



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.*

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# Temecula United Methodist Church THE MESSENGER

July 2022



**Rick's Ramblings**

**Politics and the Church**

As soon as you have read my title for this month's Rick's Rambling, you will check out. In my over thirty years of ministry, the word and understanding of politics in the church have been a point of contention for many people. Politics is something many people believe should stay out of the spiritual part of our lives. We don't want politics in our workplace. Hearing and participating in politics make us uncomfortable. Unless you are in a setting where everyone believes the same thing and has the same understanding about what is happening in the world, this act of politics seems to show itself. It tends to cause us to choose sides, build walls, and tempers rise. People could be ostracized, put down, or pushed aside.

In the many churches I've served, many people have shared this and don't want to go to a church where there is politics. People have left the church when they feel there is too much politics. In the last few years, this feeling of politics in the church has grown to the point that it has caused much discussion. Contention has increased.

I believe there is no way to keep politics out of our lives which includes the church of any faith community. I believe the reason is contained within the definition and understanding of the word politics. "Politics (from Greek) is the set of activities that are associated with making decisions in groups, or other forms of power relations among

**Newsletter  
DEADLINE  
July 15th**

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### **Rick's Ramblings continued**

individuals, such as the distribution of resources or status, the activities associated with the governance of a country or other area, especially the debate or conflict among individuals or parties having or hoping to achieve power."

With this understanding, one can understand why people resist having politics in parts of their lives, especially in their church. The first part of the definition seems neutral - making decisions in how to organize and distribute resources. It's the last part of the definition that causes many to get "turned off" to politics, "...the debate or conflict among individuals or parties having or hoping to achieve power." This can lead to negative relationships and affect how we live together. It leads to winners and losers, acceptance or rejection, inclusive or exclusive. We want our churches to be a place of retreat, of peace, to get away from what is happening in the secular world.

With all this stated, I'm going to make another statement that may upset you. There is no Church or Faith Community that does not have any politics involved. Whether intentional or by the nature of how people relate to one another. I make this statement not to say it is good or bad just a reality. Unfortunately, politics within our society has risen to a new level of ugliness in the last several years. We have turned even what seems to be a simple thing as wearing a mask for protection and safety into a point of heated conflict.

But I believe when there are places that justice, mercy, freedom from oppression of all kinds, acceptance, to fulfill "love one another as God has loved us" and to "love God with our whole being and love our neighbor as ourselves", need to be demonstrated by the Church to raise its voice and live in a way that some may accuse us as being political. God calls us into the world to "bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free, proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19) Also, from the Prophet Micah comes these words, "What does the Lord require of you but to but to do justice, and to love mercy and walk humbly with your God." (6:8). In today's society, even Jesus would be accused of being political. He overturned the tables in the temple and challenged the religious, secular, and Roman authority. Where there was a need for the voice of the people on the fringes of society, the excluded and oppressed Jesus challenged all to change their way of relationship. To follow the commandments, especially the great commandment of Love.

If the Church is being faithful, it will always be accused of being political. But I would warn that we need to be clear about what the message is that we are conveying-the one of love, forgiveness, acceptance, and inclusion. To do justice, and to love mercy and walk humbly with your God In my mind, this is not being political but living in the way of Christ and bringing God's King-dom on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Peace & Grace  
Pastor Rick

### **PS: Let us welcome our New Members:**

Kyle, Maria, & Drew Longley, Shirlee Armistead, Jo Anne Bullard, Anne DiPardo, Dan and Zana Easley, John and Aloma (Cookie) Gender, Kerry Keester-Wellman, Fran Sandipher, Tom and Melanie Roth, Erin Warren, Mary Warren, Marilyn Wood. The Longley's join on June 26. The rest are joining on July 10. They have been a part of the family and now are becoming official Members of Temecula United Methodist Church. You will begin to see their pictures and short bios on the Membership Board in the Breezeway outside the Hillside Room. Stop by and check them out.

## **Worship Scriptures and Themes**

### **July:**

**3: Scripture:** Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

**Theme:** *The Big Take Away*

**10: Scripture:** Luke 10:25-37

**Theme:** *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*

**17: Scripture:** Luke 10:38-42

**Theme:** *Choosing the Better Part*

**24: Scripture:** Luke 11:1-13

**Theme:** *Making Sense of Prayer*

**31: Scripture:** Luke 12:13-21

**Theme:** *Potential in Community*

### **Aug:**

**7: Scripture:** Luke 12:32-40

**Theme:** *Be Ready*

## Golden Baskets for This Month

### July

- 3 Missionary Rev. Lee
- 10 UMCOR
- 17 SAFE
- 24 Heifer International
- 31 Project Touch

#### **Missionary - Rev. Andrew Soon Lee**

He is serving as the Country Director for the Cambodia Mission Initiative. For more information about what Rev. Lee is doing go to

<https://www.facebook.com/DreamCambodia>  
<https://umccambodia.org/>

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#### **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**

With everything going on in the world UMCOR is as busy as ever helping throughout the world.

UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. Our efforts are targeted in places where natural disasters, war, or conflict have done so much damage that communities are unable to recover on their own. In addition, UMCOR helps communities in the United States and abroad prepare for emergencies and to reduce the risk of disasters through a roster of training programs. We also are involved in global development work. Specific programs address issues of health, sanitation, poverty, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food security. Many development problems are interrelated, so UMCOR uses integrated solutions to address their root causes. UMCOR seeks to empower local hospitals, schools, churches, and other stakeholders by enhancing their capacity to address these issues.

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#### **SAFE Family Justice Center, Temecula**

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. To learn more visit

<https://safefjc.org/>

#### **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 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>

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#### **Project Touch**

##### **Together Our Unity Conquers Homelessness!**

The Face of Homelessness has changed...Since their foundation in 2003, they have fought and advocated for those in need in our community to receive the most basic and essential human needs. Since 2007, they have been providing a dedicated call center serving our local Police Departments 24/7. For over a decade now Project T.O.U.C.H. has operated an annual winter shelter for our most vulnerable citizens serving approximately 40-50 people every night (December through April). Their year round self-sustaining transitional housing program does not receive any federal government funding, and serves over 200 individuals daily with an average of 40 - 55 children, single mothers, men & women, emancipated foster youth, domestic violence victims, seniors, mentally and physically disabled, veterans and entire families. Both programs provide comprehensive case management, employment assistance, transportation, food, clothing, medical assistance and more. They service the most vulnerable in our community...

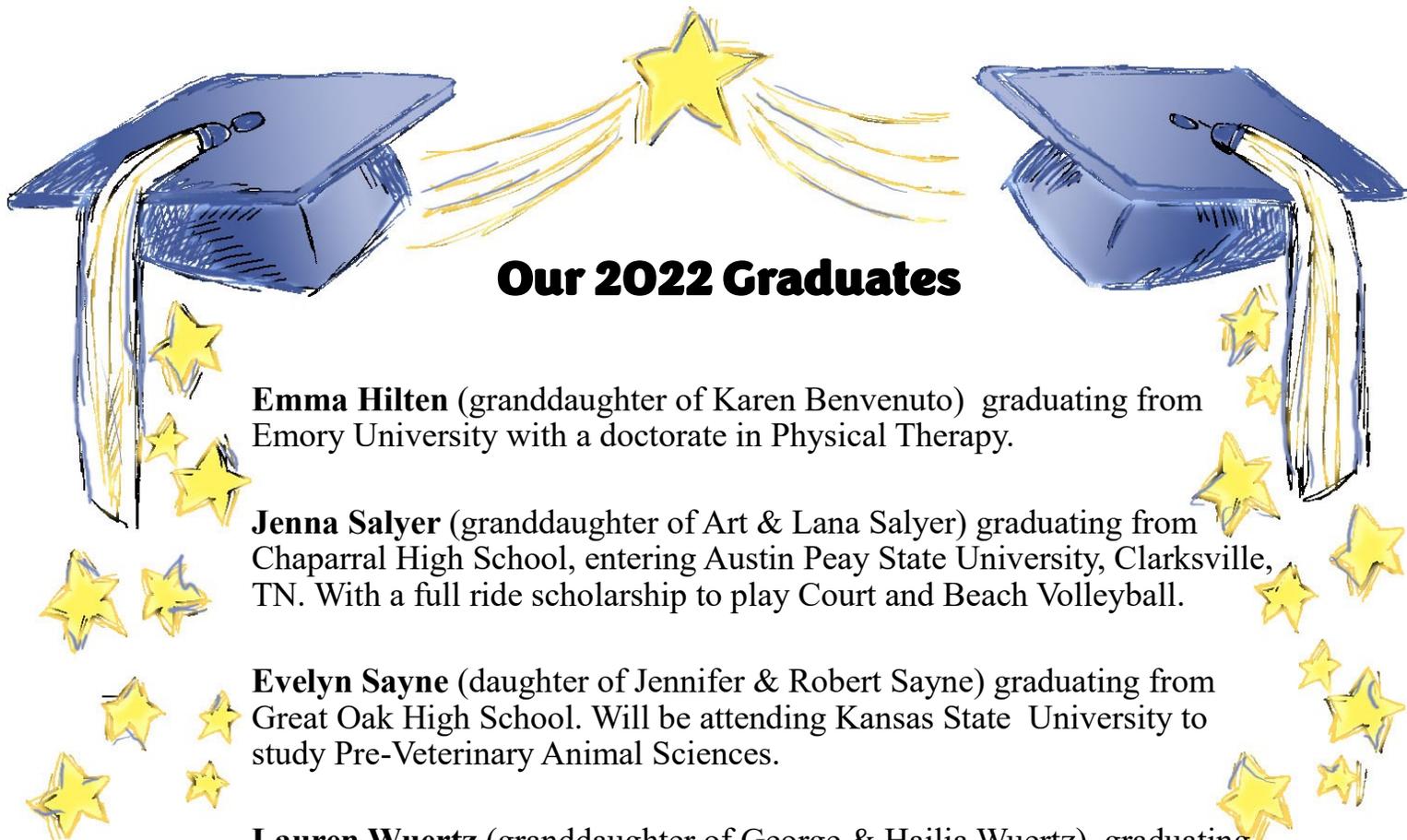
Learn more by going to their website at

<https://projecttouchonline.com/>

## United Methodist Women



We will be on summer break for the months of July and August. We will resume our meetings in September. Have a blessed summer!



## **Our 2022 Graduates**

**Emma Hilten** (granddaughter of Karen Benvenuto) graduating from Emory University with a doctorate in Physical Therapy.

**Jenna Salyer** (granddaughter of Art & Lana Salyer) graduating from Chaparral High School, entering Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN. With a full ride scholarship to play Court and Beach Volleyball.

**Evelyn Sayne** (daughter of Jennifer & Robert Sayne) graduating from Great Oak High School. Will be attending Kansas State University to study Pre-Veterinary Animal Sciences.

**Lauren Wuertz** (granddaughter of George & Hailia Wuertz) graduating from Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach. She will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on a full scholarship in the fall.

**Ethan Hathorn** (son of Adam & Nellie Hathorn) graduating from Great Oak High School and attending Mt. San Jacinto College in the fall.

**Jamie Turner** (daughter of Rachel & Jim Turner) is graduating from Temecula Valley High School on June 2nd. Following graduation, she plans to get a second job and save up her money, while she contemplates her next step.

**Savannah Hammett** (daughter of Toby & Nancy Hammett) is graduating from Temecula Valley high school. She will be attending San Jose State University to study Forensic Science.

**Sage Morrison** (daughter of Alisa) is graduating from Temecula Valley high school.

**Gelilah Serrano** (daughter of Eileen & German Serrano) promoting from 8th grade from Harvest Hill Steam Academy. She will be entering Temecula Preparatory high school in the fall.

**Ryan Hathorn** (son of Adam & Nellie Hathorn) promoting to 9th grade. Attending Great Oak High School in the fall.



# JULY BIRTHDAYS



7/1 Elia De La Cerra  
Jean Williams  
7/2 Mark McCullough  
7/3 Ryan Hathorn  
7/5 Scott Parker  
7/7 Betty Lou Langlois  
7/8 Joy Oh  
7/11 Lorilyn Teasdale  
7/12 Serena Hughes  
7/13 Meghann Adesso  
7/16 Gilbert Oaks  
7/17 Natalia Denver  
7/19 Lily Benson  
Kylee Riche  
Vanessa Wagner  
7/24 Heather Bjorklund  
Rick Malec  
7/25 Elliot Teasdale  
7/26 Tracy Muehring  
Camden Saeger  
7/27 Matt Roderos  
7/29 Lois Hoyle  
7/30 Sharon Johnas  
Garland Smith

7/6 Chuck & Kathy Washington  
  
7/14 Josh & Brittney De Wall  
Shirley & Randy Johnson  
  
7/17 Dan & Lorna Henley  
  
7/18 John Paul & Lisa Glenn-Edwards  
  
7/25 Milton & Ethel Takeguchi  
  
7/27 Traci Pawlak & Husband  
  
7/28 Debbie & Jerry Barba  
Doug & Lucille McGhee  
  
7/29 Anthony & Katie Ramos  
  
7/30 Gian & Meghann Adesso  
  
7/31 George & Haila Wuertz

## *CalPac 38th Annual Conference*

### *“Ending Spiritual and Physical Hunger”*

This year the conference was hybrid over 4 days spread over 2 weeks. The last 2 days, delegates could either continue on Zoom or go in person to Costa Mesa. I did all of it on Zoom.

Bishop Hagiya’s opening remarks included “We are all called to be a beacon of hope to the world.” He spoke about the split happening and noted other denominations had undergone the same separation, but afterwards they healed and became stronger. He said there were 5 key points to this. \*Beautiful service and music \*Lay driven \*Ending spiritual hunger \*Hands on ministry to the poor and those in need \*A vision for a new life.

We voted on a number of things, the most important in my eyes was to nominate and vote on those from this conference that would be presented to the Jurisdictional Conference later this year to be considered to become a bishop. There will be 3 or 4 openings. We are presenting these pastors: Sandra Olewine (our Superintendent), Tom Choi and Cedrick Bridgefort.

There were videos sprinkled throughout with remarks from the pastors retiring. There was one baptism. Candidates for ordination and for commissioning were presented. 3 churches were presented to close and sell their property—Desert Hot Springs, El Monte and Huntington Beach.

In the laity meeting, Erin Hawkins spoke. She said it is important to listen to one another’s stories; to witness to God’s Love in our lives; and to go to the people wherever they are and let them know God still loves them and wants them to be all they can be. Then Cedrick Bridgefort said it was time to feed physical hunger. The people were then to assemble 30,000 meals and 2,500 hygiene kits. All was set up in an adjacent room. They did it!

We were told about the Florida 16. I was actually shocked and felt inner anguish. In the Florida Conference, 16 were presented for Ordination, all 16 were turned down because 3 were LGBTIQ+. There were tee shirts shown with “Florida 16” printed on them. Florida is receiving quite a backlash.

In the United Women in Faith meeting we learned the next General Conference will be in 2026 in Indianapolis. There was one this year with the theme “Turn It Up.” There will be a Mission U on July 23 in 3 locations. To find out more — [umw.calpacumc.org/uwfaith](http://umw.calpacumc.org/uwfaith). Its theme is “Who Can We Be Together?”

There were worship services with a variety of music and dance. There was a tribute to our wonderful Bishop, who is retiring.

Thank you all and Pastor Rick, for honoring me with being your lay delegate for 6 years. I feel it is time to hand this privilege over to someone else.

God bless you, our church, our conference, the UMC, our nation and our world.

Rev. Marlene Oaks