

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: Yu-Chen Agostini
Youth Director: Gian Adesso
LGBTQIA+ Coordinator: Art Salyer

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IN THIS ISSUE

A Message from Pastor Drew 1
 Anniversaries & Birthdays..... 3
 Book Buddies 5
 Christmas Poinsettias..... 6
 Cinnamon Rolls Bake 5
 Golden Baskets/Missions..... 6
 LGBTQIA+ Ministry..... 5
 Notes from the Office 3
 Prayers and Squares..... 4
 Project Touch Christmas..... 4
 Stephen Ministry 3
 TUMC Christmas Party 9
 TUMC Family Tree 5
 TUMC Scrip 6
 United Women in Faith..... 4
 Worship Scriptures and Themes 2
 Worship Volunteers 3

Temecula United Methodist Church

THE MESSENGER

December 2025

TEMECULA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHRISTMAS
Events

CELEBRATING THE SEASON OF THE BIRTH

- DEC 13 5PM** All Church Christmas Party
- DEC 14 12:30** All Church Conference
- DEC 21 5PM** Longest Night Service
- DEC 24 11AM** Morning Worship
- DEC 24 4PM** Family Cookie Making
- DEC 24 7PM** Traditional Service
- DEC 24 11 PM** Prayer and Communion service

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DREW

Community of Temecula United Methodist Church,

We have completed our first full calendar year together. Yes, I’ve been here for almost a year and a half, but what a unique and lovely journey it has been from January 1, 2025, to December 2025 with you.

This calendar year has been a real blessing as we’ve begun to see the potential in the many things we can do for our community.

This year, we embraced outreach opportunities that cared for our friends with food and security. We prepared meals for dear friends who have children with medical needs—no parent should have to worry about where their next meal will come from. We continued our work with Saint Catherine’s, welcoming many beautiful friends who come to find food and nourishment at their food bank on Friday mornings.

Continued on page 2

While we may not be physically on the front lines, our support through food and spiritual prayer ensures that this essential work continues, allowing our dear friends to receive meals during their visits.

This year, we took on larger projects that opened our campus to the community. The most significant of these events was our Temecula Pride gathering, accomplished in partnership with the Temecula Valley Pride Center. We welcomed 682 guests on our campus that day! I can share with you all that I've seen growth in our worship community because of that gathering. It was a joy to share with so many dear friends that God truly loves them, embracing the fullness of their identities.

We continue to be a church that cares through your active support. So many dear friends have walked through our doors and found a new home—not just a place to sit for an hour and hear God's message, but a true home where they can begin to grow spiritually. Bible study groups have become active, engaging in outreach and care. This is not just a place where people put in time; it's a place where people give their time.

We still have a month to go and many beautiful things to accomplish. In the closing months of this year, we will hold a clothing drive, collaborate with Habitat for Humanity on home painting projects, and create opportunities for individuals to come together at our Christmas gathering. This will not just be our church community celebrating the holiday; we will open our doors to younger friends who find themselves in transition and need a comfortable place to enjoy a meal, laugh, and play with a community of friends.

We will also embark on a new adventure this year. Our goal is to provide four different worship experiences for our Christmas Eve service. These services will be as follows:

- 11 AM Service: This service will feature elements of our regular traditional service and is designed for our dear friends who cannot drive at night. It will include prerecorded music, scripture, and hymns, celebrating the birth of Christ.

- 4 PM Family Service: This will be a time for our younger friends to decorate cookies, spend time with the community, and hear a special Christmas story that means a great deal to me—a narrative of Superman saving Christmas for many dear and forgotten friends.

- 7 PM Traditional Service: This will be our yearly traditional service, complete with music, hymns, special performances, and an opportunity to come together during the holiday season.

- 11 PM Prayer Service: This will be a time of communion, prayer, and reflection as we step into Christmas Day to experience the reality of Christ's birth.

We will have other events throughout the December holiday season. On December 13, we will host our yearly Christmas party. On December 21, we will acknowledge that Christmas isn't always an easy time for everyone with our Longest Night service. All of these events focus on making it possible for us to serve, celebrate, and worship together in the reality of Christ's presence.

On December 14, we will step outside of our celebratory activities to begin looking toward the new year. At 12:30 PM, we will hold our yearly all-church conference. This will not just be a time for us to reflect on what we've done; we will also look forward to what we can accomplish in the new year, reminding ourselves that we are called to care for the needs of others.

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all this holiday season. I look forward to the adventures that 2026 will bring for our community.

M. Andrew Davis (he/him/his)
Pastor
Temecula United Methodist Church

WORSHIP SCRIPTURES AND THEMES

December

7 **Scripture:** Luke 2:4-7
Theme: The Candle of Peace:
The Peace of Bethlehem
Liturgist: Nan Wood
Welcome Table: Peggie Webb

14 **Scripture:** John 2:1-11
Theme: The Candle of Love:
A Loving Mother
Liturgist: Dr. Marlene Oaks
Welcome Table: Fran Sandipher

21 **Scripture:** Luke 2:8-10
Theme: The Candle of Joy:
Joy to the World
Liturgist: Karen Benvenuto
Welcome Table: Anita Accordino

28 **Scripture:** Romans 6:4-6
Theme: In 2026 We Rise Anew
Liturgist: *Sign up today!*
Welcome Table: Nan Wood

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Sign Up to Serve on Sundays

We are currently welcoming new volunteers to serve as Liturgists, Ushers, and Welcome Table hosts.



For more details email Pastor Davis at pastordrewdavis@gmail.com or Anita Accordino at araccordino12@verizon.net.

A sign up sheet is available at the sign up table.



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 Janet Delaney at janetdelaney412@gmail.com.

Our volunteer caregivers are ready to meet with you free of charge!

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

In celebration of the Christmas and New Year holidays, our church office will be closed on the following dates:

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Thursday, December 25, 2025

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Thursday, January 1, 2026

We wish you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas season and a blessed New Year!

Please submit your newsletter articles for January and February by Monday, December 15.

December

Happy Anniversary

Nick & Joan Biddle 12/10
Samuel & Patricia Hill 12/16
Jorge and Belma Adamos 12/17
Bill & Zoila Hillier 12/19
Rand & Lila Stolp 12/19
Rowan & Sharon Johnas 12/22

Happy Birthday

Xander Seward 12/02
Sarah Huffman 12/03
George Wuertz 12/06
Jamie Dreams 12/07
Matt Ferguson 12/07
David Tayrien 12/08
Charlie Weaver 12/08
Rachel Turner 12/09
Vaneesa Koran 12/11
Toby Hammett 12/11
Brandon Ralph 12/14
Nila Gutierrez 12/14
Shelby Salyer 12/16
Peggy Griffin 12/18
Rev. David French 12/20
Lisa Glenn-Edwards 12/21
Nan Wood 12/21
Jamie Turner 12/22
Chuck Washington 12/25
Jonathan Buehler 12/28
Sara Salyer 12/28
Anthony Ramos 12/29
Wesley Teasdale 12/30

Prayers and Squares

Offers you the opportunity to have or gift your very own **MEMORY PILLOW**

With your special photo printed on fabric and made into a quilted 18" pillow

And support Prayers & Squares at the same time with your donation to help us be able to give quilts to those in need of prayer.

Pick any special photo—wedding, anniversary, birthday, holiday, vacation, children, grandchildren, grandparents, family home, pets and more.

Pick up your form on this table and turn it in.

Email your photo in jpg format to marleneoaks56@gmail.com

And in a couple of weeks take your very own Memory Pillow home with you, or wrap it up to give as the perfect gift.

**2025 Opportunity
Quilt and Pillow
Prayers & Squares**



**1930s fabric
Dresden plate
and Dresden
Girls**

Original one of a kind design by Marlene Oaks
Tickets \$10 or 3 for \$20

Drawing at our boutique Dec. 7th.

**Prayers & Squares
Boutique**

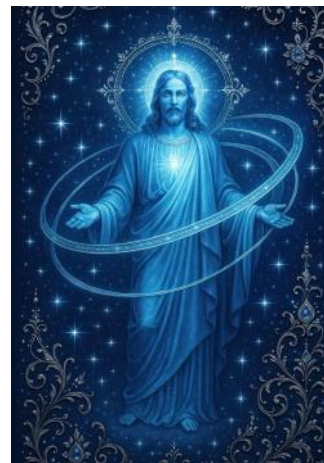
December 7th before and after church

Focus on Christmas

All items made by our team for you and for your gift giving. Donations support Prayers and Squares!



**United Women In Faith's
Annual Christmas
Party and Potluck
December 18, 10:30 AM – noon in Room 1
Everyone is invited!**



*Put Saturday
January 24, 2026
on your calendar.
10-4 mini retreat
"Practice the
Presence of God"
Led by Dr.
Marlene Oaks
Presented by UWF
All are invited!*

PROJECT TOUCH CHRISTMAS



**Adopt a
homeless
Project
Touch child
for Christmas
Make their
dreams
come true**

- Pick a name and list (See Marlene Oaks)
 - ◆ Buy gifts up to \$25
- ◆ Gift wrap them & attach your copy of the list
- ◆ Bring to the church by Dec. 14th, 2025.

At any given time, almost half of the beds at Project Touch are filled with children. Each year we adopt 40 of them. Join in this heart-filled opportunity!

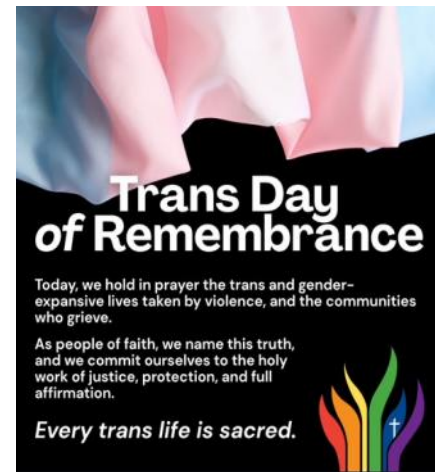
A Fine Romance

Join our Book Buddies on Tuesday, **December 9** at 6 p.m. at Suzanne Calcagni’s home for a lively discussion of Emily Henry’s *Great Big Beautiful Life*. (Note the new date.) This book has it all; it is a romance wrapped in a mystery, a memoir and a tragedy. It follows a journalist, Alice Scott, who competes with a Pulitzer-Prize-winning biographer, Hayden Anderson, to write the story of Margaret, a reclusive heiress. The narrative is structured to intertwine Alice and Hayden's present-day story with Margaret's past, exploring themes of legacy, family secrets, and love.



Those interested in attending or seeking more information about the book group should see Ethel Takeguchi or Sue Bradshaw. Participation is open to anyone who shares our interest and love of books. We meet monthly *except* January, July and August. The full schedule and list of books are available in the church breezeway. And following our Christmas break, don’t miss *Hello Beautiful*, by author Ann Napolitano, on February 3. Come join us.

On Thursday, November 20, the Temecula United Methodist Church was honored to serve as the host location for Temecula Valley Pride's observance of “The Transgender Day of Remembrance.”



Each year on November 20, we reflect on the harsh reality of the violence that our transgender friends face daily and honor the names of those whose lives have been lost due to this violence.

As our church continues to be a place of affirming inclusion, we are committed to being a sanctuary of care for our beloved marginalized friends who are seeking hope.



TUMC FAMILY TREE

Our Family Is Growing

As we enter this season of harvest and togetherness, we invite you to help us grow our **TUMC Family Tree** in the hallway.

WHAT TO BRING:

- A color 4x6 photo that is meaningful to you. One that reflects your spirit, your loved ones, or a special moment.
- Write your first and last name on the back of the photo.
- Drop it off at the church office or place it in the collection plate.



Let’s celebrate the beauty of our community one photo at a time.

For questions, please contact Maureen McKown at mmmckown@msn.com.

CINNAMON ROLL BAKE



Cinnamon Rolls for Christmas Sunday

If you want to help and/or learn how to make homemade yeast cinnamon rolls, come on **Saturday, Dec. 20 at 10 AM.**

You will also get a copy of Marlene’s original recipe and have a lot of fun.

GOLDEN BASKETS FOR THIS MONTH

December

- 07 Empowerment Village
- 14 Heifer International
- 21 Border Ministry
- 30 No Golden Basket



Housing - A rent-reduced, shared-living stay on our campus for up to 14 moms and their children at a time. Families live three to a house with a combination of private and shared space.

Education - During their two-year stay, women are equipped with resources, mentoring, accountability, education, and community connections designed to empower them and their children to sustainably thrive.

Accountability - Village residents commit and are held accountable to living agreements that ensure safety and enable the thriving growth of all, including moms, kids, staff, and volunteers. These include responsible and supportive co-living, active participation in weekly classes, progress and follow-through toward set goals, clear and honest communication with the advocacy team, and a commitment to physical and emotional safety.

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>

Border Ministry Immigration Strategy Group

Border Ministries stand at the front lines of compassion and justice—offering rapid response, legal support, and faithful accompaniment for immigrant families. The time is now to give through prayer, presence, advocacy, and support, strengthening our church's witness of mercy and hope.

<https://www.calpacumc.org/immigration/>

Food Pantry Items for December: Canned Tuna & Mac and Cheese



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.



To participate, please complete the order form on the next page and return it with your payment. Forms may be placed in the offering plate during worship on Sunday or brought to the church office during business hours. Deadline for ordering: **Sunday, December 14th.**

TUMC SCRIP

Holiday Scrip News

Thinking about gift cards for the holidays? Scrip has over 750 items to choose from. Visit the website



[RaiseRight.com](https://www.raise.com) to see all items that are available.

When gift cards are ordered through the church, the church receives a rebate for each item. This is a great way to earn money for the church.

**Pre-orders are due by Sunday, December 7th.
Pick-up will be available on Sunday,
December 14th.**

Complete the attached order form on the next page and return it to the church with your payment using cash or a check

Any questions please contact Janet Galbraith at jngalbraith5@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SCRIP!



✦ Church Donation Drive ✦

Warm Clothes for the Homeless

November 30, 2025 – January 4, 2026

Help us share God's love and warmth this winter!

Our church is collecting warm clothing for adults in need throughout our community.

We are gratefully accepting:

- Warm jackets
- Sweatshirts
- New or gently used items for adult men and women

How to Donate:

Please place your contributions in the donation basket at the church entrance any Sunday during the drive.

Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors in need!

Christmas Poinsettia

Deadline for Ordering: December 14th

Quantity: _____ x \$15.00 each = \$ _____

Name: _____

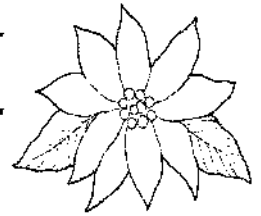
Phone Number: _____

Please circle one of the following:

In Honor OR In Memory Of

(Dedication will be listed in the Church bulletin)

Please enclose cash or a check made payable to TUMC along with your order form. You may place it in the offering plate during Sunday worship or return it to the church office during business hours



Scrip Pre-order Form



If you are thinking about giving gift cards for the holidays, Scrip has over 750 items to choose from. To view a complete list of vendors available from Great Lakes Scrip Center, please visit RaiseRight.com

NAME _____ DATE _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

MERCHANT	DENOMINATION	QUANTITY	TOTAL
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MERCHANT	DENOMINATION	QUANTITY	TOTAL
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MERCHANT	DENOMINATION	QUANTITY	TOTAL
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MERCHANT	DENOMINATION	QUANTITY	TOTAL
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MERCHANT	DENOMINATION	QUANTITY	TOTAL
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GRAND TOTAL _____

PLEASE TURN IN A CHECK or CASH WITH YOUR SCRIP PREORDER FORM (Credit Cards are also accepted with a 4% fee.)

**Pre-orders are due by Sunday, Dec. 7th
Pick up will be available on Sunday, Dec. 14th.**

If you have any questions, contact Janet Galbraith at 951-764-3938 or email jngalbraith5@yahoo.com Thank you for supporting TUMC



Church Christmas Party

DECEMBER 13TH
5:00PM-7:00PM

AT TEMECULA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



FOOD, GAMES, CRAFTS
AND A VISIT FROM
SANTA!

BRING YOUR FAVORITE
CHRISTMAS COOKIE TO SHARE!

ADULTS - \$13

KIDS - \$7 AGES 2-11

FAMILIES - \$35

