



TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS -
OPEN DOORS
THE MESSENGER
December 2020



tulareunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com Website: tulareumc.com

Our Mission Statement:

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World



ANNUAL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE 2020
TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Presiding: District Superintendent Debra Brady
December 12th 9am via Zoom



Remarks from Pastor Allison



December 12th is our virtual Charge Conference with our District Superintendent Debra Brady. Look for the Zoom link in your email the week before it is scheduled.

This will in all likelihood be your first Charge Conference by Zoom. It is mine! This year is full of firsts, not all of them welcome. I had a Zoom Thanksgiving, eating my dinner at the table in Tulare as my sister, brother-in-law and one niece ate at their table in Houston. It was a much smaller gathering for them than the usual houseful they host!

As we begin the season of Advent and approach Christmas, there will be other firsts for us. Our recorded worship features families at home lighting the Advent candles. We are working on a virtual Christmas pageant. Our in-person worship is outdoors (which is actually quite comfortable at 11 AM!). Christmas Eve worship will probably be in the afternoon. Lots of firsts.

It's tempting to say "Bah! Humbug!" to these changes and look forward to when we can reclaim our Christmas traditions, but I've realized that not all the firsts are so bad. In fact, God is at work in them, inviting us to see things from a new perspective. Because we can't meet at church, we have had to think creatively about how to bring Advent and Christmas activities home. Our Christian Education team did a FABULOUS job assembling home kits for families with all kinds of activities from making an Advent wreath with cut outs of hand prints to an Advent garland for the Christmas tree or mantle. We have sent out devotions that bring the light of Advent through the Advent wreath and daily devotions centered around our worship series "Incarnation."

We have also marshalled the connection of other Methodist congregations in creative ways. Church of the Resurrection and Rev. Adam Hamilton are incredibly generous in sharing their resources. The churches in our conference continue to produce wonderful videos and resources (look for a great one in your email about sharing Christmas movies with the children in your life.) And there are a number of churches who are also doing the "Incarnation" series that will gather for study together. We will continue our Wednesday night time and I have already had people from other parts of the country asking if they can join us!

We are being tempted to see only what we don't have, what we fear we have lost. I join Jesus in saying, "Get thee behind me, Satan!" No one and no virus can take away the most important part of this season, namely the reason for the season – Jesus. No one and no virus can rob me of the hope, peace, joy and love I have in him. Yes, this Christmas will be different from other Christmases. I pray that it opens up new ways for you to connect to the One whose birth we celebrate and show his love to others.

Tulare UMC Preaching Plan

Dates: November 29 – December 27

Tulare UMC Preaching Plan

Date	Scripture(s)	Title	Notes
11/29		“Presidents and Kings”	First Sunday of Advent
12/6		“We Need a Savior!”	Second Sunday of Advent
12/13		“Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic”	Third Sunday of Advent
12/20		“The Light of the World”	Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/24		“Fall on Your Knees”	Christmas Eve
12/27	Luke 2:21-38	“Mary, Did You Know?”	Online worship only



Our Advent worship series and companion small group study this year will be “Incarnation,” based on Rev. Adam Hamilton’s latest book. “Incarnation” examines what it means when we proclaim that Christ our Savior is born, rediscovering the meaning of Emmanuel, God-With-Us. We begin the worship series on November 29th, and our first small group study will be on December 2nd. As of now, we will meet via Zoom on Wednesdays. However, if Tulare County’s

status changes and we are in the red tier, we will explore an in-person option.

Here are the topics for the series and study:

- Week 1 – Presidents and Kings
- Week 2 – The Savior and Our Need for Saving
- Week 3 – Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic
- Week 4 – The Light of the World

A limited number of books are available in the office for \$13 each. You may also download the ebook from Cokesbury or Amazon.

Worship

How you can worship with TUMC:

Before you attend Courtyard service ask yourself the following questions.

Have you experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 48 hours:

- fever or chills
- cough
- fatigue
- headache
- new loss of taste or smell
- congestion or runny nose
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- muscle or body aches
- diarrhea
- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- nausea or vomiting

If you have any of these symptoms please attend an alternate service

Worship in the Courtyard. Mask must be worn at all times, use hand sanitizer, you will be seated by the ushers. Please do not shake hands or hug.

Reservations are preferred with the Church office or call Lynnda Boswell (559) 302-8451 or Julia Summers (559) 901-5067

Sermon By Phone



If you don't have internet or are not comfortable coming to church, you can listen to it on Sermon By Phone simply call 559 205-0837 English.

Online Services found on Channel: Tulare UMC.



Hispanic Service

with Pastor Marcelo

Sundays at 9AM in the courtyard by the cross.

December 2020

Tulare UMC

Meetings : **Blue**

Birthdays: **Red**

Bible Study : **Purple**

Anniversaries : **Green**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Outreach 12noon zoom Bible Study 6pm Zoom	3	4	5
6 Hispanic Worship 9am Courtyard Trustee Meeting 10am Worship 11am Courtyard Finance Meeting following worship Melissa Castillo Cheryl Santos	7	8	9 Bible Study 6pm Zoom Gerry Soult Carol Jackson	10 Linda Day Jayla Gray	11	12 Annual Charge Conference 9am via Zoom
13 Hispanic Worship 9am Courtyard Worship 11am Courtyard Church Council following worship	14	15 Greg & Connie Smith	16 Bible Study 6pm Zoom Jim & Nan Maxfield	17 Carol Bixler Pat Whitney	18 Janelle Coulter Danella Hill	19 Juanita Canby
20 Hispanic Worship 9am Courtyard Worship 11am Isaiah Gonzalez	21	22	23 Bible Study 6pm Zoom Gloria Banks	24 5pm Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas  Jim Maxfield	26
27 Online Service Only	28	29	30	31		

Reverse Advent Calendar

Each day add an item to a box.
On Christmas Eve Donate the contents to the Church for their
Food Pantry

- December 1 – box of cereal
- December 2 – peanut butter
- December 3 – bag of rice
- December 4 – boxed potatoes
- December 5 – macaroni and cheese
- December 6 – canned fruit
- December 7 – canned tomatoes
- December 8 – canned tuna
- December 9 – dessert mix
- December 10 – jar of applesauce
- December 11 – bag of pinto beans
- December 12 – canned pasta sauce
- December 13 – canned beans
- December 14 – canned corn
- December 15 – bagged pasta
- December 16 – package of oatmeal
- December 17 – canned soup
- December 18 – canned chili beans
- December 19 – hamburger helper
- December 20 – canned chicken noodle soup
- December 21 – canned mixed vegetables
- December 22 – canned carrots
- December 23 – canned green beans
- December 24 – canned tomato soup



Children's Education Updates

The Children's Education Committee had its first Annual Trunk or Treat event on October 31, 2020 at 3:30-5:00. It was well-received and the children were overjoyed to show-off their costumes and see the other children and adults at a distance.

Many thanks go out to Linda and Ron Vaughn for overseeing the logistics and set-up of cars in the parking lot, all the congregation who donated their cars, decorations, working the event, food donations, and candy. We were also thankful for a small group of willing teens who helped with set up and clean-up. Nelice, Isaiah, Elena, and Elena's brother and mother were really an integral part of the work force.

We as a committee thought the event went well and we're safely distanced following the CDC protocol. The children enjoyed getting out in costume attire while at a safe venue.

Now we are busy planning materials for Advent which begins Nov. 29. So, parents and grandparents please encourage the children to come pick up special Advent activities and family packets each Sunday during the month of December. Maybe grandparents and adopted grandparents can help the children complete the tasks and read the Advent liturgy. Linda Galicia will be calling each member and asking if you can be a buddy to a child or teen during this time.

Many thanks to everyone helped to make the Trunk or Treat event successful. Thank-you to the Children's Educational Committee's flexibility can do attitude, and hard work. They are true stewards for the Lord.

Respectfully,
Linda Galicia



Methodist Women's Fellowship

Methodist Women's Fellowship will be meeting this month...on Zoom!

Please join us

Tuesday, December 8 at 10:00.

We will send you the link before the meeting. If you need help to set up Zoom, Pastor Allison will help walk you through it. If you can not Zoom online, we will provide you with a phone number, in order for you to join us. We will be electing new officers and planning the new year. Please join us!

If you have any questions, call Julia Summers (9901-5067)

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 Allison Byerley

Marcelo Escarzaga,

Pastor of Hispanic Ministry

Lynnda Boswell,

Administrative Assistant

Landes Dung,

Music Coordinator/Director

Catalina Daggett, Organist

Andrew Summers,

Technical Services Director

Max Muhlenbrock, Custodian

Julia Summers,

Events Coordinator