



The Vision
of
Temecula UMC

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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Temecula United Methodist Church THE MESSENGER

April 2023



April 9th Easter Worship Services

Join us at 7:00am and 10:00am

Rick's Ramblings

God's Love Endures Forever

The phrase "God's love endures forever" occurs over 68 times within the Old Testament. Of those many times, this phrase is raised 26 times in Psalm 136. This is a Psalm of thanksgiving to God. A song the faithful would sing in worship recounting creation, their being saved from exile in Egypt, wandering in the desert, and coming into the land promised by God to the chosen Hebrews. The Psalm begins, "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever. O give thanks to the God of gods, for God's steadfast love endures forever. O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever." This Psalm is a song of thanksgiving in remembrance of what God has done for the people, and the hope of what God will continue to do for the people out of God's steadfast, eternal Love!

As we finish our own walk of faith in the six weeks we call Lent, a time of wandering in our own desert in preparation to come into the promised presence of God, we are continuously reminded of God's steadfast love for us. It is a love that does not leave or abandon us. It is the love of the prodigal son, who, upon his realization that his father treats the servants better than he was treated on his own by the world. Returning home, his father saw him from the house at a distance and ran to him. He embraced him and surrounded him with the steadfast love of God.

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Rick's Ramblings continued

God's steadfast love is present with us, as is stated by Jesus in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." God envelops and cradles us so that we will know God's comfort and care. This is God's expression of God's steadfast love.

As hard as it seems to imagine Jesus, God's son, being tried, beaten, suffering, and then being placed on a cross to suffer even more to die, we are reminded that this is an act of God's steadfast, eternal love for us and all humanity. Jesus died willingly that we might be assured that we are not sentenced to eternal suffering from our sins and held captive by the Sin of the world. That we are freed by this act to be lifted with Christ into a life of promised hope. To know we live in eternal life today and beyond our death on earth into a home with God in Christ. This is the story of our remembrance as a people who follow in the way of Jesus the Christ, the story of Easter!

This story is also our calling to share, shout, and live in our community, neighborhoods, homes, and the world. It is a calling that will stir us to be the expression of God's steadfast love for those who are hungry, homeless, poor, abused, and on the fringes of our society. It is our calling to be God's steadfast love as we live and promote peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation for all humanity.

This Easter, let us give thanks to the Lord, for God is good and God's steadfast love endures forever.

HAPPY EASTER

Peace and Love

Pastor Rick

Worship Scriptures and Themes

April

2 Palm Sunday

Scriptures: Matthew 21:1-17 and 26:1-5

Theme: Nourishment for the Journey

6 Maundy Thursday: 7:00 PM

7 Good Friday: 7:00 PM

9 Easter: 7:00 & 10:00 AM

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Theme: Christquake

16 Scripture: John 20:19-31

Theme: Jesus Comes to Us On Our Terms

23 Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

Theme: Noticing

30 Scripture: John 10:1-10

Theme: The Miracle of Easter

May

7 Scripture: John 1-14

Theme: Knowing Jesus

From The Breezeway

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please invite your family friends, neighbors and acquaintances to opportunities to be ending Spiritual and Physical Hunger over the Holy Week.

Sunday, April 2, 10 AM: A Sunday of Palms and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. There will be palms and Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7 PM: 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, April 7, 7 PM: This will be a time of identifying with Jesus's pain and suffering and reflecting on the disciples struggles with what is happening to their friend.

Easter Sunday, April 9, 7:00 AM: Get up and join us for a sunrise service to welcome the Risen Christ on Easter Morning. There will be an Easter gift for the children.

Easter Sunday, April 9, 10:00 AM: Celebrate the Risen Christ through music and fellowship. There will be an Easter gift for the Children.



Read Any Good Books Lately?

The **Book Buddies** Book Group meets at **6:00 pm** on the **first Tuesday of each month** from **August through December** and **February through June** in our homes and through Zoom. On **Tuesday, April 4**, we will meet at the home of Ethel Takeguchi to discuss *Woman on Fire*, by Lisa Barr. We follow with *The Midnight Library*, by

Matt Haig, on **May 2**, hosted by Carlyn Buehler. Come join us and catch our enthusiasm, even if you don't have time to finish the books.

Contact *Ethel Takeguchi* or *Sue Bradshaw* for more information. We are currently submitting our recommendations for the coming season, and in June we will have a new schedule of books and meetings. Since 2005, we have read 144 fiction, nonfiction, and classics!

Share Your Faith



Introducing a new opportunity for 3 to 4 minutes on Sunday morning. Share your faith story with everyone. Maybe it was long ago, or maybe it was last week. The precious moments of “touching the hem of the garment,” the moments of feeling God’s Presence, the spiritual aha that was meaningful or....Spiritual stories from those we know are deeply meaningful.

As we share our stories, we strengthen and encourage one another. In these perilous times, it is so important to lift one another.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table outside by Pastor Rick’s office. Please give us the gift of your stories.

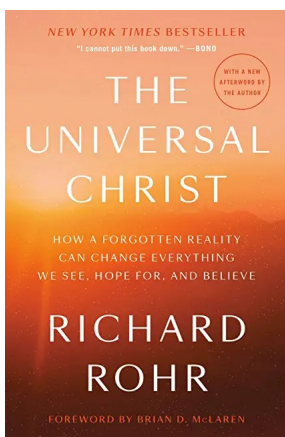
If you are too shy, write up a paragraph and send it to the office to be in the newsletter.

We pray you will give the gift of yourself and your stories to your spiritual family here at TUMC.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Rick or Marlene Oaks.

Universal Christ Discussion

Join the Discussion on this Life Changing Book



Every first and third

FRIDAY

10am-11:30am

Discussion led by

Rev. Dr. Marlene Oaks

Retired Pastor, Author,
International Teacher



April BIRTHDAYS

Grace Lloyd	04/01
Sallie Redfern	04/01
Bethany Monson	04/02
Kerri Keester-Wellman.....	04/03
Shirley Johnson.....	04/04
Landry Riché	04/06
John Perry Weaver.....	04/08
Kevin Bollinger	04/09
Kathy Cockrane	04/09
Ethan Hathorn.....	04/09
Samuel Hill	04/09
Rowan Johnas	04/09
Jacob Edwards	04/11
Sarah Benson	04/15
Allison Riché	04/17
Paul Sykes.....	04/17
Sama Beltramo.....	04/19
Alyssa Gutierrez	04/20
Jenny Moreland	04/23
Barbara Gaborko.....	04/25
Sydney Hammett	04/25
Portia Johnas.....	04/25
Bette Aseltine.....	04/26
Bill Hillier	04/28
Bernadine Anderson	04/29
Gideon Pascasio.....	04/29
Anna Turner.....	04/29
Hector Villanueva.....	04/30



April ANNIVERSARIES

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

Golden Baskets for This Month

April

- 2 Christ Ministry Center, San Diego
- 9 Heifer International
- 16 Million Kids
- 23 Food Pantries
- 30 Missionary - Rev. Andrew Soon Lee

Christ Ministry Center

Services Provided by CMC:

- 
- Good Neighbor Center
 - Spiritual Ministries
 - Free Clinics
 - Brother's 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/>



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>



Their mission is to PREVENT child exploitation by empowering every kid, and those who interact with kids, through education on predators and to INTERVENE by providing support services to those families and children in crisis. Learn more about Million Kids by going to their website

<https://millionkids.org/>

Food Pantries

Temecula residents go hungry and homeless every single day. Your generosity is what changes lives. The money collected for this golden basket will be divided evenly between the two food pantries located in Temecula.

Community Mission of Hope (CMOH) operates a food pantry that serves hundreds of families every month. They partner with over 25 grocers and food merchants in Temecula to deliver fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats to anyone in need. Their large warehouse in Temecula is where they store and distribute donations.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry operates at St Catherine Of Alexandria Catholic Church in Temecula. Community food drives and donor funds feed an amazing, giant-scale collection and distribution warehouse, where their quality control staff inspects and processes truckloads of donated food every day before it is used at the food pantry.



Our Missionary - Rev. Andrew Soon Lee

Rev. Lee is a missionary serving in Cambodia with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. He was commissioned in the spring of 2017 and appointed as a missionary in Cambodia in July, 2017. He moved to Cambodia from Hawaii with his wife, Janice Lee, and two daughters, Serena and Reina. To find out more about him and his work click on the link

<https://umccambodia.org/>.

Prayers and Squares

We are currently in **NEED** of expanding our **Prayers and Squares** team.

If you can sew, used to sew, or would like to learn to sew, please do come to Prayers and Squares. I can teach any willing person to sew.

We meet the **2nd and 4th Friday mornings from 9:30 am to noonish.**

Blessings
Marlene Oaks



Spiritual Formation Group



As part of a Spiritual Formation course at Perkins School of Theology, I had the opportunity to host my own spiritual formation group, which met three times.

We zoomed on March 1st and March 8th, using excerpts from “*A Rhythm of Prayer*” by Sarah Bessey for meditations.

The picture shows us at the Labyrinth at the Temecula Valley Rose Society Garden on March 22nd where we were able to practice our skills.

Luckily the rain stopped and the sun broke through just as we were starting. God was smiling on us!

I am so thankful for all who participated in the classes and our walk.

Blessings,
Maria

Join the “Seed Project” Starting Churchwide April 2, 2023 United Women of Faith



United Women in Faith
are hosting
Afternoon Tea
May 13th
2:00-4:00
\$15 per person
Tickets on sale now
after church!
Please contact Meghann Adesso
with and questions

United Women in Faith

April 13 - Executive Board Meeting, 10:30AM Rm 1

April 20 - General Meeting, 10:30AM Rm 1

Our Gathering For This Meeting: "Peacemakers,"
with sharing of meditations and songs of peace.

All women are welcome to attend so come and join us!

Peace Is Possible
Let's make it so—what can we do?
Come and explore this idea with us.
Special peace music and meditation
United Women in Faith
April 20 — 10:30—noon

Introducing our Annual Raffle Quilt
Original design by M. Marlene Oaks
For United Women in Faith Fundraiser
Temecula United Methodist Church



Tickets \$10
All proceeds go to charities
for women, children & youth
Drawing at our Tea, May 13, 2023

Kevin Bollinger – Servant Volunteer for April 2023



It is with pleasure that I introduce Kevin Bollinger to you.

Kevin was born in San Diego, but he grew up in a variety of places. His dad was in the space program and had to move to different locales. Early on, he lived in California and Florida. During his school years, he attended schools in Ohio, Texas, and California, graduating high school in Concord, California. Kevin has one older brother who lives in Oregon and one younger sister who lives in the San Francisco area.

He then went to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, originally thinking he would get a degree in architecture. He discovered his artistic skills were lacking, so he changed to business. Kevin came back to San Diego to attend San Diego State, where he received his Master's in Business. He got a job with the Rohr Aerospace Company, where he worked for 17 years. He ended his professional career with West Pac Avocado, here in Temecula, where he worked for 13 years and retired six years ago.

He likes to walk and ride his bike and hang out with his grandkids. He dabbles with learning to play the guitar.

In San Diego, he met his wife, Kathi. She got a teaching job at Rainbow, where she taught for 30 years. They decided to move to Temecula for her to be closer to her work. They have three children, a set of twins and a younger daughter. They have a total of five grandchildren, all of whom live nearby.

Kevin says that he did not attend church regularly during his youth or adult life. He has always believed in God, but it has only been in the last 6 or 7 years that this belief and all the questions surrounding it have become a greater focus in his daily life.

He did some church shopping and related well to Pastor Rick and our caring and friendly congregation. After attending church services for a couple of years, he decided to become a member. He especially looks forward to Pastor Rick's Bible study, where there is lively discussion and his many questions about God and the Bible get addressed. He appreciates how different points of view can be expressed and discussed openly and lovingly.

Kevin feels very thankful to be a member of a church where everyone is gracious and welcoming.

While there have been some valleys in his life, Kevin feels very blessed, and it is important for him to give something back. He has generously taken on a big job by becoming our church treasurer. Kevin says he enjoys working for the church, it makes him feel good. We are all blessed that he found us.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Marlene Oaks



A fully affirming and inclusive fellowship gathering

Amplify is a gathering of allies, supporters, and members of the LGBTQ+ community who want to come together to experience and amplify the all-inclusive, grace-filled message of Jesus, and to offer fellowship, care, and support to LGBTQ+ people and the parents, friends, and family who love them.

Fellowship Gathering

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm

Support Group

2nd & 4th Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm

Meets at

Temecula United Methodist Church
42690 Margarita Road Temecula

For more information contact us at
singlouder.love@gmail.com