



The Vision  
of  
Temecula UMC

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.**

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# Temecula United Methodist Church THE MESSENGER

August 2023



**Rick's Ramblings**

*"...anyone who comes to me, I will never drive away."* (John 6:37)

A couple of weeks ago, I marched in my first Pride Parade in San Diego. It was one of the most exhilarating times of my life, even though I walked over twice the length of the parade. Penny Wagner and I decided after seeing the line for the shuttle at the parking lot at the Old Navel Hospital that we could walk to the staging area for the United Methodist South District. Well after 1.3 miles we made it with five minutes to rest up for the 1.5 mile parade route.



Once I started seeing friends and new friends from other United Methodist Churches my adrenaline started kicking in again. The color of the dress and floats brought a smile to my face. The color and diversity of the people not only marching in the parade but those cheering us on lifted me both physically and spiritually.

Continued on page 2



## Rick's Ramblings continued

I felt like I was living the vision of our Conference and ours's as well, "striving to end Spiritual and Physical Hunger."

Though this parade is meant to celebrate the LGBTQ+ Community and their overcoming the continuing struggle, I believe this parade is also a celebration of humanity and all of God's creation. This is an event that calls all who participate by marching, by cheering on the sidelines and even those who protest, to be inclusive and welcoming of ALL GOD'S CHILDREN! This is an event of love and inclusiveness of all those who are

marginalized due to skin color, ethnicity, age, marital status, gender, sexual identity, physical or mental ability.

On Sunday Mornings I welcome all to the family, the family of TUMC and God's family. This family extends beyond

our four walls into our community and into the world. The understanding of family is that we strive to come together to care for and embrace each other. To walk side by side and when needed protect one another. To be clear, families aren't perfect. There are conflicts and we hurt each other. Many times, we become selfish and worry about our standing within the family or we think we are protecting the family, so we act out and hurt others in the family. And there are times when family members are intentional and reject others in the family because they don't act the way they want them to. But we keep trying and working at breaking down the barriers that keep us from understanding and accepting one another. We keep trying to dissolve the hate that tears at the fabric of our connection as God's children.

The one strong reason I walked in the Pride Parade is to act in the way of Jesus' words, "anyone who comes to me, I will never drive away." I pray that our TUMC Family will never drive anyone away.

Peace and Love  
Pastor Rick



## Worship Scriptures and Themes

### August

**6 Scripture:** Matthew 14:13-21

**Theme:** *You Give Them Something to Eat*

**13 Scripture:** Matthew 14:22-31

**Theme:** *Stepping Out of the Boat*

**20 Scripture:** Matthew 15:21-28

**Theme:** *Love Wins*

**27 Scripture:** Matthew 16:13-20

**Theme:** *Given the Keys*

### September

**3 Scripture:** Matthew 16:21-28

**Theme:** *Misinterpretation*

## From The Breezeway

### Accessible Seating

The Trustees, Worship, and Welcome and Outreach Committees in an effort to be welcoming to all people including those with physical challenges and to be safe for all, are proposing an alteration for seating for those with walkers, to better accommodate their comfort and move the walkers from the center aisle but keep them next to their owners. There are a number of chairs with arms scattered throughout the Worship Center that have been used by persons with walkers and physical challenges. By the end of August we plan to remove a chair in front of the armed chair where the walker can be placed for the ease and help of our church member. This also will help alleviate the congestion in the middle aisle.

We do ask those who are not in need of an armed chair not to sit there and leave the arm chairs for those who have walkers and/or physical challenges that need the extra assistance.

We may find we need more armed chairs and we are working on putting more in place. This is a work in progress to help all to have a positive worship experience. If we all work together all will feel welcomed. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Pastor Rick.

*From The Breezeway continued*

## Children’s Sunday School

But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Luke 18:16

To welcome the Children to our Church Family and help them learn about Jesus we are in need of growing our Sunday Morning Children’s Sunday School. Pastor Rick will host a planning round table to strategize how to move forward as we seek to minister to children and their families **Saturday, August 19, 9:30 AM in room 1**. Refreshments will be provided. Parents are welcomed to bring your children. Some of the needs that will be explored, how to reach out to families, recruit volunteer servants who will teach on a rotating basis, a person or team to coordinate Sunday School and choice of curriculum.

This time is for families with children and those that care about our children and their families. If you have questions contact Pastor Rick, [pastorrick@temeculaumc.com](mailto:pastorrick@temeculaumc.com) or **951-676-1800 Extension 1**

## Book Buddies



### Read Any Good Books Lately?

Our small groups are an important part of TUMC. While it was difficult to meet during the pandemic years when isolation was part of our lives, Zoom was the only way we could come together, and

our participation in the Book Buddies book group provided us with fellowship, continuity and some stability. Established several years pre-pandemic for members and friends of TUMC, we continue to enjoy reading, discussing and socializing with others who share our interest and love of books.

The Book Buddies book group meets at **6:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month from September through December and February through June** in our homes and through Zoom. On **Tuesday, September 5** we will meet to discuss *The It Girl*, by Ruth Ware, hosted by Diane Martinez.

Contact Ethel Takeguchi or Sue Bradshaw for more information. The full schedule and list of books is available in the breezeway. Come join us for a great discussion.

## Stephen Ministry

### Reaffirming our TUMC Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministers are lay people who provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through difficult times. TUMC established a Stephen Ministry program early on, and our congregation is currently blessed with

several trained and experienced care givers. Stephen Ministry chapters are also required to have specially prepared leaders to help coordinate referrals and provide training and continuing education. In response to our need for a new Stephen Leader, Anne DiPardo recently completed a 25-hour class to prepare her for this role. At our **August 20th** service, Pastor Rick will officially reaffirm our program, commissioning Anne as our new leader and recognizing the wonderful gifts that our Stephen Ministers bring to this work.

Stephen Ministry is all about deep, compassionate listening. The Stephen Minister’s role is not to fix or advise, but to walk beside care receivers, providing a welcoming, caring space that invites divine guidance. If you have gifts for compassion, encouragement, and listening, please prayerfully consider becoming part of this supportive ministry. Please join us for an information session after church on **August 20th in Room 6** or contact Anne at [dipardo.anne8@gmail.com](mailto:dipardo.anne8@gmail.com) or **319-331-1515**.

We are also once again able to respond to requests for spiritual care – just contact Pastor Rick or Anne to learn more!

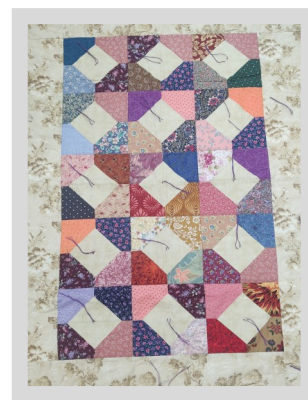
## Prayers and Squares

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



### 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](http://RaiseRight.com) to see a full list of vendors. Cards may be preordered when orders are placed. Since the beginning of January, Scrip sales have raised \$520 for the church.

Cards can be purchased on Sunday mornings after service using cash, a check, or a credit card. Credit cards will have a 4% service fee. Scrip cards are also available for purchase throughout the week during church office hours (check or cash only).

If you have any questions or would like to place an order contact Janet Galbraith at 951-764-3938 or [ingalbraih5@yahoo.com](mailto:ingalbraih5@yahoo.com)

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



## Prayer is talking to God Meditation is listening to God

Free 1 day experiential class on meditation  
open to all

**You will learn:**

◆ **Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer**

Divine reading and historic Christian Meditation

◆ **Focusing Your Energy**

Bringing in the scattered and busy energy of modern life to focus

◆ **Breathing Meditations**

Time honored techniques to still the mind

◆ **Walking Meditations and Guided Meditations**

Motion and focus

The power of meditation to improve mind and body, as well as spiritual depth, has been well-documented. Here is your opportunity to brush up on meditation or to learn it. Find which techniques work best for you.

This opportunity is offered by international teacher, author, retired pastor, and blogger, Rev. Dr. Marlene Oaks.

**Stay tuned for an upcoming date in  
September**

**Bring a sack lunch. Beverages provided**

Temecula United Methodist Church  
42690 Margarita, Temecula. 92592  
**951.676.1800**

PLEASE, IF POSSIBLE, PRE-REGISTER—  
sign up in the breezeway or call the office,  
and invite a friend

**Sponsored by United Women in Faith**

## 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 outside by the Worship Center. 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.





**Bert and Heather Bjorklund**

*August 1st*

**Gilbert and Marlene Oaks**

*August 3rd*

**Frank and Lyn Gruber**

*August 7th*

**Ernie and Midge Lloyd**

*August 13th*

**Steve and Janet Galbraith**

*August 17*

**Dan and Carlyn Buehler**

*August 19th*

**Sandy Dodson & Betty Lou Langlois**

*August 20th*

**Federico and Elia De La Cerra**

*August 21st*

**Jeff Tomaszewski and Sallie Redfern**

*August 21st*

**Stan and Catherine Buckingham**

*August 27th*

**Tom and Jan Tramontano**

*August 30th*

**Katie Ramos—August 1st**

**Ken Teasdale—August 1st**

**Traci Pawlak—August 5th**

**Jan Clark George—August 11th**

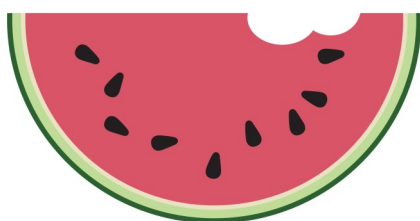
**Renee Cloutier—August 20th**

**Paul Gutierrez—August 22nd**

**Gideon NTony—August 25th**

**Linda Jones—August 26th**

**Damon Dubots—August 27th**





A fully affirming and inclusive fellowship gathering

*am\*pli\*fy - v. to expand, to increase, to strengthen, to make louder*

**Amplify** is a growing community of Jesus followers and seekers who desire to gather together to draw closer to Jesus through worship, through the reading and study of Scripture, conversation and connection.

**We seek to amplify our faith and hope in Jesus.** We believe that Jesus was God incarnate—that he was God with us, and because we believe that the entire biblical story ultimately points to him, we want Jesus to be the lens through which we read and interpret all of Scripture.

**We seek to amplify the love of Jesus.** We believe that God is love; that Jesus is God’s love in person; and that he calls those who choose to follow him to love as he loves—without limit or exclusion; so, empowered by his Spirit, we want to actively look for ways to live out the love and grace of Jesus in our personal lives, in our families, in our churches, in our communities, and in our world.

**We seek to amplify the invitation of Jesus.** We believe all humanity is uniquely created in God’s image, each one dearly loved and valued by our Father and created with intention and purpose; and we believe that the good news of Jesus and his kingdom invitation is for everyone; so we invite, affirm, and fully include all who wish to come, no matter their age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or mental or physical abilities, believing that Jesus reconciles all things and that he will never turn away anyone who comes to him.

**We seek to amplify a culture of value and respect.** We believe that all are deserving of honor and respect, so we want our Amplify gatherings to be a safe space where people feel welcomed no matter who they are.

**We seek to amplify a community of care and support.** We believe that the love and grace of Jesus compelled him to reach out with compassion,

care, and comfort to those around him, especially those who were marginalized, hurting, or in need. Through small group care and support for parents, friends, and family of those in the LGBTQ community.

**All Are Welcomed** to drop by the **Weekly Amplify Meeting** from **6:30-8PM** every **Thursday in Room 1** at the **Temecula United Methodist Church.**

Hello all,

I am honored and blessed to be appointed at the LGBTQ+ Ministry Coordinator of our Church. I am truly excited about what we as a Methodist congregation can do to support and love this underserved community.

As many of you know, Lana and I have been members of TUMC for over 30 years. I am semi-retired from global roles in the Technology/Media/Entertainment businesses. Today I work part time at the University of California in Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship Education. Lana and I are truly blessed with 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

I have been an active advocate and ally of the for the LGBTQ+ community for well over 30 years both in business and my personal life. I have many wonderful and heartbreaking stories related to this community.

We are indeed at a critical juncture in the United Methodist Church related to support for the LGBTQ+ community. In our local church I believe this is “our time” to step up and make a difference particularly in the Temecula Valley by being more inclusive to all our underserved folks.

I believe the mission is to provide a safe, welcoming, spiritual place for LGBTQ+ community. A place they can call home and know they will be loved for who they are. I believe that is what Jesus is asking us to do.

As I get started in this mission I ask for your support and prayers. I would be very interested in your thoughts and ideas.



Reach out to me anytime at **818-371-1009** or [artsalver@gmail.com](mailto:artsalver@gmail.com).  
Much, much more to come!

Thanks—Art Salyer

## Golden Baskets for This Month

### August

- 6 Temecula Area Food Pantries
- 13 Million Kids
- 20 Missionary—Rev. Andrew Soon Lee
- 27 S.A.F.E

### 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 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/>



**SAFE  
FAMILY  
JUSTICE  
CENTERS**  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY

### Ensuring Safety, Protecting Families, and Seeking Justice.

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. For more information <https://safefjc.org/>

## MILLIONKIDS

*Keeping Kids Safe From Predators*

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/>

### Notes From The Editor

**NewsLetter**  
**DEADLINE**  
**August 15th**

### Altar Flowers

**SIGN UP** to bring Altar Flowers in honor, celebration, or memory of a special date for you. Flowers may be brought to the church on the Sunday you signed up for by 9:00 a.m. and can be placed on the altar. You can pick up your flowers after the worship service.



For more information contact Anita Accordino at 714-655-0330 or [araccordino12@verizon.net](mailto:araccordino12@verizon.net)