



# Temecula United Methodist Church

# THE MESSENGER

## March 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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- Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/temeculaunitedmethodistchurch/>
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**THANK YOU**  
TEMECULA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DREW

Throughout 2025, we continue to attempt to throw our nets in new directions. There is a beautiful reality in these moments of service, watching our church community grow closer together through communication and sharing our journeys.

On Monday, February 17, our community came together to make lasagnas for Project Touch and for Jacob's House. On that day, we prepared 60 individual lasagnas and 4 larger "family-size" dishes to care for the physical hunger of our friends receiving care from these communities. We also took time to care for spiritual needs as well. We did not just send food for a time of nourishment; we also took time to create a care note to go with each individual serving of lasagna that was prepared.

When we serve others, we do not do it for acknowledgment; the goal is always to reach a need and empower our friends to have a moment of peace and care. Sometimes, we still receive expressions of gratitude. On February 18, it was my blessing to see notes of gratitude from Jacob's House on our Facebook page as well as on our Instagram pages. When we take time to care for others, it stirs spirits.

My soul was stirred by listening to the conversations that took place during our time of service. I heard moments of mentorship, sharing suggestions on how to make our morning activities flow more smoothly. I heard friends sharing stories about their families and careers, exchanging special moments

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**A Message From Pastor Drew continued**

and gifts together. When we join together in care, it opens wonderful doors and lowers boundaries so we can begin to know more about our siblings in faith.

In our efforts to learn more about others, we had the opportunity to learn about the life journeys of our LGBTQIA+ siblings. On February 23, we were blessed to have our conference LGBTQIA coordinator come and share with us things to be aware of as we strive to be an open community of support in affirming care for our siblings. It is with gratitude that I say thank you to Dr. Barnes for providing this time of conversation not just for our congregation but for our community. Taking one more moment to show Temecula Valley that all truly are welcome at TUMC.

In March, we will begin our Lenten Season. Please join us for two opportunities to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. Our first offering will be at 11 am on March 5, and then for our families that will have school and church, we will meet at 6:30 pm for a time of prayer and to receive ashes. I am looking forward to a weekly Zoom time for prayer and study during this Lenten Season. On Wednesday nights at 7 pm throughout Lent, we will have a Zoom session of prayer, reflection, and study. This link will be available soon.

I look forward to sharing with you what our March service project will be and to beginning my first Lenten journey with you. Many blessings to you all, and may we find our place in the active grace of Jesus Christ through this holy season.

God is Love,

Rev. M. Andrew Davis (He/Him/His)  
Temecula United Methodist Church  
An Inclusive Affirming Community

**WORSHIP SCRIPTURES AND THEMES**

**March**

**02**      **Scripture:** Luke 9:28-36  
**Theme:** The Past, Present, and Future

**05**



*First Day of Lent*  
**Scripture:** Matt 6:1-6, 16-21  
**Theme:** But Be Visible for Those In Need

**09**      **Scripture:** Luke 4:1-13  
**Theme:** Don't Give Up

**16**      **Scripture:** Luke 13:31-35  
**Theme:** Blessed Is the One Who Comes

**23**      **Scripture:** Luke 13:1-9  
**Theme:** Where Is the Fruit

**30**      **Scripture:** Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32  
**Theme:** Even You

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**



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](mailto: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](mailto:pastordrewdavis@gmail.com).

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

**LITURGIST and USHERS**

We are currently seeking additional ushers and liturgists . Please sign up on the calendar located at the sign-up table to participate. If you have any questions please reach out to Pastor Drew at [pastordrewdavis@gmail.com](mailto:pastordrewdavis@gmail.com)

**ALTAR SETUP**

Dear friends - If you are looking for a way to serve in our church have you considered setting up our Altar? If you are interested please contact me and I will show you how to fill the candles with oil and change the Altar cloths according to the Season. Taking care of our Altar is a great way to get involved and serve. Contact me at [bert\\_b46@verizon.net](mailto:bert_b46@verizon.net) if you are interested. Thank you - Heather Bjorklund

## TUMC ANNOUNCEMENT



On February 6th, the Board of Ordained Ministry for Cal-Pac recommended me for commissioning as a deacon this summer. I will enter into Provisional Membership in June and become Rev. Longley! I am so thankful to TUMC for its support of me from the very beginning, where I shared my call to ministry and declared my

candidacy with its blessing in 2022. I give thanks to the congregation for its ongoing love and prayers. I will continue to serve as the Director of Community Life at Aldersgate UMC in Tustin.

Blessings to you,  
Maria Longley

## EVENT COMMITTEE

### NOT ANOTHER CHURCH COMMITTEE!

Are you the party planner at your job or in your family? Do you love to host people and make sure everyone has a good time? Well now is the chance to take that talent and use it at Church! We are

putting together an Event Committee. A group who wants to help create fun community building events and fundraisers here at TUMC. If you have ideas and want to help bring them to life please reach out to Meghann Adesso at [bigstar951@gmail.com](mailto:bigstar951@gmail.com) or call/text at 951-526-7730.



**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES  
April 15th**

# March

## Happy Anniversary

Erik & Vanessa Saeger  
03/17

## Happy Birthday

Pastor Drew Davis 03/01

Joe Hughes 03/04

Robert Sayne 03/07

Gail Skennion 03/07

William Seward 03/08

Addison Riche 03/09

John Gender 03/12

Ernie Lloyd 03/14

Maureen McKown 03/16

Ashley Skennion 03/16

Diane Martinez 03/19

Erin Galbraith 03/21

Lana Salyer 03/22

Claire Savin 03/22

Dean George 03/24

Gian Adesso 03/25

John Paul-Edwards 03/26

Tricia Ortega 03/26

Neil Gutierrez 03/30

Dr. Marlene Oaks 03/30

You are invited  
A very special guest speaker  
**Deputy D.A. Kacey Sutton**



On the vital issue of protecting yourself from fraud, identity theft, and other financial crimes. Sponsored by UWF and open to everyone

**March 20, Thursday**  
from 10:30-noon

Over her eighteen-year career as a Riverside County Deputy District Attorney, Kacey Sutton has specialized in community outreach and the prosecution of crimes involving financial abuse, predatory fraud, domestic violence, and child abuse. Outside of prosecuting cases in the courtroom, Kacey has presented to tens of thousands of students, educators, and adults on predator awareness, the impactful nature of words, and crime prevention. She co-founded the non-profit Women Wonder Writers, served on the boards of multiple nonprofits aimed at eradicating abuse, and actively mentors youth in the community. Kacey has authored unique curriculum dedicated to female and survivor empowerment, which has been taught in workshops, classrooms, and juvenile hall facilities across Riverside County. Kacey graduated from the University of San Diego, summa cum laude, and received her law degree from Pepperdine University School of Law.



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



ALTAR FLOWERS



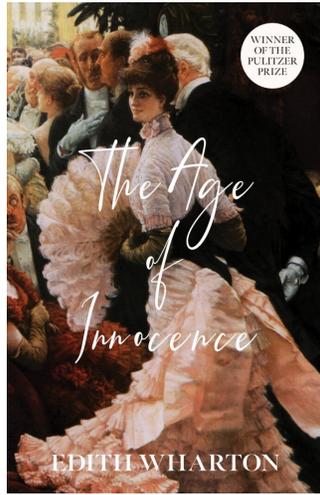
**Consider bringing flowers or plants from your garden for Altar Flowers**

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. If you need assistance with providing your Altar Flowers contact Anita.

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](mailto:araccordino12@verizon.net).

## BOOK BUDDIES

Cookie Gender will host the Book Buddies at her home at **6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 4** for a discussion on *Age of Innocence*, by *Edith Wharton*. This now-classic novel was published in October 1920 and in 1921 won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, making Ms. Wharton the first female to be awarded the prize. The story is set in the 1870s, in upper-class, gilded-age New York City. Wharton wrote the book in her 50s, after she was already established as a major author in high demand by publishers.



See Ethel Takeguchi or Sue Bradshaw for more information about our book group. Zoom access is available. Come join us. We greatly enjoy reading, discussing, and socializing with others who share our interest and love of books.

On **April 1**, Ethel will lead a review of *Beautiful Country*, by Ojan Julie Wang. The full schedule and list of books are available in the church breezeway.

## 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](https://www.raise-right.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 at 951-764-3938 and [jngalbraih5@yahoo.com](mailto:jngalbraih5@yahoo.com).

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SCRIP**

## LGBTQIA+ MINISTRY

Siblings, we will be present in the community, sharing the affirming love that thrives at TUMC. In March, May, and June, we will be out in our community to meet new siblings and engage in conversations with some truly wonderful people. Please see the flyers below and join us if you can. At the very least, you will have the opportunity to converse with new friends and hear about their journeys, loves, and, more importantly, their concerns. God is Love,

Rev. M. Andrew Davis (He/Him/His)  
Temecula United Methodist Church  
An Inclusive Affirming Community

3RD ANNUAL  
RIVERSIDE'S  
Inland Empire  
PRIDE

SAT - MAY 10, 2025  
WHITE PARK - 12-9PM

TOGETHER  
WE ARE  
UNLIMITED

Find us on social  
@RiversideLGBTQ

120+ Vendors  
Music - DJ - Drag  
Food - Beer Garden  
Art - Youth Zone  
Workshops

RSVP for free tickets → [riverside.lgbt/festival](https://riverside.lgbt/festival)

PRIDE  
by the beach

Save the Date

FREE  
family festival  
6.7.25  
noon - 6pm  
Oceanside  
CA

brave  
bold • resilient • authentic • voice • equality

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER OR RESERVE A BOOTH  
[www.pridebythebeach.org](https://www.pridebythebeach.org)

## GOLDEN BASKETS FOR THIS MONTH

### March

- 02 Missionary - Joel Hortiales
- 09 Ganta Um Hospital - Liberia
- 16 El Porvenir - Nicaragua
- 23 UMCOR - LA Fires Disaster Relief
- 30 UMCOR Sunday



### Our Missionary Rev. Joel Hortiales

Joel works closely with the conference executive director of connectional ministries in coordination of Hispanic/Latino ministries, including border ministries in the San Diego and Imperial County areas.



**Ganta United Methodist Hospital Liberia** provides quality and affordable healthcare in the rural north. As a not-for-profit organization, Ganta Hospital cannot afford to solely rely on the local intake that are not regular. Further, the hospital's "affordable" fee-for-service falls far below the costs of services provided. Even with the minimum charges, some of the struggling rural subsistence farming families cannot afford to pay the full amount. Therefore, the management is mostly left with no alternative but to waive those fees. This situation requires the hospital to seek external supports to mitigate this gap in revenue generation. While also realizing management must be creative in identifying self-sustaining services in the hospital to minimize reliance on outside supports. We are therefore pleased to report that contributions (of funds, supplies, equipment, etc.) from our partners helped keep the hospital stable and fully operational.



El Porvenir believes all people deserve clean water, safe sanitation, and the knowledge to sustain it for the generations to follow. We partner with the people of Nicaragua so that they can build a better future for themselves through the sustainable development of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) education projects. To find out more click on link

<https://www.elporvenir.org/>



On January 7, strong Santa Ana winds in Los Angeles caused wildfires to spread rapidly in multiple communities. Thousands of homes and businesses have been destroyed, as well as multiple local United Methodist Churches. Preliminary

assessments of the damage is underway. UMCOR has awarded two solidarity grants to the California-Pacific Annual Conference to undergird their immediate relief efforts. This includes evacuee support like food and essential supplies as well as support for volunteer efforts and other relief activities. Join us in this response. Donate to support this disaster response effort. <https://advance.umcmission.org/p-620-umcor-us-disaster-response-and-recovery.aspx>



The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows

UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

## March Food Pantry Items Needed: *Mac and Cheese*



# **HOLY SEASON**

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

MARCH 5TH

11:00AM AND 6:30PM

## **PALM SUNDAY**

APRIL 13TH

10:00AM

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

APRIL 17TH

10:00AM AND 7:00PM

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

APRIL 18TH

10:00AM AND 7:00PM

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

APRIL 20TH

7:00AM AND 10:00AM