

Temecula United Methodist Church

The MESSENGER



The Vision of
Temecula UMC
Community

Temecula UMC is a reconciling Congregation. ALL are welcome to the compassionate TUMC family to participate in worship, education, fellowship, missions and ministry, regardless of race, ethnicity, color, age, sex, or sexual orientation. We are people of God that live out our faith every day following Christ.

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The Messenger

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Rick's Ramblings

Where Do We Go from Here?

As we approach Holy Week and Easter Sunday this year my mind drifts to the Thursday Jesus was arrested. That last week must have seemed like a strange week. It is for the disciples. They come into the city of Jerusalem the previous Sunday with shouts of Hosannas, "God saves." Then it goes downhill from there. They are thrown out of the Temple after Jesus overturns tables; there is a most unusual Passover meal and they go out to the garden. Judas sneaks off. When he returns, he is accompanied by a mob to haul Jesus away. The abuse, accusations and time of trial begins. The last verse (56) of *Matthew 26* tells us "Then all the disciples deserted him and fled." They go to hide in an upper room, possibly the same room where they just had their Passover. They are afraid. Where do they go from here?

The next day after the rigged trial and stacked jury against Jesus is over, not even an appeal can save him. Pilate denies the plea. In reality Jesus wasn't much help for his own behalf. Jesus stumbles, struggles and is abused in his walk to the place where he will hang on a cross until he is dead. Where do the disciples go from here? At best the disciples just might be able to return to their lives prior to Jesus' calling them to follow. Peter, Andrew, James and John go fishing at Galilee, the others slipping back into obscurity. Where do they go from here?

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**Video Streaming of our Sunday Worship
at 10:00 A.M.**

**Log into Facebook and search for
Temecula United Methodist Church**

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Rick's Ramblings Continued

Theologian, author, and preacher Tony Campolo made known the phrase "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming". It may seem like Friday to us friends. There is isolation, medical resources strained at best, people falling sick even dying, panic buying, getting bored, and a sense of hopelessness. Where do we go from here? Well, I have five words for all of us, it's Friday, but Sunday's coming. These are the words that turned into a reality for the disciples. It was Friday but Sunday came. And when Sunday arrives there is resurrection. There is before us the realization of a promise that the darkness of Friday did not diminish, overpower, or extinguish the light of Sunday.

Friends where do we go from here? It may seem like that Friday, it may look like that Friday so many centuries ago, it may feel like that Friday of doom and gloom, one that scattered the disciples, caused them to go into hiding. But friends let's look up, let us look out, let us believe, let us have faith, let us believe in the hope that Sunday is coming - the Sunday of Resurrection and Life. It is the Sunday of love and embrace, the Sunday that we live for and express to the one living next door to us who is feeling like it's still Friday.

Where do we go from here when Friday is in our rear-view mirror? We live the Hope of Sunday Resurrection. Even if we are living in the midst of Friday, let us live as if it is Sunday!

May You all have a blessed uplifting Easter.

Peace & Grace

Pastor Rick





Servant Volunteer of the Month Larry Messersmith

It is a joy to share a little about Larry. You will find him busy in many areas of our church, and now you can get to know him better.

Larry was born in Detroit, Michigan and lived there until he was 7. Because of a divorce, his mom moved them to San Diego, there they lived with his grandparents. He went through school in San Diego through City College, where he studied electronics, but before finishing he went into the Air Force. They put him into security as they had just become responsible for their own security and needed a lot of men, previously the Army and Marines took care of security for the Air Force. He was in the Air Force 4 years. After, he switched majors, and he completed his degree in Police Science. He applied to be a San Diego, State of California Marshal, was hired, and he liked his work.

Larry's work was quite varied. He worked courtrooms, served warrants, extradited people from other states, and for a year he worked computers. He was tasked with writing a how-to-use-it book for employees for the new computer systems they had installed. In 2000, Larry became a Sheriff because the Marshals and Sheriffs merged. In 2002, he retired after 34.5 years. He was immediately rehired on a contract basis to fill in when needed. In 2011, he finally retired.

In 1964 Larry purchased a home. He always wanted his own place, so he already had a home to bring his bride to in 1970 when Larry and Sally were wed. They had two daughters, Sharon and Carol. He met Sally at the Brooklyn Heights Presbyterian Church and knew each other quite awhile before they started dating.

The church broke away from PCA due to requirements to support Angela Davis. 600 members left, bought a former synagogue and started over. Eventually, they found their way to the United Methodist Church, newly built in Chula Vista.

In 2009, Larry and Sally moved to Temecula as their daughter, Carol, had moved here. They also wanted to be closer because they were very involved with Carol's son, Mason, who won many wrestling awards. Larry came to this church when Randy was Pastor. He has been active ever since. He is currently serving his second term on the Trustees. You may notice him taking photos at our various events as our sort of photo historian. He is always available to work on needed projects. For example, a number of years ago, the roof was partially off as the drains were being replaced, with no rain predicted, but rain it did. Of course then, there was a leak and ceilings and walls in room one, the utility closet and part of Pals had to be replaced. Larry is often seen in the kitchen as a regular in hospitality. He is active in the Monks and wherever he is needed.

His spiritual life is very important to him. He says that for him it is important to do what he thinks God wants him to do. At church he meets others who also strive to follow God. Larry, who was raised in the Brooklyn Heights Presbyterian Church and was very close to the pastor, finds it good to be around others who share your beliefs and values.

Larry has dreams for the future. He would like to go on some cruises and visit London and Paris with his daughters and grandsons. He also plans to check out Prescott, Arizona.

We all give a clap of appreciation for Larry and all that he does. What a blessing he is!

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Marlene Oaks

To nominate someone for Servant Volunteer of the Month, email marleneoaks56@gmail.com and the name will be added to the hopper for our monthly random drawing. Thank you for your participation.

From the Breezeway

Ways You Can Give

The Finance Team wants to make sure everyone in the TUMC Congregation and Family knows the importance of continued giving during this time of distancing and safe at home quarantine. First we want to thank all who have shared generously to the support of Christ's Church located in Temecula. We want to make it as easy as possible for you to share your offering and support of the Church.

1. Yes we can still receive your offering by mail. Pastor Rick or Mary Kottman are able to pick up the mail and pass it on to be counted and deposited.
2. You can go to our website, temeculaumc.com and click on the "Donate" button. Follow the prompts to make your one-time or on-going gifts.
3. You can now download an app to your phone. Go to your app store and find GivePlus or Give+. Once it appears and you begin the process make sure you type in Temecula United Methodist Church in the choose church box. Once installed you will be able to make contributions and receive a notice of your giving. If you choose to use a bank or credit card, we hope you will help us to defray our expenses by clicking the fee charge box. Or you can set up a withdrawal directly from your bank (AHC). There will be no fee to the church.

The Finance Team understands this is a difficult time for everyone and we are doing our part with the Church Council to make reductions where we can in anticipation of a deficit. We want to continue to offer Ministry and Mission in a loving and caring way for our community, you, the church family, and the world. With your help and generosity now and in the days ahead we will rise up out of the ashes of this dark time.

Worship Scriptures and Themes

APRIL

5 PALM SUNDAY

Scripture: *Matthew 21:1-11*
Theme: *Walking the Red Carpet*

12 EASTER

Scripture: *John 20:1-18*
Theme: *What a Morning!*

19 Scripture: *John 20: 19-31*

Theme: *Purpose of the Book*

26 Scripture: *John 21:15-19*

Theme: *What's Next?*

How to watch us on Facebook

We have begun to stream our worship services on the Temecula United Methodist Church Facebook page. If you have not already done this we hope you will join us for Palm Sunday and Easter and as long as we are unable to come together to worship. To get connected go to our Facebook page [facebook.com/temeculaunitedmethodistchurch](https://www.facebook.com/temeculaunitedmethodistchurch).

If you are not on Facebook, go to our website www.temeculaumc.com and click on the link to our Facebook page and it should come up. We broadcast at 10:00 AM on Sunday. If you miss it, it will still be on our website to go back and watch. We are hoping to also post on other platforms in the future. Stay tuned!

Note: If you do not have a computer or online capability and would like a copy of Pastor Rick's sermon, please contact him at church (951) 676-1800x4, and it will be mailed to you.

