a difference between being welcoming and being actively affirming. On the evening of January 12, Dr. Barnes will be leading a gathering in our sanctuary on the topic “What Does An Affirming Church Look Like?” Please make plans to be a part of this gathering and this conversation. This journey is more than just opening our doors and saying

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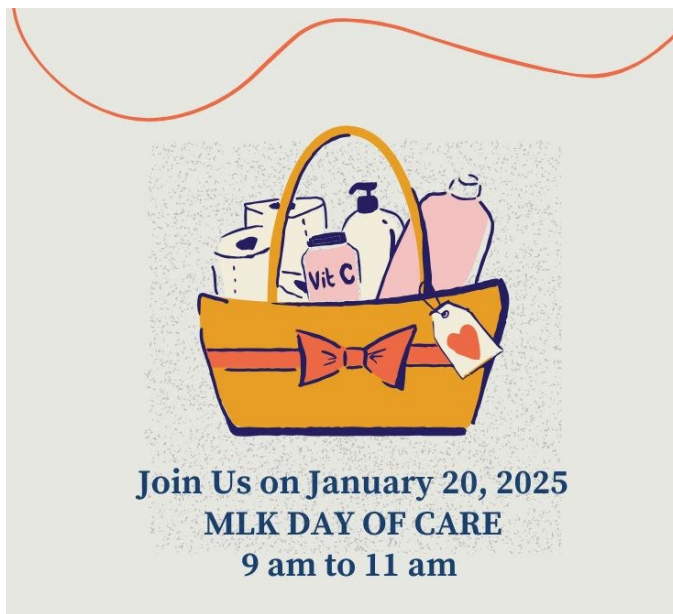
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A Message From Pastor Drew continued

hello. There are needs, concerns, and actions we need to be aware of so our siblings can feel fully comfortable in our sanctuary.

We are going to step even further in 2025 and hold special mission gathering days. These gatherings will focus on border care, food insecurity, and making others aware of resources that exist in our community that are constantly present to address some of the deeper struggles our community faces.



I frequently hear, “What can we do when we see friends in need in the community?” We know that providing cash isn’t the most desirable way to provide sustainable help, but we must both try to address the immediate needs and open channels and connections for future care. On Martin Luther King Day, January 20, from 9 AM to 11 AM, we will come together to make “care bags” for friends we encounter in our everyday lives. We will need supplies for this event:

- Large Ziplock Bags
- Small Water Bottles
- Granola Bars
- Small Kleenex Packs
- Lip Balm
- Gum

There are other events and presentations we will process through the year, all with the focus of being out and caring for others. Please hold the year 2025 in your prayers as we seek ways to be the visible presence of the hands and feet of Jesus Christ and live in the spirit of John Wesley, that our entire community is our parish.

God is Love,
Pastor Drew (He/Him/His)

WORSHIP SCRIPTURES AND THEMES

January

- 05** **Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-12
 Theme: They Were the First Caregivers
- 12** **Guest Speaker:** Dr. Marlene Oaks
 Scripture: Colossians 1:27;
 Romans 8:9-11
 Theme: Turning to Christ
- 19** **Scripture:** John 2:1-11
 Theme: The First of Many
- 26** **Scripture:** Luke 4:14-21
 Theme: Today it is You



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.

The TUMC Stephen Ministry chapter provides opportunities to talk openly and confidentially to a compassionate, non-judgmental listener. If you’d like to know more information, please contact our Stephen Leader, Dr. Anne DiPardo at dipardo.anne8@gmail.com. Our volunteer care givers are ready to meet with you free of charge! Just contact Pastor Drew for a referral at pastordrewdavis@gmail.com.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITURGIST, USHERS AND HOSPITALITY

We are currently seeking additional ushers, liturgists and assistance with hospitality. Soon, the pastor will be conducting a training session for ushers. To sign up as a liturgist and/or usher email Pastor Davis at

pastordrewdavis@gmail.com for hospitality email Anita Accordino at araccordino12@verizon.net.



**THE CHURCH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED:**

JANUARY 1st NEW YEARS DAY

JANUARY 20th IN HONOR OF MLK

****Please submit your Newsletter
Articles by January 15th****

ALTAR FLOWERS

SIGN UP TO BRING FLOWERS TO HONOR, CELEBRATE OR REMEMBER

Altar Flowers are a beautiful way to honor, celebrate, or memorialize 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. Sign up on the Altar Flowers schedule at the sign up table. For more information please contact Anita Accordino at 714-655-0330 and araccordino12@verizon.net.



JANUARY

Happy Anniversary

Robert & Jennifer Sayne 5th
Jose & Channing Manacop 10th
John & Cookie Gender 22nd

Happy Birthday

Hallie Sebanc 6th
Josh DeWall 7th
Marika Matson 8th
Bert Bjorklund 9th
Peggy Cowherd 10th
Savannah Hammett 10th
Dwight Weaver 10th
Steve Jones 11th
Eva NTony 12th
Judy Dermody 14th
Sally Malec 16th
Gloria Galvez 17th
Selasi NTony 23rd
Lesley Gregory 24th
Danilo Gutierrez 24th
Kathy Kasitz 27th
Erik Toberman 28th

THRIVE 2025

United
Women
in Faith

Thursday, January 16, 2025
1pm—3pm

Temecula United Methodist Church
Come for a Visioning Experience
Set the tone for 2025
—Body, Mind & Spirit

Dr. Marlene is an expert on the mind, Learn
new ways that can help you achieve your goals
and dreams. Put the date on your calendar.

MYOSKELETAL MESSAGES

Church Members are invited to receive myoskeletal massages at our church. This type of massage involves lots of stretching and will increase range of motion to help manage chronic pain areas. Please wear shorts and a tank top during the session.

There will be no fee and members are encouraged to make donations to the church for this service. Weekly appointments will take place on Mondays. To schedule a session call 951-694-6100.

Thanks - Lesley Gregory



SCRIP NEWS

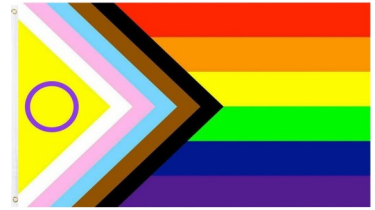
Purchasing scrip cards is a simple way of raising money for the church budget. Simply purchase gift cards at face value and the church receives a percentage of the sales.

The scrip box has a variety of cards including gas, stores and restaurants. Cards can be purchased on Sunday mornings after service using cash or check. 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 at 951-764-3938 or jngalbraih5@yahoo.com

Hello Friends...

You may of noticed that our church is now flying the LGBTQIA+ Pride flag on our flag pole along with the traditional USA

flag. This is in addition to the Pride banners we have out for Sunday Services.



Why do we do this? Four wonderful reasons:

Inclusion: We send a message directly to our LGBTQIA+ community and the community at large that we include and welcome everyone at our church. Not only do we include everyone...we want everyone to be with us.

Commitment: This is message to the world that we are a committed reconciling and inclusive church. We want the world to know it.

Safety: We are safe place for the LGBTQIA+ community members to meet, to worship and to be themselves.

Love: We message to the world the love of God and Jesus to everyone.

Be proud that we are one of the few churches in our area that are proud to show our community where we stand and what we believe on inclusion.

If you would like to get more involved in LGBTQIA+ ministry or just talk about your personal journey... please reach out to me at lgbtqministry.tumc@gmail.com or Pastor Drew at pastordrewdavis@gmail.com. We both would love to talk to you.

Arthur Salyer, Preferred pronouns: He Him His
[why pronouns matter](#)

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



GOLDEN BASKETS FOR THIS MONTH

January

- 05 Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- 12 Amplify
- 19 Human Relations Day
- 26 S.A.F.E.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

This fund helps members of the church and the community with emergency needs, such as rent, gas, and food.



A fully affirming and inclusive fellowship gathering

Amplify is a gathering of allies, supporters, and members of the LGBTQ+ community who want to come together to experience and amplify the all-inclusive, grace-filled message of Jesus, and to offer fellowship, care, and support to LGBTQ+ people and the parents, friends, and family who love them. Fellowship Gathering Thursdays 6:30-8:00pm

Human Relations Day

The Human Relations Day offering supports social justice and outreach ministries that empower all God's children to realize their full potential as human beings in relationship with one another. This fund helps encourage that potential through ministries like the Community Developers Program, multiethnic ministries and countless other projects across the United Methodist connection. These funds are administered by Global Ministries in collaboration with The General Board of Church and Society.



SAFE
FAMILY
JUSTICE
CENTERS
RIVERSIDE COUNTY

**Ensuring Safety,
Protecting Families, and
Seeking Justice**

The SAFE Family Justice

Centers are a safe place for victims of abuse to get help. SAFE Family Justice Centers provide advocacy and support services to individuals who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, child/elder abuse and services for youth who are at risk. For more information go to <https://safefjc.org/>

JANUARY FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED: Soups

Your generosity is what changes lives.



Your generous contributions are essential to sustaining our local Temecula food pantries, such as the Community Mission of Hope and St. Vincent de Paul. Together, we can ensure that families facing difficult times receive the nourishment and support they deserve, fostering hope and kindness within our community. Let us come together to make a meaningful impact and provide warmth and sustenance to those who need it most.

LUNCH BUNCH



Join us for a delightful midday break at our Lunch Bunch, where great food meets even greater company! This welcoming gathering invites everyone to come together, share a meal, and enjoy the warmth of community. Whether you're a regular attendee or new to our church, we would love to have you with us. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with friends old and new—simply sign up at worship on Sunday or reach out to the church office to reserve your spot. Restaurant locations change monthly. Let's make lunchtime a time for fellowship and fun!

VOLUNTEERS & CARE

If you are looking for a way to be more involved in our family or seeking care in a specific area, one of these leaders might be able to assist you. If you are searching for something that is not listed, please reach out to Pastor Drew. You may be the leader he is looking for.

LGTBQIA+ MINISTRY
ART SALYER



artsalyer@gmail.com

Handbell Choir
DEBBIE BARBA



muedme@me.com

Stephen Ministry
DR. ANNE DIPARDO



dipardo.anne8@gmail.com

Hospitality & Worship
Care
ANITA ACCORDINO



araccordinol2@verizon.net

Choir & Music
DR. EARL RICHARDS




earlrichards02@gmail.com

Missions
SUSAN MCCLELLAN



Finance
MICHAEL ROPACKI



Facility Care
MARK MCCULLOUGH



mrkmmnk951@gmail.com

Pastor & Staff Care
ADAM HATHORN




adam.hathorn1@gmail.com

Prayers & Squares
United Women of Faith
DR. MARLENE OAKS



marleneoaks56@gmail.com

Amplify
AMY ORTH



amyorth19@gmail.com

Tuesday Ladies Bible Study
KAREN BENVENUTO




karenjoeb@gmail.com

Sunday school &
The Monks
DAN HENLEY



henley4home@gmail.com

Youth Group
GIAN ADESSO



gadesso25@gmail.com