

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

The Messenger
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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

March/April 2026

Happy Easter!

WORSHIP TIMES

Ash Wednesday	11AM & 6PM
Palm Sunday pancakes	10AM
Maundy Thursday	11AM & 7PM
Good Friday	11AM & 7PM
Hot Cross Bun Baking	PLEASE CONTACT MARLENE OAKS
Sunrise service	7AM
Easter service	10AM

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DREW

As we begin to move into March, I would like us to start a prayerful statement that connects in various ways to the themes of Easter. This year, we have begun studying a book titled *The Final Days*, written by Matt Rawle. Throughout this study, we are examining Christ's journey to the cross in a specific way, looking through the Gospels to see the full image of who Jesus Christ is. As we reflect on justice, poverty, freedom, grace, and a love beyond understanding, we begin to create a mission statement through which we live to shine in the world.

As we continue this journey through Lent, I pray that we focus on the areas of justice, freedom, and grace that we need to engage with, holding a mirror

Continued on page 2

to the light that Jesus Christ shines.

Easter is more than just a day; it is a daily experience. As we pray through issues of justice, we consider the places where people have been marginalized and are doing everything possible to find their place at the table. They embody the promise of the resurrection. We strive to be individuals who extend the table so that anyone can find their seat at it—no matter the differences, worries, or fears. As we step into places of justice, we aim to create a resurrection that ensures everyone knows they belong.

Freedom exists within our prayers for resurrection. Sometimes we are hindered by our own issues, grappling with self-confidence, and we need to find the freedom that exists in the reality of grace. I often share the phrase of John Wesley: we are individuals constantly moving toward perfection. This phrase implies a journey, not a destination.

As we thrive as individuals moving toward perfection, we must be honest about our own flaws and find freedom from them. When we observe the flaws of others, we also seek to see the complete person who lies beneath them, creating freedom from differences so we can recognize individuals for who they truly are.

When we look at places of poverty, we remember the statement made by the California Pacific Annual Conference, and we create a mission statement linked to feeding both spiritual and physical hunger. Sometimes our experiences of poverty are not solely related to food insecurity or housing needs. We may also encounter poverty of compassion and empathy. We need mission statements that emphasize the importance of ensuring that others are cared for, allowing them to recognize their own value and ultimately alleviating spiritual poverty so that people can find peace.

Through discovering that peace, we hope to find the final piece that completes our mission statement—a mission that thrives on a love beyond understanding. The greatest miracle of the Easter story is the ability to find resurrection in separation; it is about creating unity within our differences.

As we journey through this Lenten season, I pray we develop mission statements that not only help us find comfort within ourselves but also empower us to create comfort for others. May we truly embody the mission statement of the United Methodist Church, transforming lives in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Peace be with us all as we grow, learn, and strive toward our resurrection.

God is Love

Pastor Drew Davis (he/him/his)

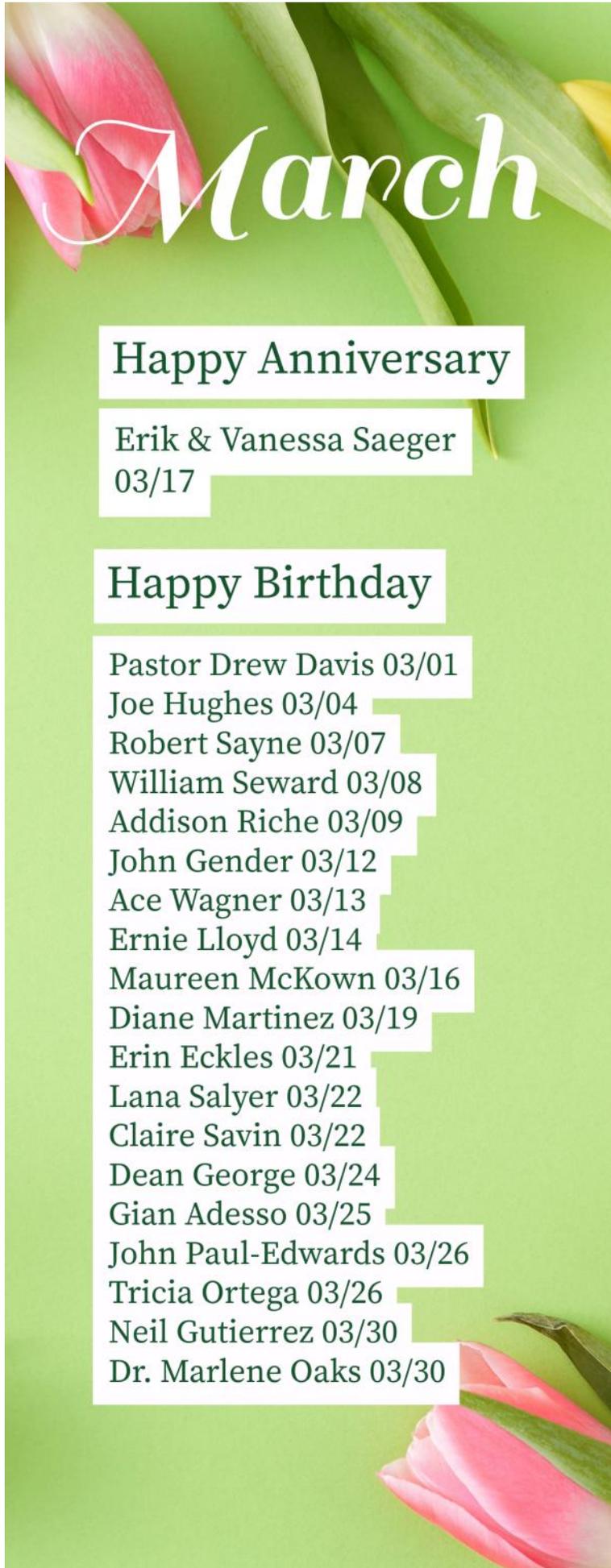
Temecula United Methodist Church

March

- 1** **Scripture:** John 3:1-17
Theme: Our Passion for a Caring Community
Liturgist: *Sign up today!*
Welcome Table: Suzanne Kurtz
- 8** **Scripture:** John 4:5-26
Theme: Our Passion Statement of Meeting Needs
Liturgist: Steve Webb
Welcome Table: Peggie Webb
- 15** **Scripture:** John 9:1-41
Theme: The Passion Statement of Caring No Matter What
Liturgist: Karen Benvenuto
Welcome Table: *Sign up today!*
- 22** **Scripture:** John 11:1-45
Theme: The Passion of a Love That Has No Ending
Liturgist: *Sign up today!*
Welcome Table: Fran Sandipher
- 29** **Palm Sunday**
Scripture: John 12:12-19
Theme: Living the Passion to the End
Liturgist: *Sign up today!*
Welcome Table: *Sign up today!*

April

- 5** **Easter Sunday**
Scripture: John 20:1-18
Theme: The Passion Becomes Her Voice
Liturgist: *Sign up today!*
Welcome Table: *Sign up today!*
- 12** **Scripture:** John 20:19-31
Theme: Seeing Is Believing, but Believing Is Believing As Well
Liturgist: *Sign up today!*
Welcome Table: *Sign up today!*
- 19** **Scripture:** Luke 24:13-35
Theme: The Prevenient Journey
Liturgist: *Sign up today!*
Welcome Table: *Sign up today!*
- 26** **Scripture:** John 10:1-10
Theme: The Good Shepherd Opens the Gate
Liturgist: *Sign up today!*
Welcome Table: *Sign up today!*



March

Happy Anniversary

Erik & Vanessa Saeger
03/17

Happy Birthday

Pastor Drew Davis 03/01
Joe Hughes 03/04
Robert Sayne 03/07
William Seward 03/08
Addison Riche 03/09
John Gender 03/12
Ace Wagner 03/13
Ernie Lloyd 03/14
Maureen McKown 03/16
Diane Martinez 03/19
Erin Eckles 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

April

Happy Anniversary

Lloyd & Sue Bradshaw....04/03
Dean & Jan Clark George....04/14

Happy Birthday

Grace Lloyd....04/01
Sallie Redfern....04/01
Kerry Keester-Wellman....04/03
Shirley Johnson....04/04
Abbi Otjen....04/04
Landry Riche....04/06
John Perry Weaver....04/08
Kevin Bollinger....04/09
Kathy Cochrane....04/09
Ethan Hathorn....04/09
Samuel Hill....04/09
Rowan Johnas....04/09
Jacob Edwards....04/11
Janet Delaney....04/12
Matthew Thompson....04/14
Allison Riche....04/17
Alyssa Gutierrez...04/20
Rand Stolp....04/21
Barbara Gaborko....04/25
Sydney Hammett....04/25
Portia Johnas....04/25
Bill Hillier....04/28
Bernadine Anderson....04/29
Gideon Pascasio....04/29
Anna Turner....04/29

PRAYERS AND SQUARES

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 the table in the breezeway and turn it in. Email your photo in jpg format to marleneoaks56@gmail.com

DR. MARLENE OAKS' BOOK

Dr. Marlene Oaks has been reflecting on her life journey for many years through the writing of a new book. Many of us have been praying for her during this journey. She would like you to know that her book, *I Wouldn't Believe It Either, If I Hadn't Lived It* is now available on Amazon. If you are interested in reading her work, you will see how she has been personally processing her experiences. We have been praying for her.

God is Love
Pastor Drew Davis (he/him/his)

TUMC 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 to see a full list of vendors. Cards may be preordered when orders are placed.



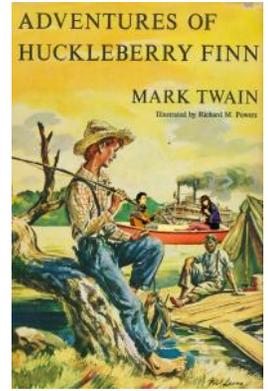
Cards can be purchased on Sunday mornings after service using cash, or check. If you have any questions or would like to place an order contact Janet Galbraith at 951-764-3938 and jngalbraith5@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SCRIP!

BOOK BUDDIES

Twain Twice

If you like Americana, join the Book Buddies on Tuesday, March 3 at 6 p.m. at Ethel Takeguchi's home to discuss Mark Twain's delightful classic, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Has it been a long time since you read and enjoyed it? And we're especially excited to meet again on April 7, with Sherry Campbell hosting, to critique reimaging of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, told from the perspective of the enslaved Jim. *James* is a perfect follow up, acting in conversation with Twain's classic, providing a necessary, nuanced, and contemporary perspective on the antebellum South.



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. Please join us.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Sign up today!
All are welcome

"And just as the intelligence in even the tiniest plant causes it to reach out for sustenance, usually the sunshine, so the soul, the spark of divinity within each being, eventually causes that being to reach out for Light."

**Practice
the Presence
of God**

**You are invited to a Mini-Retreat
Saturday, March 21, from 10am-4pm
Spend an experiential, transformative day**

**Led by Dr. Marlene Oaks
Sponsored by UWF. All are invited!**

**Please bring a sack lunch, or
purchase a boxed lunch for \$10.**

**To reserve your spot, sign up on the
clipboard in the hall.**

HOT CROSS BUNS BAKING



Help Wanted
To Make Hot
Cross Buns
Saturday, April 4th,
9AM-1:30PM
 for Easter Sunday
 Sign-up in hallway

EASTER FLOWERS

Celebrate Easter with a Meaningful Gesture

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

You'll find the order form attached at the end of this newsletter. Please submit your orders by Sunday, March 22. Forms may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, mailed to the church, or dropped off at the office.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Join us!

We are welcoming new volunteers to help support our Sunday



worship services. If you feel called to serve, consider joining our team of Liturgists or helping at the Welcome Table. Both roles play an important part in creating a warm, organized, and inviting experience for everyone who attends.

You can also sign up to provide altar flowers on any Sunday. Fresh flowers add beauty and warmth to our worship space, and your contribution helps make our sanctuary feel especially welcoming.

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.



LGBTQIA+ MINISTRY

Easter Means All of Us

Easter is the season when we proclaim that love is stronger than death, that hope rises where despair once lived, and that God is always doing something new. For LGBTQIA+ people—especially those who have been told they are outside God's grace—this promise matters deeply.

The risen Christ did not return only to the powerful or the certain. Jesus came first to those who were afraid, grieving, and unsure what the future held. He stood among them and said, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19). That peace was not conditional. It was not earned. It was freely given.

As an inclusive Methodist church, we believe Easter reminds us that God's love is expansive, not restrictive. The resurrection breaks down the walls that separate us—fear from hope, shame from belonging, exclusion from community. As Paul writes, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

For our LGBTQIA+ siblings, Easter declares that you are part of that new creation. You are beloved. You are called. You are not an exception to God's love—you are evidence of it.

This Easter season, we invite you to be part of that living, rising hope through our LGBTQIA+ Ministry. Whether you identify as LGBTQIA+, are a family member or ally, or simply feel called to help create a more inclusive church, there is a place for you. Together, we pray, learn, serve, and build community grounded in Christ's love.

If you are interested—or if you know someone who may be interested—in our LGBTQIA+ Ministry, please contact Art Salyer at artsalyer@gmail.com or reach out to Pastor Drew. We are happy to meet inside or outside our church, any place and any time.

May this season renew our commitment to be a church where every body, every identity, and every story is welcomed at the table of grace. Christ is risen—and that resurrection is for all of us.

Respectfully, Art Salyer

DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
April 15, 2026

*"Don't Forget to Spring Forward
 One Hour - Sunday, Mar 8, 2026"*

GOLDEN BASKETS

March

01 Neighborhood House Calexico
08 North Hills UMC
15 UMCOR SUNDAY
22 Palestine/Israel Outreach
29 Christ Ministry Center

April

05 No Golden Basket
12 Habitat for Humanity
19 Church and Society
26 Sherman Indian High School

Neighborhood House of Calexico, Inc.

serves the Imperial Valley region, with a specific focus on the needs of low income women and children. Thanks to the generous support of the community, Calexico Neighborhood House is able to provide direct services to much of the community. We offer specific thanks to individuals, organizations, and collaborative partners who continue to help make our services available to the community through participatory or monetary support.



North Hills United Methodist Church

Our sister church, North Hills United Methodist Church, is going through a very difficult time after a recent immigration raid that left their congregation shaken and in need of care.

As part of our Missions & Funds ministry, we are offering our support for any needs they may have as they work toward healing and stability.



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.

Palestine/Israel Outreach

Support is being extended to the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) through our Missions & Funds ministry. DSPR provides health care, education, and community development for families living in refugee communities across the region.

Christ Ministry Center

Services Provided by CMC:

- Good Neighbor Center
- Spiritual Ministries
- Free Clinics
- Brothers Keeper Clothes
- Prison, Detention, Recovery
- The Welcome Home
- Safe Harbor Loft
- AbundantHELP and much more



The above list is just some of the things that Christ Ministry Center does for the community. To learn more visit their website at <https://www.cummc.org/>



The mission of Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley, in partnership with God, is to facilitate the dream of

homeownership, as well as improve living conditions for those in the community.

Learn more - <http://www.habitativ.org/>

The General Board of **Church and Society** is dedicated to the work of living faith, seeking justice, and pursuing peace. From their offices in Washington, D.C., and at the United Nations, they engage leaders on key social concerns with the goal of transforming the world through faithful action.

Sherman Indian High School in Riverside is one of the few remaining boarding schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Founded in 1892, the school has grown from its early history into a place that now provides a strong academic program grounded in cultural awareness and inclusion for students from many tribes. As part of our mission outreach, we support Sherman's ongoing work and the students they serve.

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

March:
Dried Beans
and Rice

April:
Mac and Cheese



VOLUNTEERS & CARE

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN OUR FAMILY OR ARE SEEKING CARE IN A SPECIFIC AREA, ONE OF THESE LEADERS MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST YOU. IF YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING THAT IS NOT LISTED, PLEASE REACH OUT TO PASTOR DREW. YOU MIGHT BE THE LEADER HE IS LOOKING FOR.

LGBTQIA+ & AMPLIFY

Art Salyer
artsalyer@gmail.com

HANDBELL CHOIR

Debbie Barba
muedme@me.com

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Pastor Drew
pastordrewdavis@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY & WORSHIP CARE

Anita Accordino
araccordino12@verizon.net

MISSIONS

Susan McClellan
mcclellan.susan@gmail.com

TRUSTEES

Mark McCullough
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SPRC

Janet Galbraith
jngalbraith5@yahoo.com

PRAYERS & SQUARES UWF

Marlene Oaks
marleneoaks56@gmail.com

FINANCE

Michael Ropacki
mropacki@esperanzaclinical.com

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Karen Benvenuto
karenjoeb@gmail.com

MONKS & SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dan Henley
henley4home@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP

Gian Adesso
gadesso25@gmail.com



PALM SUNDAY
Pancake Breakfast

March 29th **\$9 for Adults** Pancakes,
After Church **\$5 for Kids** Eggs & Sausage

All proceeds benefit TUMC Youth Group



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 more information, please contact Pastor Drew at pastordrewdavis@gmail.com.

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



Tumc Annual
Afternoon Tea

Save the Date
May 16th!!!

We are looking for Host
& Hostesses!

Contact Meghann Adesso if interested!

Easter Lily Flowers

Deadline for Ordering is March 22nd

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 this order form in the offering plate. You can also drop this off at the Church Office Monday through Friday from 9am-2pm.