

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

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**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/temeculaunitedmethodistchurch/>  
**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/TemeculaUnitedMethodistChurch>  
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# Temecula United Methodist Church

# THE MESSENGER

## December 2023



## Christmas Events

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

**Prayers & Squares Christmas Boutique**  
**10AM** *Before and after worship.* Everyone is welcome to attend.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

**Let Us Get Ready For Christmas**  
 Hear the message of Showing The Way to Christmas

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

**UWF Christmas Party**  
**10:30AM** Everyone is invited

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

**Christmas Eve Worship Services**  
**10:00AM** Come Celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent with Christmas Carols and a Word of Hope.  
**7:00PM** Candlelight and The Christmas Story

### Rick's Ramblings

#### Hark the Hearld Angels Sing

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, goodwill to all people." (Luke 2:13-14)*

Continued on page 2

## Rick's Ramblings continued

In our society and culture today, we know that Christmas is fast approaching when we see the Christmas candies and food displays go up in the grocery stores and the decorations going up already in our neighborhoods in some places, just as the Halloween decorations go down. When I grew up and was working in the grocery store, I knew Christmas was coming when the Christmas music was playing in our store, at the malls, and even in the elevators.

With all the many genres and styles of music over the centuries, I believe all generations can come together and enjoy Christmas carols and music. I don't just mean the secular, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Jingle Bells, or White Christmas, even Christian Christmas carols and songs. I did a Google search for contemporary Christian Christmas Songs. I picked the Praise Charts 100 and looked down the list. Of the 100, Chris Tomlin, a well-known internationally praise contemporary Christian artist and composer, had almost a quarter of the songs listed. Of those 12, there were traditional Christmas carols in fresh arrangements. Of the 100, there are 47 that are old traditional Christmas carols. As children, we have heard these carols: "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Joy to the World," "The First Noel," and more.



## Sounds of the Season

One of my favorite carols, and it's hard to pick one because I like so many, is Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. It was written by Charles Wesley, brother of John, the founder of Methodism. Charles was

a prolific hymn writer. It was his way of expressing his faith and telling the story of the Gospel of Jesus the Christ. This carol is one of Good News, of hope, peace, and of God's love through this most awesome and precious gift. I believe this is what all Christmas carol songs, traditional and contemporary are about, yes, the telling of Jesus' birth, of this love gift from God to all humanity, that there is hope in the most desperate of situations, forgiveness is for all people through the Grace of God, and that joy can lift us up when we are down.

In the classic Charles Shultz animated A Charlie Brown Christmas, you may remember Charlie Brown asked, cajoled, and persuaded to be the director of a Christmas

## Rick's Ramblings continued

Play. He struggles to get the others to settle down and take his direction seriously. They complain, and most do their own thing, wanting to make it a modern-day Christmas story. Charlie Brown was searching to find out what Christmas was all about. He goes with Linus to get a Christmas Tree. He ignores Lucy's insistence on buying the best aluminum tree and gets the saddest looking tree. They yell at him, call him stupid, and then laugh at him. In his frustration and full of dejection, he asks, "Does anyone know what Christmas is all about?" Do you remember what happens next? Linus steps up and states, "I do, Charlie Brown." He goes center stage, a spotlight shines on him, and then he proceeds to share the words from Luke 2:8-14. When he concludes, Linus walks over to Charlie Brown and says, "That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."



I believe the reason many generations can resonate with the many Christian Christmas Carols, traditional and contemporary, is that they tell "what Christmas is all about." The Love of God for all Creation.

I invite you to take time this busy Advent and Christmas Season to put on your favorite Christmas Carols and songs on Amazon Music, Spotify, or even, if you have a turntable, put on your Christmas records and allow the meaning of Christmas to fill you in prayer and meditation.

## Merry Christmas

PS; I want to thank all for the generous gifts, special cards and messages for Pastors Appreciation. It was a blessing for me.

Peace & Grace.



December

- 3 **Scripture:** *Mark 13:24-37*  
**Theme:** How to Be Ready
- 10 **Scripture:** *Mark 1:1-8*  
**Theme:** Where is Hope? Right In Front of Us!
- 17 **Scripture:** *John 1:6-28*  
**Theme:** Showing the Way



- 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE (10 AM)**  
**Scripture:** *Luke 1:26-38*  
**Theme:** A Surprising Visit
- CHRISTMAS EVE (7 PM)**  
**Scripture:** *Luke 2:1-14*  
**Theme:** Our Christmas Story
- 31 **YOUTH LED**

January

- 7 **Scripture:** *Matthew 2:1-12*  
**Theme:** What Shall We Give

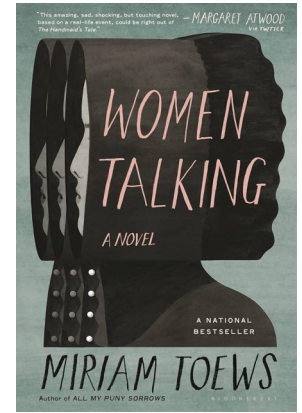
All Church Conference



The **All Church Conference Meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 10th** from **11:30AM to 12:30PM**. All are welcome to attend.

Women Talking

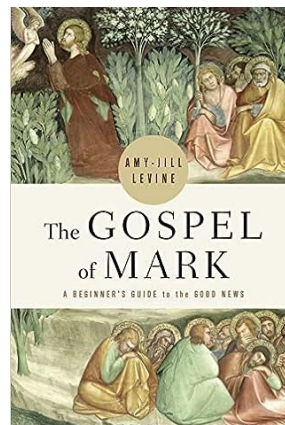
*"This amazing, sad, shocking, but touching novel, based on a real-life event, could be right out of the Handmaid's Tale."* - Margaret Atwood, on Twitter.



Join the Book Buddies book group at **6:00 pm on Tuesday, December 5** to discuss *Women Talking* by Miriam Toews at the home of our hostess, Vicki Cloutier. Based on real events and told through the "minutes" of the women's all-female symposium, Toews's masterful novel uses wry, politically engaged humor to relate this tale of illiterate and abused Bolivian Mennonite women claiming their own power to decide.

See Ethel or Sue Bradshaw for more information about our book group and if you are interested in Zoom access. Come join us. We greatly enjoy reading, discussing and socializing with others who share our interest and love of books. Following our hiatus, Sue Bradshaw will lead a review of *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by John Irving on **February 6**. The full schedule and list of books is available in the church breezeway.

Gospel of Mark Discussion



Join the Discussion  
1st & 3rd Fridays

Walk through the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus with scholar Amy-Jill Levine as she examines John the Baptizer, the Little Apocalypse, the Transfiguration, and several of Jesus's most notable stories and parables.

The Good News of the gospel message comes alive in this book as readers see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious. The book features an in depth study of select passages and illuminates the Gospel in its historical context and as a source for the other gospels.

For information contact [marleneoaks56@gmail.com](mailto:marleneoaks56@gmail.com)



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Thursday, December 14th**

Board Meeting, at 10:30 AM in Room 1

**Thursday, December 21st**

Christmas Party at 10:30 AM

**Our Gathering:** The United Women in Faith is having a Christmas Party and everyone is invited. Please sign-up for the potluck on the clipboard in the breezeway. See details below.

May this Christmas season be filled with the Light of the Christ in each and every heart.

Please get your packages into the office by **December 14th**. Make sure the tags are securely attached.



Thank you for adopting these children and giving them a wonderful Christmas!



ANGEL TREE

United Women In Faith  
Christmas Party

Thursday, December 21, 10:30-noon

**Come celebrate with us. Bring your favorite food to share at the potluck, and bring a gift for the gift exchange (optional). Please make the gift no less than \$20. Warning – there is always stealing of gifts, Carols, inspiration, and a lot of fun. Everyone is welcome to attend!**





**Annual Boutique on December 3rd**

*It's almost here!*

*Find perfect Christmas gifts!*

*And an Opportunity Quilt Drawing...*

There will be a large assortment of handcrafted items all made by the Prayers and Squares team members like table runners, quilts, wall hangings, bowls and

more! Treat yourself and/or purchase gifts.

This year you will be able to purchase **Opportunity Tickets** for a **One-Of-A-Kind King Sized Kaleidoscope Quilt** made out of 48 distinctive kaleidoscope squares.

All proceeds go to Prayers and

Squares to buy items needed during the year, such as batting, thread, machine repairs, fabric, etc. The boutiques help make it possible for us to give away quilts free of charge.

Any questions please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely— Rev. Marlene Oaks



The Church Office will be closed on the following days in observance of the Holidays.

**Monday, December 25th (Christmas Day)**

**Monday, January 1st (New Year's Day)**



**OFFICE HELP**

Adriana our Church office administrator, is looking for someone to help cover the office while she is away on December 13th through December 15th.

There would be light duties such as answering the telephone, assisting Pastor Rick, and greeting and helping anyone that walks into the office.

If you feel you could help please contact the office by email or phone. The Church office hours will be from 9:30AM - 12:30PM



Jan & Feb Newsletter Articles are due **January 10th**


**Project Touch**



**A Quarter Can Change a Life**

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

*Save you 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.***



*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 [artsalver@gmail.com](mailto:artsalver@gmail.com).

Thanks—Art Salyer

# December

## Birthdays

George Wuertz ..... 6th  
David Tayrien ..... 8th  
Charlie Weaver ..... 8th  
Rachel Turner ..... 9th  
Toby Hammett ..... 11th  
Vaneesa Koran ..... 11th  
Karen Budds ..... 12th  
Leslie Hamilton ..... 13th  
Olivia Sheaffer ..... 13th  
Nila Gutierrez ..... 14th  
Jeremy Frisbey ..... 19th  
Rev. David French ..... 20th  
Lisa Glenn-Edwards ..... 21st  
Jamie Turner ..... 22nd  
Chuck Washington ..... 25th  
Jonathan Buehler ..... 28th  
Anthony Ramos ..... 29th  
Wesley Teasdale ..... 30th



## Anniversaries

Nick & Joan Biddle ..... 10th  
Shirley Banquer & Ivonne  
Cabrera ..... 15th  
Samuel & Patricia Hill ..... 16th  
Bill & Zoila Hillier ..... 19th  
Rand & Lila Stolp ..... 19th  
Bruce & LeeAnn Lumsden . 21st  
Rowan & Sharon Johnas ... 22nd  
Larry & Jo Anne Bullard ..... 25th



## Golden Baskets for This Month

3	Heifer International
10	Million Kids
17	Food Pantries
24	No Golden Basket Offering
31	Missionary - Rev. Andrew Soon Lee

### 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>



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.

### Our Missionary - Rev. Andrew Soon Lee

Rev. Lee is a missionary serving in Cambodia with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. He was commissioned in the spring of 2017 and appointed as a missionary in Cambodia in July, 2017. He moved to Cambodia from Hawaii with his wife, Janice Lee, and two daughters, Serena and Reina. To find out more about him and his work click on the link

<https://umccambodia.org/>.

## Christmas Poinsettias



Purchase a  
*Poinsettia*

Wednesday, December 20th.

Help adorn the Worship Center for Christmas by purchasing one or more Poinsettias. Do this in Memory or Honor of a Loved One.

You can call, email the Church Office or fill out the order form attached. Deadline for ordering is

## Scrip

### Holiday Scrip News

If you are thinking about giving gift cards for the holidays, Scrip has over 750 items to choose from. Visit the website [raiserright.com](http://raiserright.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-ordering: **Pre-orders are due by Sunday, December 3rd.**



**Pick up will be available on Sunday, December 10th.**

Complete the attached order form and return to church with your payment using cash, check or credit card. (There will be a 4% fee on credit card payments.)

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SCRIP**



# Scrip Pre-order Form

To view a complete list of vendors available from Great Lakes Scrip Center, please visit [RaiseRight.com](http://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. 3rd. Pick up will be available on Sunday, Dec.10th.**

If you have any questions, contact Janet Galbraith at 951-764-3938 or email [jngalbraith5@yahoo.com](mailto:jngalbraith5@yahoo.com)

Thank you for supporting TUMC



**Christmas Poinsettia**  
**Deadline for Ordering December 20<sup>th</sup>**

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 your cash or check made out to TUMC and place with this order form in the offering plate or in the box provided near the exit or breezeway.

**Christmas Poinsettia**  
**Deadline for Ordering December 20<sup>th</sup>**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



**Please circle one of the following:**

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