



TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS -

OPEN DOORS

THE MESSENGER

February 2021



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

tulareunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com Website: tulareumc.com

Our Mission Statement:

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

Remarks from Pastor Allison



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 17th. We will continue with our tradition of a service of ashes at noon that day with worship in the courtyard. Like so many other things, there will be adjustments to protect people's health in this time. Health officials do not recommend the traditional method of placing ashes on people's forehead or hand. I discovered a safer alternative from Marcia McFee, a leading worship designer/guru – temporary tattoos! So, I have ordered temporary tattoos of an ashy cross that we will give to all who want one. If you plan to attend the service in person, we will have them available then. If you are going to participate online, let me or Lynnda Boswell know and we will have one for you. You may pick them up in the office.

Too often when we talk about Lent and “giving something up,” we settle for something relatively trivial or that would help with our own self-improvement. Food stuff like chocolate or soda or caffeine. Behaviors like smoking or drinking. That is really not what Lent is about though.

The season of Lent grew out of the early church practices of preparing new Christians for baptism. The church developed a lengthy preparation process which culminated in baptism during Holy Saturday's Easter vigil. The confirmands were encouraged to practice a sober time of fasting and prayer before their baptism, and the Church settled on forty days to mirror the time Jesus spent in the wilderness before his ministry began. Members of the Church witnessed what a powerful spiritual practice it was for the new converts and started joining them in the forty days. The period became what we know as Lent.

Lent is a time of fasting and prayer. What we know as “giving something up for Lent” is actually a fast! To that end, I encourage you, as you think about your discipline this year, to think and pray about a fast from something that will enhance and grow your relationship with God. For instance, you might want to fast from social media, or from hurtful speech, or from negative thoughts. I know that I watch too much television, so one year I fasted from all TV for one day a week; I used the time I would have watched TV to read, study, and pray. What activities or behaviors interfere with your relationship with God? What would life look like if you fasted from that for a season?

Often during Lent, I not only fast from something, I add an activity or behavior that will help me connect with God. I may add a Lenten devotion book to my prayer time, and I will send you a devotional developed by an ecumenical group of pastors, including contributions from me. You might add prayer time, and to help, I will record and upload a short prayer time Monday through Friday through Lent.

Finally, one question often asked about the season of Lent is its length. If you count the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, you will get more than 40. That's because Sundays are not part of the time of fasting. Every Sunday is a little Easter when we celebrate God's love shown in Jesus.

May God bless your Lent and may you grow closer to God in this time!

Tulare UMC Preaching Plan

Dates: February 7 – February 28

Tulare UMC Preaching Plan

Date	Scripture(s)	Title	Notes
2/7	Luke 7:1-17	“Authority”	Communion
2/14	Luke 9:28-45	“From the Mountaintop to the Valley”	Transfiguration Sunday
2/17	Luke 9:51-62	“His Face Is Set”	Ash Wednesday
2/21	Luke 10:25-42	“How Far Will You Go?”	
2/28	Luke 13:1-9, 31-35	“Fruitful”	

February Bible readings

Date	Passage	Date	Passage
February 1	Deuteronomy 5:12-15	February 17	Luke 9:51-62
February 2	Luke 6:17-19	February 18	Luke 10:1-12
February 3	Luke 6:20-26	February 19	Luke 10:13-16
February 4	Luke 6:27-36	February 20	Luke 10:17-24
February 5	Luke 6:37-45	February 21	Luke 10:25-42
February 6	Luke 6:46-49	February 22	Leviticus 19:13-18
February 7	Luke 7:1-17	February 23	Luke 11:1-28
February 8	Luke 7:18-35	February 24	Luke 11:29-54
February 9	Luke 7:36-50	February 25	Luke 12:1-21
February 10	Luke 8:1-25	February 26	Luke 12:22-40
February 11	Luke 8:26-39	February 27	Luke 12:41-59
February 12	Luke 8:40-56	February 28	Luke 13:1-9, 31-35
February 13	Luke 9:1-27		
February 14	Luke 9:28-45		
February 15	Isaiah 55:1-3		
February 16	Luke 9:46-50		

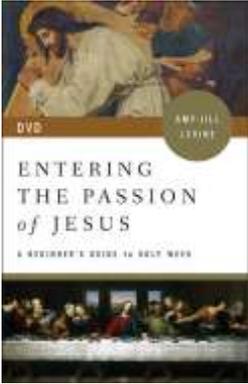
Bible Study Wednesdays



6 pm via Zoom

Week 6 – “The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin” Luke 15:1-10

Week 7 – “The Prodigal Son/the Loving Father” Luke 15:11-31



This Lenten season, dive deep into the history of Jesus' last days before his crucifixion.

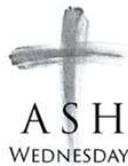
Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.



We begin our journey through Jesus' final days with two options – our regular **Wednesday night at 6 PM** and a new time, **Monday at 11:30 AM**. We will meet on Zoom and the link will be emailed each week.

BIBLE STUDY MEETING
Additional day and time



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE IN THE
COURTYARD FEBRUARY 17, 2021
AT 12 NOON.**

The many ways to worship with TUMC:

Before you attend Courtyard service ask yourself.

How am I feeling? (If you are not feeling well or are running a fever)

If you are not feeling well or are running a fever please attend an alternate service.

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

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.



Beginning Thursday, February 18th, and continuing until Wednesday, March 31st, Pastor Allison will offer a daily time of prayer. The service will be available on YouTube beginning at 6 AM Monday through Friday and will last approximately 10 minutes. If you want to pray more during Lent, this is a great way to begin!



At our Charge Conference in December, Church Council Chair Greg Smith asked our District Superintendent Debra Brady how the Conference could help Tulare UMC grow. One offering she mentioned is the Conference's Church Planters Academy. All pastors interested in starting a new ministry, either in a new setting or in an existing church, are encouraged to attend this year-long academy. This year it has been expanded to include four cohorts for different

needs for churches. Pastor Allison applied and has been accepted into the 2021 Academy. She begins this month. Please keep her in your prayers as she enters this learning process. And ask God to reveal the new thing God wants to do among us to grow our witness to Tulare!

There is also a Lay Church Planting Academy, which is not as long as the pastor's. If you feel God calling you to be part of growing our church and starting something new in Tulare, please contact Pastor Allison and she will help you apply for the next session.



Calling all photographers! Pastor Allison will be recording an online prayer time for Lent and she needs photographs for a part of it. These should be photos that help one center for a time of prayer. Examples include flowers, birds, rainbows, streams, mountains, beaches, sunsets, sunrises, snow, crosses, clouds, churches, and candles. Email them to her at adbyerley@gmail.com. Thanks!



We are now setup for **online giving**. You can go to the App Store on your phone and download the app or go to our website and click on the Give button at the top of our home page. I used this and it is an easy way to pay your donations. If you have any questions please call the office.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS: The Scholarship committee has awarded \$600.00 to the Momentum Dance Academy to help with the dance lessons for three of our youth. The tuition fees are \$50.00 per girl per month, this donation will take them through April. Any donation no matter how small can help keep this activity going for these girls. There are costume fees that are needed as well. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a girl or making a donation, please contact me for further information - Cheryl Santos (email: casantos5197@gmail.com or 559-905-8895.) Just a reminder that the scholarship fund accepts donations at anytime and can be a great place for memorial donations as well. In this time of restrictions due to Covid, we are unable to have our soup luncheon fundraiser at this time but hopefully we can get something going in the future.



COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS FOR LENT 2021

FEBRUARY

- 17 In a world where half the people go to bed hungry, put 2 cents in your bag for every pound you are overweight.
- 18 Millions of people walk through life with no shoes, add 1 cent for each shoe you have in your closet.
- 19 During Lent we draw near to Christ and his story. Add 10 cents for each Bible in your home.
- 20 In the 3rd World 400,000 children die every day. Contribute 5 cents for each growing healthy child in your life.
- 21 Sunday-Go to Church, Listen, and Pray. Give a gift of Thanksgiving.
- 22 Darkness lives with many people whose only light is daylight or Firelight. Please give 1 cent for every light bulb in your home.
- 23 In a nation where more than half a million people are estimated to be homeless, add 5 cents for each room in your house.
- 24 Clean water is a continuing problem for many people. Add 10 cents for each faucet in your home.
- 25 A good night's rest is among your greatest blessings. Contribute 10 cents for each bed you own.
- 26 Illiteracy is one of the challenges facing our world. Add 5 cents for every year of school you completed.
- 27 Hungry people could be fed on the food we throw away. Give 5 cents for each slice of bread you have today.
- 28 Sunday - Go to Church. Feel God's presence. Give sacrificially.

MARCH

Each day we learn something about the world about us. Put 5 cents in your bag for each magazine or newspaper you read.

- 2 Our homes are filled with labor saving devices. Please donate 2 cents for each large or small electric appliance you have.
- 3 Tired people everywhere feel the need of a resting place. Add 1 cent for every straight chair and 5 cents for every easy chair in your home.
- 4 There are many lonely people throughout the world. Please contribute 25 cents if you are loved by someone or if you have someone you love.
- 5 Like Jesus, millions of people have no place to lay their heads, add 2 cents for each pillow in your home.
- 6 A refreshing drink is not within the reach of everyone. Add 5 cents for each glass of tea, cup of coffee or soft drink you have today.

- 7 Sunday - God is a spirit. Worship Him in spirit and in truth.
- 8 Homeless are often victimized by violence and have no sense of physical security. Add 2 cents for every lock in your home.
- 9 We spend part of each day being informed or entertained. Add 3 cents for each radio, TV or VCR in your home.
- 10 For displaced homeless people, heat can be life threatening. Give 5 cents for each fan or air conditioner you have.
- 11 Many people have no transportation. They walk everywhere they go. Donate 1 cent for every mile you travel today.
- 12 Cold is a real and present worry for many homeless people. Contribute 3 cents for every coat you own.
- 13 Time has no meaning for the homeless and friendless of the world. Add 5 cents for each watch and clock you own.
- 14 Sunday - This is the day the Lord has made. Meet Him at Church and worship Him.
- 15 We are a generation of snack food eaters. Add 5 cents for each cold drink, serving of chips or piece of candy you have today.
- 16 Medical attention is not available to all the world. Add 25 cents if you have a family doctor, 10 cents for each doctor you see.
- 17 Cleanliness is next to Godliness. Give 10 cents for each shower and bathtub you have in your home.
- 18 Eyes are the window of the soul. Add 25 cents if you wear glasses or contact lenses.
- 19 We are politically active people. Give 10 cents if you are a registered voter, another 10 cents if you voted in the last election.
- 20 Many people in the world earn under \$100 per year. Contribute 25 cents if you have a bank account.
- 21 Sunday - Remember your pledge to know Christ and make Him known. Invite someone to go to Church with you today.
- 22 To have a friend, you must be a friend. Add 30 cents if you have been a friend this week.
- 23 Give a gift of thanks to God for your life.
- 24 In the name of the Great Physician, contribute 5 cents for each prescription and over-the-counter medication you take.
- 25 Were you angry this week? Did you raise your voice or lose your temper. Give 15 cents if you were sorry.
- 26 Make a list of your four favorite things. Give 5 cents for each one.
- 27 Have you seen spring flowers this week or have you heard a bird's song. Give 25 cents in the name of the Great Creator.
- 28 PALM SUNDAY-HOLY WEEK BEGINS—Bring your Lenten Offering with you to Church.



*Annual Sweetheart Dinner \$15
 Sunday, February 14, 2021
 Delivery begins 3:00 p.m.*

Cheesy Spinach Stuffed Chicken Breast with Wine Sauce, Rice Pilaf, Buttered Carrots, Salad, Roll, & Special Valentine's Dessert (involves chocolate)

Sweetheart Presentation 6:00 p.m. by Zoom

Please make reservations by February 7

to Julia Summers (559-901-5067 or sewcreate@aol.com)

Zoom link will be given

with reservation confirmation

Needed: Delivery drivers for Sweetheart Dinner.

I need drivers to delivery dinners on Sunday, February 14th, beginning at 3:00 p.m. It will take approximately 1 - 1 1/2 hr., depending on how many drivers there are.

Call Julia Summers if you would like to help. (901-5067)

Methodist Women's Fellowship

Members of Methodist Women's Fellowship, look for a "lunch on your doorstep", Monday, February 8, after 10:00 a.m. The Zoom meeting will be at 10:00 a.m., February 9. You will receive the link for the meeting the first week of February. If you need help with Zoom, please let Julia Summers, Beth Cox, or Pastor Allison know. It is so much fun to see everyone, after so long...I hope you can join us.



The Trustees would like to thank Greg Smith for his continuing support of the church and especially the cleaning out of the gutter on the Educational Building.

February Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 6 | MARIE BUTLER | 8 | FRANK BEJARANO |
| 8 | JESSICA STONE | 9 | DONNA BARRIER |
| 17 | ANAYA GRAY | 22 | JERRY MITCHELL |
| 23 | JACQUIE BIXLER | | |



February 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3 Bible Study 6pm	4	5	6
7 Hispanic Worship 9am Worship 11am Courtyard	8	9	10 Bible Study 6pm	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day Hispanic Worship 9am Trustees Mtg Crtyrd 10am Worship 11am Courtyard Church Council following worship	15 Presidents' Day Office Closed	16	17  Service 12 noon in the courtyard	18	19	20
21 Hispanic Worship 9am Worship 11am Courtyard	22 Bible Study 11:30am	23	24 Bible Study 6pm	25	26	27
28 Hispanic Worship 9am Worship 11am Courtyard						



Having experienced loved ones and friends passing away, I have seen some very good and some very poor estate planning outcomes. There are many things which most people do not know or prepare for in their estate planning.

The first thing to know is that if you do not make specific plans for your estate, the government will plan to keep as much as possible. If you do not have a will or a trust (revocable) then the state assumes control of your estate.

Wills versus Trust

A will is viewed by the court as a document which must be proven in court. That is to say the will and all assets must go through probate. If the net value of the estate is lower than the threshold (presently \$160,000.00), then the estate can go through a quick probate and is subject to minor attorney fees and usually the court grants all directives of the will. As the value of the estate rises, the courts require more proof of intent by the deceased, and the attorney fees rise accordingly. There is a statutory fee corresponding to the increased value of the estate which is virtually always granted by the courts. Statutory fees start at 4% of the first \$100,000.00 of estate value, then 3% of the next \$100,000.00 and so on.

Trusts usually include a will plus health care directives and most if not all real properties. The courts consider everything in the trust to be the true wishes of the deceased so you do not have to prove anything. That is why there usually is no probate. These differences and benefits should be discussed with your legal counsel and tax advisors.

Key items to record

A. Financial Accounts.

To help your heirs/executors you should record all financial accounts. That includes checking, savings, loans, credit cards, retirement accounts and more. Listing each account by financial institution, name(s) on the account, automatic payments and/or deposits with the account as well as online addresses and user ID and passwords need to be included.

B. In today's technological world, we need to think of ALL accounts for which we need user ID and passwords and record these. The list would include a safe combination, phone locks, email addresses and codes, residence alarm code, vehicle codes and any other codes/locks you may use. Most people do not remember the need for those until it is too late.

In order to protect your loved ones, I recommend reviewing your estate plans to be certain that they are correct and adequate to successfully match your desires. Also, please consider recording your important information in one binder or booklet. If you have a safe that is a good place to keep the binder. Who do you tell about the location of the binder and/or the code to your safe? For me, I assume that the person(s) whom I designate as executor of my estate is the person whom I would most trust. For that reason, I would tell them the secret of the safe code and where the binder is located.

Greg Smith

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