



TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS -

OPEN DOORS

THE MESSENGER

December 2019



tulareunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com

tulareumc.com

Our Mission Statement: To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World



*Please join us for the Second Annual
Family
Hanging of the Greens*

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

Sunday, December 1

Immediately following the Worship Service

A soup lunch will be served

*Come help make the ornaments and then decorate our theme trees for
Wesley Hall, Fireside Room, and the Basement Social Hall*

Wesley Hall - the “Joy” tree

You will be making many different kinds of angels for this tree

Fireside Room - the “Hope” tree

You will be making Christmas butterflies and anchor ornaments.

Basement Social Hall - the “Peace” tree

You will be making crosses and blue ornaments for this tree

You will also have a chance to decorate cookies (to eat!)

Each tree has colors, flowers, and items that symbolize

“Joy”, “Hope”, “Peace”

*Please join us for a couple of hours of food, fun,
and fellowship to begin the Christmas season!*





DECEMBER WORSHIP TOPICS

WHAT JOY TO KNOW THAT WE COME TO TUMC TO PUT THE CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS! THE FLICKERING CANDLES OF THE ADVENT WREATH, THE SPARKLING LIGHTS OF THE TREES, THE FAMILIAR YET ALWAYS FRESH STORY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH TOLD IN SCRIPTURE, STORY, AND SONG. THIS IS A PERFECT TIME OF YEAR TO INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO JOIN US ON OUR JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM.

December 1 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT HOPE Holy Communion

Sermon Title: "Your Heart Shall Thrill and Rejoice"

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-5, John 1:1-5

December 8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT LOVE

Sermon Title: "Baby Names"

Scripture: Isaiah 7:13-14, Matthew 1:18-25

December 15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT PEACE

Sermon Title: "Do Not Be Afraid of Things Being Awesome"

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:8-15

December 22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT JOY Musical Pageant

"Love Came Down at Christmas: The Story of Christmas Told in Word and Song"

Christmas Eve 6:30pm A Celebration of Christ's Birth with Scripture, Song, and Candlelight – an inspiring hour for people of ALL ages

December 29

Sermon Title: "The Unopened Gift" Guest Preacher Tino Galicia, Lay Speaker

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-3



*Join Pastor Mary for dinner,
Christmas trivia,
and gifts on Saturday, December 21
from 4-7pm at the Parsonage!
For 6th - 12th Graders*

Baptism – Christmas Eve

One of the highlights of our lovely Christmas Eve service is the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. If you or a loved one would like to receive the gift of adoption that is Baptism, please let Pastor Mary know.



Mary's Musings

The only sound was snow crunching beneath our feet. Night had fallen hours before and the melt on the top of the snow had frozen solid, yet gave way with each step. We were silent as we made our way down the road toward the Cathedral, bright light illuminating the windows. Becky and her husband Mac were in Scotland to visit my husband and me over Christmas because they needed to do something completely different for the holidays. Their beloved 15 year old daughter Hilary had died that year of congenital heart complications and they needed distance from old traditions. Becky had not planned to go to worship with me that Christmas Eve, but something happened earlier that changed her mind.

A friend of mine, Isobel, whose husband had passed away suddenly of a stroke two months earlier, had given birth that morning to a perfect baby girl. When I got the news I hesitated to tell Becky, knowing that it would fill her with longing and grief..... but then as I was sneaking out to bring Isobel a gift, she asked me where I was going and I told her. I watched all the emotions she had come to Scotland to avoid spread across Becky's face: love, loss, longing. "Do you think I can go with you and see the baby?" And so we did. Hours later, as I bundled up to go to the midnight Christmas Eve service, Becky bundled up too. That silent walk was the holiest Christmas I have ever known. Blessings of Comfort and Joy, Pastor Mary

Pastor Mary's Vacation Schedule

Pastor Mary will be in Davis with her children John and Zola and puppy dog Emily, enjoying a "stay-cation" from Christmas Day through Friday, January 3. She will be back with us on Saturday, January 4th. In the meantime, if you should have anything arise that requires a minister, please get in touch with Connie Smith, Stephen Ministry Leader, who will assign a Stephen Minister to you while Pastor Mary is away. Connie's number is 559-920-4905.



Special Musical Presentation: LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

For Worship on Sunday, December 22, we will have "Love Came Down at Christmas: The Story of Christmas Told in Word and Song." It will be a series of Christmas carols – some lesser known – sung by adults, as well as youth and children, narrated by members of the Youth Group. If you want to be among our singers – absolutely ALL skill levels are welcome, all ages – see Landes

*Parsonage Open House, Saturday, December 14,
2-4pm*

Please join Pastor Mary for a time of Christmas cheer at 458 E. Wilson. Bring a finger food to share!



DECEMBER CALENDAR

Every Sunday (DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

- 8:00 **Chapel** – Hope Chapel with Holy Communion
- 8:30 **Breakfast** – Wesley Hall
- 9:00 **Sunday School Classes**
- 10:00 **Worship Service**
- 3:00 **Kids Game Day** –
- 5:00 **Boy Scouts** - Upstairs – Education Wing

Every Monday (DECEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23, 30)

NO BARRIERS BIBLE STUDY

- 5:00 **Fellowship & Music** –
- 5:30 **Supper** – Wesley Hall
- 6:00-7:00 **Study of Acts with Pastor Mary**

Every Tuesday (DECEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

- 2:00 **Twin Oaks Devotional**

- To be announced
- Tues., Dec 3 6:00 **Trustees Meeting** Fireside
 - Tues., Dec 3 6:00 **Finance Meeting** Fireside
 - Sun., Dec. 8 11:15 **Church Council** Fireside

Mark Your Calendars for Epiphany

Scholarship Soup Lunch – January 5 in Wesley Hall immediately after Worship

Please enjoy our soup lunch and give generously! To donate soup, please contact Cheryl Santos, Chair of Scholarships, at 559-905-8895.

Epiphany/White Gift Service on January 5th



- 6 **MELISSA CASTILLO**
- 6 **CHERYL SANTOS**
- 9 **CAROL JACKSON**
- 9 **GERRY SOULTS**
- 10 **LINDA DAY**
- 10 **JAYLA GRAY**
- 10 **TYLER WILLIAMS**
- 17 **CAROL BIXLER**
- 17 **PAT WHITNEY**
- 18 **JANELLE COULTER**
- 19 **JUANITA CANBY**
- 20 **ISAIAH GONZALEZ**
- 23 **GLORIA BANKS**
- 25 **JIM MAXFIELD**
- 26 **JACK RIBEIRO**



- 15 **GREG & CONNIE SMITH**
- 16 **JIM & NAN MAXFIELD**

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed please contact the church office.

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 8:00 Hope Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship -Advent 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 11:15 Hanging of the Greens	2 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	3 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional 6pm Finance Mtg	4	5	6	7
8 8:00 Hope Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship -Advent 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 11:15 Church Council Mtg 3:00 Kids Game Day	9 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	10 MWF 10am Fireside Rm 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional	11	12	13	14 <i>Parsonage Open House 2-4</i>
15 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship -Advent 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 3:00 Kids Game Day	16 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	17 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional	18	19	20	21 Youth Christmas Party at Parsonage 4-7
22 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship -Advent 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 3:00 Kids Game Day	23 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 NBBS Christmas Party	24 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional Christmas Eve 6:30 Worship	25 Birth of our Savior Christmas Day Dinner 12-3	26	27	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Pastor on Vacation 12/25 – 1/3/20 </div>
29 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 3:00 Kids Game Day	30 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor	31 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional				



From Nan Maxfield, Outreach Chair

Christmas Day: The Outreach Committee will be holding a **Christmas Day Dinner** for the community. Anyone who would like to join with us in fellowship around a festive Christmas meal is invited. Dinner will be held from 12-3 pm in the church basement on Wednesday, December 25th. If you would like to contribute to our meal please contact Nan Maxfield (559) 358-5706.

We still need blankets or flannel to make blankets. I am also looking for volunteers to go through boxes and reorganize. If you would like to help with sorting or making blankets please contact me Jessica Stone at (559) 754-8550. I thank you and invite everyone to stop on by and see what warm, inviting, spiritual place that the Clothing Closet has become. Experience the awesomeness yourself.

No Barriers Bible Study Christmas Gift Exchange

How fun is it to unwrap a present for Christmas? No one is every too old! On Monday, December 23rd our No Barriers Bible Study will be having a gift exchange for our homeless and poor who join us for supper. Please purchase and wrap a gift in the \$10 range and have it to the Church Office by December 15. Suggestions include: Pack of socks, glove/scarf set, flashlight & batteries, a box of Christmas candy, \$10 gift card to McDonalds, Subway, Carl's Jr., Taco Bell

Share the Good News

Thanks to your generous pledges District Superintendent Debra Brady has informed us that we can afford an experienced fulltime ordained Elder to follow Pastor Mary. Financially things will be a little tight and we are asking our program chairs to tighten their belts and run programs on less money in 2020. Anytime any of you feel like you can afford to put a little more in the offering plate beyond what you have pledged, that will be helpful.

Blessings, Evelyn Benson, Chair of Finance and Stewardship



We enjoyed our experiences ringing the Bell last year for the Tulare Salvation Army. Thank you for your service! We hope many of you will join us this year on Dec 3rd, between 11 am and 7 pm at Tulare Walmart! Please call Ron or Linda Vaughan 686-3633 to schedule your time. Thank you!



Member of the Month

Our beloved Gerry Soults will be 99 on December 9th! Edna Geraldine (Gerry) Soults was born December 9, 1920 attended school in Tulare and then completed 1 ½ years of college at COS. Her first job was in 1940 as Secretary for a U.S. Air Force Capt. At Rankin Academy, and her chosen occupations included Bank Teller, Photographic Artist and Museum Director.

Gerry married Gene Smith in February 1946 at Tulare United Methodist Church. In August 1980 she married Robert Soults; they were married in Cambria Pines, CA. Gerry has 3 sons and 5 Grandchildren.

Gerry loves to oil paint landscapes and still life canvas. She is a genealogist, enjoys writing stories, and loves to read U.S. history.

Dedication to a life of serving the Tulare United Methodist Church began when Gerry joined in 1945. Gerry's favorite Bible verse is John 3:16 and favorite hymns are "Precious Lord, Lead Me Home" and "How Great Thou Art." It has been Gerry's mission to serve the Lord in any way He leads. She gives thanks for God's teachings and knows that love and caring can be found at the Corner of Kern and G.



Thank you, Church Family! My Dad, Bill Nicholls, felt so honored and special to be honored for his service in World War II on Veterans Sunday. He is now busy figuring out just the right place to display his coins and beautiful star afghan. He was overwhelmed by your love and kindness.

Thank you! Julia Summers

Thank you from Ron & Linda Vaughan, to all who helped with the Fall Carnival Outreach Event. We had an abundance of candy and cupcakes, thanks to the generosity of many. All of the 125 hotdogs, roasted and prepared by Satini and Heieoni Tatuaa, were consumed, as was all of the nachos with cheese! The food items and ingredients for the drinks, were purchased by Sandy Jones. The fifteen carnival games would not have been possible without the volunteers to run them! Thank you Jessica Stone; Robin, Landes, and Cassel Dung; Tino and Linda Galicia; Russell and Stuart Lewis; Linda Day; Terry Brazil; Bonnie Thiele; and Kathy Stacy. Also, we thank our Youth, who helped with the games: Anaya, Jayla, & Josiah Gray; Esaiaz Amador; Tomas Castro; Anthony, Exavian & Isaiah Gonzales. A number of the above assisted with clean up that evening, and for Friday cleanup, we are thankful for the help of Robin Dung.

Many Thanks to Linda Galicia for her wonderful work putting together our Landscapes of Christian Faith Women's Retreat on October 26th. We had people from 11 different communities who enjoyed the hospitality and crafts that Linda and her team warmly created. We look forward to this being the first annual women's retreat!



Thank you Julia Summers and team for a wonderful fall dinner. The Methodist Women's Fellowship made enough money to start saving toward replacing the floor in the downstairs social hall. We appreciate everyone who bought tickets.

Thank you to all who contributed to making up the Christmas shoeboxes for poor children around the World. You no doubt made a difference in a child's life, by showing a bit of Christ like love.

Ron & Linda Vaughan

TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

228 W. Kern Ave.

Tulare, CA 93274

Return Service Requested

PHONE

(559) 686-8523

OFFICE HOURS

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

9:00am – 1:00pm



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop Minerva Carcaño

Debra Brady, District Superintendent



**TULARE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

Pastor Mary Maaga

Lynnda Boswell,
Administrative Assistant

Landes Dung,
Music Coordinator/Director

Catalina Daggett, Organist
Andrew Summers,

Technical Services Director
Max Muhlenbrock, Custodian

Julia Summers,
Events Coordinator

**January Messenger articles are due by Monday Dec. 16th due to
Pastor Mary going to a professional training the following week**