

Temecula United Methodist Church THE MESSENGER

March 2024

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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RICK'S RAMBLINGS

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To The Cross and Beyond

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Mark 8:34

In the 1995 movie Toy Story, Buzz Lightyear has what became a famous rallying cry, "To infinity and beyond." He yelled this out whenever he was attempting one of his epic spaceman feats or performing one of the heroic acts for the community of toys who came alive. Way before there was a Buzz Lightyear, there was Jesus and his disciples. Just prior to the scripture above, in Mark 8:31-33, Jesus tells his friends for the first time what would happen to him as they came to Jerusalem: that he was going to be arrested, beaten, tried, and convicted to be killed. Not just any death, but death on a cross. Then, after three days, rise. Peter can't listen to this grim news about his friend. Instead of the scripture above, we can imagine Jesus crying out to his disciples and us today, "To the Cross and Beyond!"

To get to Easter, to celebrate and embrace the resurrection, whether we like it or not, we have to face the cross. The cross has become a multifaceted symbol for the followers of Jesus. At first glance, it represents the pain,

Continued on page 2

Rick's Ramblings continued

suffering, and death that Jesus endured for our sake and the sake of all humanity. It is a symbol of forgiveness for all of humanity. It is a symbol of God's unconditional love for all humanity and creation. It is a symbol for us that points to God, our Heavenly Parent. When we look at the cross in this multi-faceted way, I believe we come to understand the cross as more than a sign of death and defeat, pain and suffering, to one of reconciliation, light, and hope.

When Jesus calls his followers in his time, and for us today to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow him, we allow that cross to point our way in the way of God's love and forgiveness. We are not burdened by carrying the cross but bolstered to deny and reject those things and priorities that confront us daily and try to keep us from living in the way of God's love.

The cross is a powerful symbol of my faith and an affirmation of God's love for me. Sally and I have in our home a whole wall with around thirty different crosses of all shapes, sizes, and styles that we have collected from all over the country and the world. When I sit beneath the crosses in our dining room, I feel embraced by God's love.

Friends, on your journey in Lent, I invite you to reflect on the rallying cry to the Cross and Beyond and know of God's love for you not only on this Easter, but for each day of your life. Embrace the symbol of the cross for your life of faith.

I close with this poem by J. Barrie Shepherd, a Presbyterian Pastor and author I discovered over thirty years ago. His writings have inspired me and moved me in my times of devotion.

The poem is titled **Four-Letter-Word Tree:**

His wood at the last turned wood to him, carved in a cross.

They held his word against him, pressed word-made-flesh on word-made wood, and pinned him and nailed him to it.

All this to prove that love is more than words or wood, than skin and bone- is to rise, walk, heal, hope, and live.

In the Light of the Cross

Pastor Rick

FROM THE BREEZEWAY

4 KIDS MINISTRY

Do you care for children? Would you want to share your faith? Come join the team of Sunday School Teachers who share their faith and lessons for our children. Lessons are provided, and you would teach once a month or less. Contact Pastor Rick if you would like to volunteer or have questions.

From The Breezeway continued

Sunday Morning Offering Counter

The Finance Team is looking for volunteers to help count the Sunday Morning offering. This is done primarily after Church on Sundays. Kathy Katsitz heads up the counters and can help with training. It is good to grow our team of counters. Contact Pastor Rick or Kathy if you are willing to volunteer or have more questions.

Spruce Up the Church for Easter!

We invite you to join us for a day of sprucing up the church on **Saturday, March 9th, from 9AM-12PM!** We'll be tackling all those little fix-it jobs that keep our church looking its best. Bring your toolbox and lend a hand with changing lightbulbs, tightening doorknobs, and dusting cobwebs—all the basic maintenance tasks that keep our church home looking loved. Goodies will be served to help start the morning off right! If you have questions, contact Mark McCullough at (619) 818-4860.

Flowers for the Cross

All are invited to bring a cut flower to be placed on the Easter Flower Cross on Easter Morning.

WORSHIP SCRIPTURES AND THEMES

March

- 3** **Scripture:** John 2:13-22
Theme: *Christ Accessible to All*
- 10** **Scripture:** John 3:14-21
Theme: *Believing in Jesus*
- 17** **Scripture:** John 12:20-33
Theme: *Expanding Our Vision of Jesus*
- 24** **Scripture:** Mark 11:1-11
Theme: *A Different Kind of Procession*
- 31** **Scripture:** Mark 16:1-8
Theme: *The Surprise of Easter*

April

- 7** **Guest Speaker:** Rev. Marlene Oaks
Scriptures: Ephesians 4:32 ; Luke 6:37-38;
Psalm 86:5; Colossians 3:12-17
Theme: *Forgiveness and Beyond*
- 14** **Scripture:** Luke 24:36-48
Theme: *The Gift of Peace*

HOLY WEEK

Please invite your family, friends,
neighbors and acquaintances.

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 24TH AT 10AM

A Sunday of Palms and Jesus's triumphal entry
into Jerusalem. There will be palms.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 28TH AT 7PM

A service to remember Jesus's last supper with his
disciples and closest friends. This will be a time of
prayer, message and Holy Communion.

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29TH AT 7PM

This will be a time of identifying with Jesus's pain and
suffering and reflecting on the disciples' struggles with
what was happening to their friend.

EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31ST AT 7AM

Get up and join us for a sunrise service to welcome
the Risen Christ on Easter morning. There will be
Special Music and Easter gifts for the children.

EASTER SUNDAY

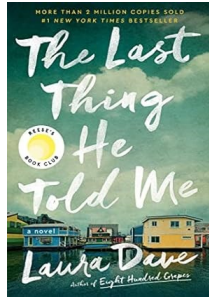
MARCH 31ST AT 10AM

Celebrate the Risen Christ through music and
fellowship. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt.

BOOK BUDDIES

The Last Thing He Told Me

Our book for March is a “page-turner with a mystery you’ll want to get to the bottom of quickly.” Join the Book Buddies book group at **6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 5** to get to the bottom of *The Last Thing He Told Me* by *Laura Dave*, at the home of our hostess, Cookie Gender.



See Ethel Takeguchi or Sue Bradshaw for more information about our book group. Zoom access is available. Come join us. On **April 2**, we will review *The Personal Librarian*, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. The full schedule and list of books is available in the church breezeway.

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.



MARLENE'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion Group News

In March we will continue 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 continue 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 Dr. Marlene Oaks at marleneoaks56@gmail.com, and for more information, please check the breezeway.



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

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 Dr. Marlene Oaks at marleneoaks56@gmail.com,





Afternoon Tea

Hosted by United Women In Faith

Join us

May 4th 2:00 - 4:00

for Tea and Fellowship at

Temecula United Methodist Church

42690 Margarita Road, Temecula, CA 92592

\$15 Per Person

*Stop by TUMC or Contact Meghann Adesso for
tickets and more information!*

(951)526-7730 or Bigstar951@gmail.com



Welcome our New Pastor



Rev. M. Andrew Davis is from Martinsville, VA and holds a bachelor's degree in music with a focus on vocal performance from Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, VA, and he attended Fuller Theological Seminary, where he received his MDiv. Pastor Drew served at Hope United Methodist Church in Rancho Bernardo as Youth Director and was appointed there as an associate pastor upon ordination. Since 2018, Drew has served as the Pastor at North Coast United Methodist Church in Oceanside, CA.

Pastor Drew has two children, Annie and Hunter, and is married to Gretchen Davis, who is a therapeutic riding instructor at Helen Woodward Animal Center. Drew has a passion for advocating for LGBTQIA+ siblings, video and audio ministry, and has a history of caring for and serving adults with developmental delays. Pastor Drew is excited to minister in these areas and participate in any area of service to which the community is called. He celebrates places where the body truly becomes the hands and feet and as a pastor, he supports, cheers, and participates side by side in many areas of need.

Pastor Drew also has a history and desire to work and serve with children and youth in our worship settings. He believes in empowering youth not just to have a personal place for study, but also a space in leadership in the overall life of the church. Pastor Drew recognizes the necessity of safe spaces for children and teens to have their places of comfort and to provide channels for youth to be active in the life of worship leadership and church-wide decision-making.

SCRIP

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. 951-764-3938 and jingalbraih5@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

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE


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

Getting your newsletter articles in on time can significantly reduce stress for the editor. It allows for proper planning and organization of content. This timely submission also ensures that there is enough time for editing and revisions, leading to a smoother publication process.

Friendly Reminder



**Clocks will go ahead one hour on
Sunday, March 10 at 2 AM**



*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 questions feel free to reach out to me anytime at **818-371-1009** or lgbtqministry.tumc@gmail.com.

Thanks—Art Salyer



MARCH



Anniversaries

Erik & Vanessa Saeger, 17th



Birthdays

Joe Hughes, 4th
 Robert Sayne, 7th
 Gail Skennion, 7th
 Addison Richè, 9th
 Stella Mohammed, 10th
 John Gender, 12th
 Ernie Lloyd, 14th
 Maureen McKown, 16th
 Ashley Skennion, 16th
 Diane Martinez, 19th



Erin Galbraith, 21st
 Lana Salyer, 22nd
 Dean George, 24th
 Gian Adesso, 25th
 John Paul Edwards, 26th
 Neil Gutierrez, 30th
 Marlene Oaks, 30th
 Patricia Stone, 30th



GOLDEN BASKETS FOR THIS MONTH

March

- 3 Missionary Support, Rev. Joel Hortiales
- 10 UMCOR Sunday
- 17 S.A.F.E.
- 24 Dig Deep
- 31 No Golden Basket Offering (Easter 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.



United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

Every year, the world experiences devastating hurricanes, storms, wars, and other crises. As these events unfold and the number of those in need of help increases, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is there to help. UMCOR, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. Working in more than 80 countries worldwide, UMCOR provides survivors with temporary relief and long-term education, training and support. UMCOR spends 100 percent of designated gifts on the projects that donors specify. None of these designated gifts support administrative or operating costs.



**This month we will be collecting soup and crackers for the food pantries.*



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 visit <https://safefjc.org/>



Ensuring that every American has clean, running water forever.

DigDeep is a human rights nonprofit serving the 2.2 million+ people in the U.S. without the sinks, bathtubs or toilets that the rest of us take for granted.

Their community-led projects bring clean, hot and cold running water into American homes. They also invest in research, advocacy, and workforce development to close the Water Gap once and for all. For more information visit <https://digdeep.org/>

EASTER FLOWERS

Celebrate Easter with a Meaningful Gesture

As Easter approaches, let's take a moment to cherish the special people in our lives. Honor or remember a loved one by purchasing a beautiful bouquet of Easter flowers. All flowers will be displayed in our worship center.

Attached to the next page of this newsletter, you'll find the order form.

Please submit your orders no later than **Sunday, March 24th**. Drop off on Sundays and place in the giving basket or mail or drop off at the office.



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Easter Flowers

Deadline for Ordering is March 24th

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

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please circle one of the following:

In Honor OR In Memory Of

(Dedications 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.



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