



TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OPEN HEARTS · OPEN MINDS ·
OPEN DOORS

THE MESSENGER

February 2019



Romans 5:8
But God commendeth
his love toward us, in
that, while we were yet
sinners, Christ
died for us.

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tulareumc.com

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

Annual Sweetheart Dinner

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

6:00 p.m.

Basement Social Hall

\$15.00 per person

Dinner, Entertainment, Announcement of 2019 Sweetheart

*Tickets available in Church Office, and every Sunday outside the Sanctuary until January 27. No tickets sold
at the door.*

Please join us for a fun evening!



Saturday, February 9, 8 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Lunch provided

**Please join us in doing some "deep" cleaning of the Sanctuary and entrances. Bring
rags and buckets if you can. Let's work together to clean up our buildings for the
new year!**



Mary's Musings

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

New life is springing up all around us at TUMC, and what a joy to be among the gardeners who is planting, weeding, cultivating, and harvesting. The Holy Spirit has been having fun with me the past several weeks, speaking through my GUT (God's Urgent Tugging), to encourage members of our Church to participate more fully in a life of discipleship. Listen to your GUT. Is God calling you to care for people who are hurting? We are launching Stephen Ministry in our Church by sending Claire Grant and Connie Smith to be trained as Stephen Ministry Leaders. When they return from their week-long training in mid-February they will be looking for people to train as Stephen Ministers. The training is 50

hours long and will equip and empower members of our Church to care for one another in times of crisis.

Imagine our congregation as a place where nobody has to suffer alone. Through this program, YOU may be that caring Christian friend who comes alongside to help bear another person's burden and offer support for as long as needed.

Or maybe God is calling you to learn how to preach? I would love to train up a group of lay preachers who can witness to what the Lord has done in their lives. By working as a group with me over 10 hours in February – including writing and delivering a sermon to the group – then attending an all day preaching workshop in Hanford on March 9, you will be certified to preach from time to time from our pulpit at TUMC!

If the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about either of these opportunities to be a gardener in the new life that is springing up all around us, please let me know.

Blessings,

Pastor Mary

Once in seven years I burn all my sermons; for it is a shame if I cannot write better sermons now than I did seven years ago.

Methodist Founder John Wesley

The church changes the world not by making converts but by making disciples.

(Again) John Wesley

February Worship Topics

Our Bible tells us the magnificent story of how God liberated the people of Israel from bondage in Egypt. Now, having followed Moses through the parted Red Sea, we have arrived at the Holy Mountain to learn what our God would have us do with our freedom.

February 3 (Holy Communion/New Members Join)

Sermon Title: "No Rivals: The First Five Commandments"

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-12

February 10

Sermon Title: "Behave Yourselves: The Remaining Five Commandments"

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17

February 17

Sermon Title: "Ten Plus Six Hundred and Three: The Rest of the Law"

Scripture: Exodus 19:1-6

February 24 (Scouting Sunday/Family Sunday)

Sermon Title: "Wandering in the Wilderness"

Scripture: Psalm 106:1-23

METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Twenty-two women gathered on January 8, 2019 for MWF. We were blessed with a presentation by Lieut. Cynthia Escobar from *The Salvation Army* as she shared her calling to the ministry and to serve in Tulare, Visalia, and surrounding communities. She provided us with a description and schedule of Programs, a list of 'How Individuals Can Help' and the Office Schedule in Tulare and Visalia. Questions or for more information about Methodist Women's Fellowship or *The Salvation Army* presentation, please call Bonnie Thiele 688-8755.

Everyone is welcome to attend the next meeting on February 12 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Pastor Mary will talk about preparations for Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6th. We will also plan for the Spring Dinner – March 3rd. Come and bring a friend.

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MWF Spring Dinner Sunday, March 3, 2019 – 11:00 AM-1:00 PM – Wesley Hall. MENU: Baked ham, potato casserole, buttered carrots, asparagus with Italian dressing, roll, and dessert. TICKETS: Adult \$15.00 Child \$7.50 Purchase tickets before/after Worship Service on Feb. 10, 17, and 24 or call: Church Office 686-8523, Beth Cox 686-9047.



STEPHEN MINISTRIES

Stephen Ministry is a system for training and organizing people in congregations to provide quality Christian care to those experiencing life difficulties. We are blessed that Claire Grant and Connie Smith have agreed to be our Stephen Leaders. This means that they will attend a week long training course in Anaheim from Feb. 3 – 9. When they return they will be equipped to train members of our congregation to become Stephen Ministers. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions that will help you in deciding whether you want to dedicate yourselves to becoming a Stephen Minister.

Why the name Stephen?

In Acts 6, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the time of the Apostles, caring ministry has been considered a hallmark of the Christian faith community.

What are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are laypeople trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they're equipped with caring ministry skills by their congregation's Stephen Leaders. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support.

In what types of situations do Stephen Ministers provide care?

Stephen Ministers provide care to individuals facing difficult times in life—grief, cancer, divorce, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disability, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles.

What else do we need to know?

Everything you receive from Stephen Ministries has theological integrity and will fit within the framework of our congregation's beliefs. We focus on basic, biblical, Christian beliefs: Jesus Christ, God become human, crucified and resurrected to save us, and, through the Spirit, empowering God's people to care for others in God's name. Congregations from more than 170 Christian denominations have built upon this solid theological foundation, incorporating the distinctive beliefs and practices of their own faith traditions.

Stephen Ministry achieves the right balance between the insights and skills of sound psychology and reliance on God as the one who heals and renews people. The pastor who started Stephen Ministry and who serves as the organization's Executive Director, Dr. Kenneth Haugk, is a clinical psychologist. He and other mental health professionals and experienced pastors on our staff ensure that all our resources incorporate the best psychological principles consistent with sound biblical theology, teaching caring practices appropriate for lay caregivers.



Featured Member of the Month: Bob Stevenson was born in Billings, Montana in the early middle of the last century. Shortly after World War II began, the entire Stevenson family of many boys (his Dad being one of the boys) and one girl move to western Washington to help with the war effort. After living the entire war in Vancouver, Washington, he and his Dad and Mom moved to Pendleton, Oregon where he attended elementary and junior high schools and graduated from the high school where he was active in the school band and was honored to earn the position of right guard – a place where, if horses were in the parade (and they always were due to the nationally - known Pendleton Round-Up was located), the horses always walked down the center of the street and make their deposits accordingly.

After graduating from Pendleton High School he attended Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. He majored in science so he could become an engineer but changed to mathematics when he realized that he hated physics. He needed some additional education courses in order to become a math teacher and not have to spend an additional year in college. So, he attended summer school at Eastern Oregon in La Grande, Oregon. And, guess what? One of the first people he met in his first summer school class was Neva. They graduated. They married. They taught in Aberdeen, Washington for three years, trying to get used to 100 inches of rain a year, and they went looking for drier places to teach. They accepted jobs in Tulare, planning to stay only 2 years.

Bob has served as counselor, math teacher, student council advisor, and independent school teacher for a total of 50 years. After he retired from full time teaching, he joined Kiwanis, volunteering at World Ag Expo (Farm Show) and was persuaded to serve as vice-president of the Tulare Historical Museum with the argument, "You don't have to do anything unless the president dies." Well, guess what? (Hence the photo accompanying this article.)

Bob and Neva have a son, Mike, who is married to Janet. Grandson Adam is a fifth grader.

Bob joined TUMC because Pastor Latu, at a Kiwanis meeting, said Bob was needed at TUMC.

LEAST FAVORITE: airplanes... Wants to go to Hawaii but will wait until the bridge is finished.

FAVORITE DESSERT: Banana cream pie with meringue

FAVORITE SANDWICH: Toasted Cheese

FAVORITE SPORT: NASCAR

FAVORITE TRANSPORTATION: Train. Bob and Neva have circled the country via Amtrak

HOBBIES:

MODEL TRAINS: He has had a large layout in the train room for many years.

GENEALOGY: Loves genealogy. They began research before it was on-line, so they've read countless microfiche and rolls of census reports during trips all over the United States. All of these reports may now be located with a touch of a computer button.

FAVORITE DAY TRIP: beach or mountains

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Disney World in Florida



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Every Sunday (FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 24)

- 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** – Basement every week
- 5:00 **Boy Scouts-Upstairs** – Education Wing

Every Monday (FEBRUARY 4, 11, 17, 25)

NO BARRIERS BIBLE STUDY

- 5:00 **Fellowship & Music** –
- 5:30 **Supper** – in the Basement Social Hall
- 6:00-7:00 **Study of Luke with Pastor Mary**

Every Tuesday (FEBRUARY 5, 12, 18, 26)

- 10:00 - 12:00 **Clothes Closet Open**
- 2:00 **Twin Oaks Devotional**

- Sun., February 3 11:15 **Trustees Meeting** Archive
- Sun., February 10 11:15 **Church Council** Fireside
- Tues., February 12 4:00 **Outreach** Fireside
- Tues., February 12 6:00 **Finance Meeting** Fireside
- Sun., February 17 11:15 **Worship** Archive
- Sun., February 24 11:15 **Staff Parish Relations Committee**
Fireside



Save the Date

ANNUAL MWF
Spring Dinner
 Sunday, March 3, 2019



- 2 ANAYA GRAY**
- 5 DANIEL CASTELLANO**
- 6 MARIE BUTLER**
- 8 FRANK BEJARANO**
- 8 JESSICA STONE**
- 9 DONNA BARRIER**
- 14 MARY MAAGA**
- 19 SATINI TAUTUAA**
- 22 JERRY MITCHELL**
- 23 JACQUIE BIXLER**
- 23 GENE BESSINGER**
- 28 ANGEL SERNA**

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

Save the Date


Jubilee



May 4th
Dinner



February 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
*Chapel Healing, Prayer, and Communion in HOPE Chapel	**NBBS No Barriers Bible Study				1	2
3 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Communion 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 11:15 Trustee-Archive Rm 3:00 Kids Game Day	4 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	5 10-12 Clothes Closet OPEN 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional Sweetheart Dinner 6pm	6	7	8	9 All Church Clean Up Day 9 – noon Lunch Provided
10 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 11:15 <u>Church Council</u> 3:00 Kids Game Day 5:00 Boy Scout Meeting	11 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	12 10-12 Clothes Closet OPEN 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional Methodist Women 10am Fireside Fireside: Outreach 4pm Finance 6pm	13	14	15	16 Youth at Bishop's Confirmation Rally
17 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 11:15 Worship Committee 3:00 Kids Game Day	18 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor	19 10-12 Clothes Closet OPEN 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional	20	21	22	23
24 Scout Sunday 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 10:00 Worship 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 11:15 SPRC 3:00 Kids Game Day 5:00 Boy Scout Meeting	25 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor	26	27	28		

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

We lost our beloved Mary Beth Starling on January 9 – her life was celebrated in our Sanctuary on January 15. Her children, John and Christina, attended our Sunday School when they were little. Several fraternity brothers came to support Johnny in his grief.

Many thanks to all Santa's elves who made Christmas so special around TUMC – a tree in every main meeting room, a Sanctuary filled with sparkling trees, wreaths hung everywhere. And, we had one of the largest crowds for Christmas Eve in recent memory!

Top Ten Christmas Carols/Songs were a big hit! During Lent we will have a chance to select our Top Ten Holy Week Hymns which we will sing on Palm Sunday.

Don Boswell is splitting his time between home and his new home at Twin Oaks.

Francine and Reed Van Houten have been enjoying a family vacation in Hawaii.

Lynnda Boswell, Church Administrative Assistant Extraordinaire, took a much deserved and needed vacation from Jan. 16 – 29 – she went to New Orleans and the Caribbean.

Julia and Dave Summers enjoyed seeing their daughter and family in Arizona after Christmas.

Thank You

Ed and Rosemarie Boren would like to thank everybody for their continuing prayers over the past few months. We love you all.

Blessing,

Ed and Rosemarie



Margaret Allen will turn 103 on March 5th! We are planning to have a birthday party for her immediately following worship on March 10th if she feels up to attending. (Don't worry Church Council, you can grab a piece of cake and head to your meeting.) Gramma DJ sees Margaret Allen frequently, and Pastor Mary and Linda Day visit her as well. She is in very good health and would love to come to her beloved Tulare UMC for worship that day if at all possible.



Our Church Transforming the World

Choir

Want to make a joyful noise? Our choir will be rehearsing after Worship every Sunday from now until Palm Sunday so we can learn music that will inspire our congregation during Lent and Holy Week. Everyone is welcome! Questions? Call our Music Director Landes Dung 559-302-7370

Family Worship – February 24

We are so grateful for the wonderful ministry of our team of people who care for our children pre-K through 5th grade for Children's Church. When the children leave after the Children's Message we can count on Bonnie Thiele, Linda Vaughan, Robin Dung, Gramma DJ, Patty Pamplona, and a handful of helpers to teach our children about Christ while we continue in Worship. Pastor Mary would like us to include the children for the entire hour of worship once a month so that all of the children and the children's ministry team can be together. We are calling the last Sunday of the month FAMILY WORSHIP. Families with children will be greeted at the door with an activity packet that will help the kids to stay in worship. Our first Family Worship will be on February 24th, which also happens to be Scouting Sunday.

Scouting Sunday—February 24

We are proud to sponsor Troop 251 at TUMC. We will celebrate scouting during Worship and ask all those present and former scouts to stand and be recognized.

Controversy in the United Methodist Church

As most of you have heard by now, our denomination is in the midst of a painful conversation about our way forward as we wrestle with the question of how inclusive of LGBTQ persons we are going to be. In Adult Sunday School we are looking at the details of the plan that is being proposed by the Commission on the Way Forward to the Special Session of the General Conference which will be meeting in St. Louis on February 23-26. If you care about this issue you are encouraged to join our Adult Sunday School class, which meets every Sunday from 9am – 9:45am in the Fireside Room. Pastor Mary is calling a Special All Church Meeting at 2pm on Sunday, March 3rd in the Sanctuary so she can share and interpret for our congregation the decision that gets made at the General Conference.

Devotions at Twin Oaks – 2-3pm every Tuesday

A short devotion, a chance to share, a time of prayer, and the blessing of shawls and blankets for those who need to feel the presence of the Lord. All are welcome!



Holy Communion every Sunday – Hope Chapel, 8-8:30am

Here's how Linda Day and Heione Tautuaa organize their Sundays: Scripture, prayer, and Holy Communion with Pastor Mary at 8am in Hope Chapel; Breakfast Before Church with a chance to fellowship with friends for a half an hour; Adult Sunday School 9-9:45; 10am Worship. Starting with Holy Communion in our golden Hope Chapel is the perfect way to start your Sunday. Why not give it a try?

EPIPHANY



Thank you so much for the outpouring of gifts on Epiphany Sunday. We received so many wonderful gifts for our local community. As always you have gone above and beyond in your giving. Thanks be to God.

No one has ever become poor by giving ~ Anne Frank

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. ~ Thomas Edison



Finance Corner

Well done Church! Thank you for your overwhelmingly positive response to our Fall stewardship drive. Pledges were received from 14 new people; 13 people increased their pledges; 12 people pledged the same amount; only 1 (very slight) decrease. We were hoping to receive \$10,000 from our Christmas offering. Guess what? You gifted us with \$11,100! Your responsiveness to our appeals means that we can continue to move forward with our vibrant ministries of care and outreach this year, and reach toward building a cushion for expanding to a full time pastor in 2020.

Yours in Christ, Evelyn Benson, Chair of Finance and Stewardship Committee



As United Methodist Church members we have vowed to support Tulare UMC with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness.



On the first Sunday of the month during Holy Communion we will have a free will offering basket for UMCOR

Monthly Messenger: Deadline to submit information for the March Messenger is Monday February 18th by noon.

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



9329136507 R012

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**

Mary Maaga, Senior Pastor
**Marcelo Escarzaga, Associate
Pastor for Hispanic-Latino
Ministries**
Lynnda Boswell,
Administrative Assistant
Landes Dung,
Music Coordinator/Director
Catalina Daggett, Organist
Andrew Summers,
Interim Technical Services
Director
Max Muhlenbrock, Custodian
Julia Summers,
Events Coordinator