



The Vision
of
Temecula UMC

Temecula UMC is a Reconciling 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

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The Messenger

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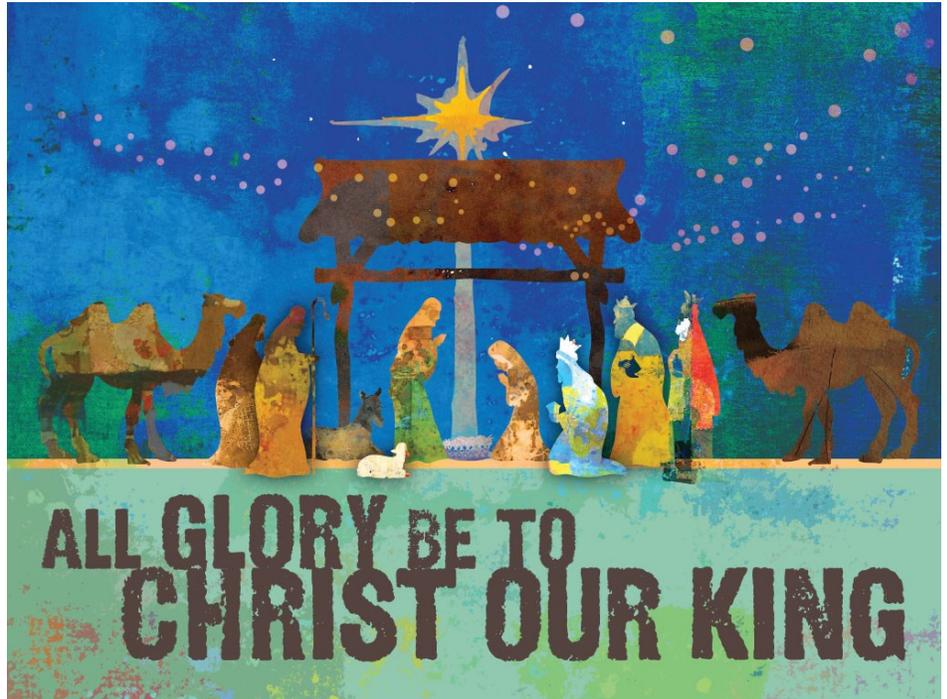
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TemeculaUnitedMethodistChurch>

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Temecula United Methodist Church THE MESSENGER

December 2021



Rick's Ramblings

Christmas Season Worship

"God of hope, I look to you with an open heart and yearning spirit. During this Advent season, I will keep alert and awake, listening for your word and keeping to your precepts. My hope is in you." ~ Matthew Kelly

As we enter December we begin the new Church Year with the Advent season leading up to Christmas. Advent is the time the Christian Church has designated as a time of preparing for the arrival of God's Son the Christ, the anointed one of God. The birth of the baby Jesus. This year, as much as any year, we seek and look forward to the hope God gives to us with the birth of Jesus. The realization of God's ultimate love for humanity and all of God's creation.

This truth of God's love for us is like a sign of renewal for our lives as we continue to pull ourselves out of this dark time of the pandemic and the division within our communities and our country. We celebrate this Christmas as a healing salve of forgiveness to mend the brokenness in our world. This is a sign of light that will bring restoration within our families, the Church, and society as a whole. This season is a reminder we are called to not only receive this love of God and be healed, but to take the love into the world. To live this love by offering healing and hope to the oppressed and downtrodden, to feed the hungry, speak out for justice to the people on the fringes of society, and to welcome all into God's family.

**Newsletter
DEADLINE
December 15th**

This year especially we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and the Christmas Season together after not being together due to the Covid Pandemic. We know the Pandemic is not over but we are thankful for ways to combat and suppress the spread of the disease to allow us to celebrate and worship as safe as possible by following the CDC, State, local, and United Methodist protocols. I want to share with you ways you will be able to prepare yourself for the time of Christmas. All our Sunday Worship services will be 10 AM with fellowship time to follow. We still ask that masks be worn inside but are optional while outside.

Sunday December 19: We will celebrate Christmas through Music.

Tuesday December 21, 7:00 PM, Murrieta United Methodist Church, 24652 Adams Ave, Murrieta Ca.

Longest Night Service: "In the Western Christian tradition, is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. On this day, some churches in Western Christian denominations hold a church service that honors people that have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief." This service is presented by the Grace Mission Area in which we are a member of 6 other United Methodist Churches in Southwest Riverside County and North County San Diego. All are invited. Come let us join together to support and care for one another in this season of Love.

Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve: 7:00 PM and 11 PM Candle Light Services. 11:00 PM will be streamed live.

Sunday, December 26: We will have an in-person service at 10 AM and recorded streaming service on Facebook or YouTube, (both streaming Services will have the capability to have live interaction).

Sunday, January 2: We will welcome in the New Year. Come dressed in festive attire. (Casual is Good). Noisemakers and streamers are encouraged.

Sally and I want to thank our Church Family for their support and love for us over the year. We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Peace & Grace.

Pastor Rick

TUMC MONKS

The TUMC MONKS donated \$200 for Thanksgiving Meals to the Union Rescue Mission. Our contribution will be doubled by a Matching Grant.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16



From The Breezeway

Servant Volunteers of the Month

We have had the joy of celebrating Servant Volunteers of the month. Thanks to Marlene Oaks who interviews and writes up a short bio article for the Messenger we are able to highlight a different member of our Church Family. But we are now needing your help again to nominate Servant Volunteer candidates. If you know of someone that serves in one way or another to help care for those in our congregation or the community please submit that name to Marlene. We all have gifts that God gives to us and we use them to serve our Church and the Community.

Wednesday Bible Study

Pastor Rick's Bible Study continues on Wednesday mornings at 10 AM by Zoom. For the weeks of Advent Pastor Rick will be leading the group in examining the scriptures of the Advent season leading to Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

Beginning Wednesday, January 12, Pastor Rick will lead a study on the Book of Revelations. Is the Book an apocalyptic Book of end times? Is it written cryptically? Is it a book of doom or hope? Let Pastor Rick know if you want to join the group at any time and he will send you a link for the week's Zoom.

Worship Scriptures and Themes

December:

5: Scripture: Philippians 1:3-11

Theme: *Visualize It!*

12: Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7

Theme: *Rejoice in the Lord*

19: Scripture: Luke 1:39-56

Theme: *Gift Giving*

26: Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Theme: *The Wonder and Power of Christmas*

January:

2: Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Theme: *Light of Hope*

9: Scripture: Luke 3:15-22

Theme: *God Has Come to Us*

16: Scripture: John 2:1-11

Theme: *A Real Sign*

Book Buddies

Have You Read Any Good Books Lately?

Many people enjoy reading, discussing, and socializing with people who share their interests. We have just the small group activity for you. Participation is open to all members and friends of TUMC. Please join us!

The TUMC Book Buddies (book group) meet at 6 pm on the *first Tuesday of each month* from September through December and February through June in our homes and through Zoom. Just prior to our annual potluck in June, we nominate a variety of books and then gather to enjoy dinner and select those we will read the next term. Contact Ethel Takeguchi or Sue Bradshaw.

Our schedule through June 2022 is as follows:

October 5, *The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett; host is Karen Benvenuto

November 2, *The Silent Patient*, by Alex Michaelide; host is Carlyn Buehler

December 7, *Miss Benson's Beetle*, by Rachel Joyce; host is Ethel Takeguchi

February 1, *American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummins; host is Barbara Gaboroko

March 1, *The Sympathizer*, by Viet Thanh; host is Zoila Hillier

April 5, *Folly Beach*, by Karen White; host is Vicki Cloutier

May 3, *The Stranger*, by Albert Camus; host is Karen Benvenuto, reviewer Vicki Cloutier

June 7, Book Buddies Potluck, host Carlyn



Drive-Thru Dinner

Last month we had another successful Drive Thru BBQ Dinner Fundraiser. **Our next dinner will be in January,**

Date to be determined time will be 4:00 – 5:30 PM. The Dinner and pick up are done in a safe manner. Please invite your family,

friends, and neighbors to take advantage of this great meal. Start the New Year by supporting the furtherance of our mission and ministry to offer help and hope to our Church Family and the community around us. **Watch for the link and/or flyer to get information and your order form.**

The menu for this month: Choice of one of two meats with choice of two sides and a delicious dessert. There is a vegan gluten free offering as well. If you have any questions you can contact Pastor Rick, rick.malec@gmail.com or Meghann Adesso bigstar951@gmail.com.

Golden Baskets for This Month

December

- 5 SAFE Family Justice Center
- 12 El Porvenir Safe Water and Sanitation
- 19 Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley
- 26 No Golden Basket



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.



We believe 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.



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.



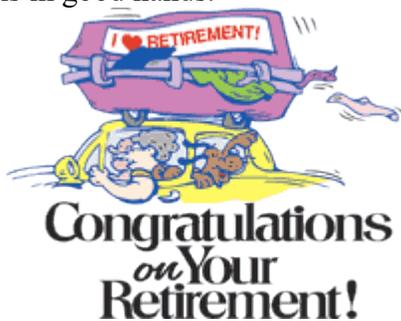
The warmth of the retirement worship service and reception on November 7th is fresh in my mind. It was very touching. I appreciate all those with whom I shared the church community over twenty-five years and particularly for Milton Takeguchi's committee

who made the retirement event so happy. There are many to thank and I will send personal notes to them. It was splendid to see the full church! I am grateful to have served and now for the very generous parting gift, banner, giant handmade retirement card, flowers and more cards, reception and the many beautiful members of the congregation.

It is now time for us to look ahead.

A special thank you to Pastor Rick and his leadership. TUMC is in good hands.

Blessings to all,
Mary Kottman



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|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 12/4 Jake Eisenberg | 12/16 Shelby Salyer |
| 12/6 George Wuertz | 12/20 Rev. David French |
| 12/7 Matt Ferguson | 12/21 Lisa Glenn Edwards |
| 12/8 Tom Baird | Andrew Nelson |
| Charlie Weaver | 12/22 Jamie Turner |
| David Tayrien | 12/25 Chuck Washington |
| 12/9 Ryan Nelson | 12/28 Jonathan Buehler |
| 12/11 Toby Hammett | Sara Salyer |
| 12/12 Karen Budds | 12/29 Anthon Ramos |
| 12/13 Leslie Hamilton | Alyssa Thielmann |
| Olivia Sheaffer | 12/30 Wesley Teasdale |
| 12/14 Bonifacio Gulla | |
| Nila Gutierrez | |



United Methodist Women



Dec 9- Thursday, 10:30 AM -
UMW Board meeting in Room 6

Dec 16 - Thursday, 10:30 AM -
UMW Meeting in Room 1

Our gathering for this month will include installation of officers for 2022 by Pastor Rick Malec, carol singing led by Boni & Vinya Gulla, and a gift exchange (bring a wrapped gift, minimum cost of \$15.00) lunch will be provided by the UMW officers. All women of the church are welcome; Come and join us!



- 12/7 Gerry & Andrea Nicholas
12/10 Nick & Joan Biddle
12/16 Samuel & Patricia Hill
12/18 Matt & Diana Roderos
12/19 Bill & Zoila Hillier
12/21 Bruce & LeeAnn Lumsden
12/22 Rowan & Sharon Johnas
12/31 Paul & Linda Sykes

Poinsettias For Christmas

Help adorn the worship center for Christmas by purchasing one or more poinsettias. Do this in memory or honor of a loved one. Names will be listed in the bulletin on December 19 and December 24. You can call the Church office, 951-676-1800 ext. 1, or fill out the order slip on Sunday December 5 or December 12. Order Deadline December 14.



Scrip Holiday Pre-order

After church service each Sunday, look for the Scrip table to purchase your gift cards. The cards are purchased at face value. TUMC receives a rebate for the cards. This is a simple way to help grow the church budget.

The Scrip box has a wide variety of gift cards for grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, fast food restaurants and retail stores. With advance notice, gift cards may also be preordered.

Visit the website ShopwithScrip, for a full inventory selection.

Holiday Pre-order: Submit your Holiday Pre-order form by Sunday, Dec. 5th. Cards will be available for pick up on Sunday, Dec. 12th.

Here are additional ways to help support TUMC:

Ralphs/Food4Less: If you shop at Ralphs or Food4Less, be sure to register your rewards cards to earn rebates.

Food For Less Code: JR526

Ralph's Code: SN791

AmazonSmile: When shopping, log onto Amazon Smile select Temecula United Methodist Church as your charitable organization. Amazon will automatically donate to the church.

<https://smile.amazon.com>



Scrip Pre-order Form

To view a complete list of vendors available from Great Lakes Scrip Center, please visit ShopWithScrip.

NAME _____ DATE _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

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 PRE-ORDER FORM
(Checks accepted from church and regular members.)

Preorder due by Sunday, Dec. 5. Pick up on Sunday, Dec. 12.

Contact Pastor Rick or Janet Galbraith to place an order.

Once your order has arrived, you will be contacted. Arrangements will be made for pick up.

Janet Galbraith at 951-764-3938 or email jngalbraith5@yahoo.com

Thank you for supporting TUMC



TUMC Christmas Party!



Let's once again party together to start the Holiday Season with our

TUMC All Church Christmas Party

Saturday, December 4th 5 PM – 8 PM

Come for the Good Food. It will be catered this year.

Ham, Mac & Cheese, Chicken Nugget for kids , dessert and more.

Adults \$10, Children 5-11 \$5, under 5 free, family of 4 or more \$25

***Good friends and
food, great music and
fun games***

special visit

***and maybe a
Special Guest from
the North Pole!***



Servant Volunteer of the Month

Diane Martinez



It is with great pleasure I present our friend Diane Martinez this month. She was born in Plattsburgh, New York, where she lived until the age of 12. She was a Girl Scout, an avid reader and very studious. In Ontario, California she attended junior high and high school. She continued with her reading passion and also learned to sew, making some of her clothes. She got married right out of high school, raised 3 children: Debra, Wendy and Eric (now deceased).

Until 1982 Diane was an Episcopalian, but didn't participate much. She began to find the repetition boring and meaningless. Her visiting in-laws went to the Methodist Church and Diane liked it so much that she has been an active Methodist for 40 years. She had gone with her grandmother to the Methodist Church when she was a child, but at that time it was hellfire and damnation, which did not appeal to her. She was active in church and UMW in San Ramon Valley.

In 1993 Diane moved to Temecula. She has been an active member here at TUMC for 28 years. Some of her participation includes: Stephen Ministry from the beginning, membership committee, missions committee, hospitality committee, welcoming committee, taught Sunday School, active in UMW, lay representative to CalPac, in Bible study all 28 years, attending adult Sunday School and more!

Diane and Rudy met in 2001, the love of her life. Rudy was very active here too—Monks, Chair of Council, lay representee. Diane and Rudy worked on several Gala committees. He passed on in 2016, missed by everyone.

Diane says her spiritual philosophy is still in process. This is her current understanding:

God is universal Spirit and Energy of everything; everything living is God; God is omnipresent, panentheism; God is aware and present at all times and places.

She remarks that her problem with fundamentalism is their exclusive attitude. All religions speak of the same God, they are just different paths.

She wants you to know that she considers all of our church part of her family.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Marlene Oaks

Remember, you can nominate people for Servant Volunteer of the month. Contact Marlene Oaks—marleneoaks56@gmail.com.