



## TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS -

OPEN DOORS

# THE MESSENGER

## January 2021



[tulareunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:tulareunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com) Website: [tulareumc.com](http://tulareumc.com)

**Our Mission Statement:**

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

## Remarks from Pastor Allison



Well, as one meme on Facebook reminds us, we can look back at last year with 2020 hindsight! I know that all of us are glad to see 2020 come to an end and look forward to the relief 2021 brings. Of course, most things remain the same even though the calendar changed. Our county's COVID-19 infection rate remains dangerously high, though there are some counties south of us that have even higher rates, and hospitals are filled beyond capacity. The vaccines are slowly rolling out, and many of us are waiting with hope for the word that we receive it. Until that time, we continue as we have done. Please stay home when possible, watch your distance, wear your mask, wash your hands. I think I should add "and use lotion" because if your hands are looking like mine, all this handwashing is making them red and dry!

The new year does bring some changes though. At our Charge Conference in December, we elected new leadership for the church, which will look very much like last year's since many graciously continued in previous roles. However, there are some changes. The complete list is available in the church office and on our website.

Additionally, beginning with Christmas Eve, I will focus on the gospel of Luke in worship through Easter. We will go sequentially through the gospel, even though we won't be able to hit all the verses. We will focus on those things that make Luke unique among the gospels (it's my favorite gospel!). In order to help fill in the gaps, in each newsletter from January through April, we will include a daily scripture reading guide so that you can read along with the worship series. It will include the parts of Luke we don't read in worship along with other scripture that tie directly to that week's readings. Each reading should take only a few minutes, and I invite you to make this part of your daily spiritual exercises.

We also will begin a new Bible study series the first week of January and it will continue until Lent. I sent out a survey and based on the answers, we have Bible study ideas for all of 2021! We'll begin with a study of the parables of Jesus. Look for more information on that in this newsletter and in emails beginning next week.

One of the most powerful moments for me this Christmas season was the "Silent Night" video that was part of our Christmas Eve service. So many of you sent pictures or videos of the light of Christ in your homes. It was so holy! The pandemic may have interrupted our normal worship but it hasn't stopped God in the least. The light shines in our homes and our lives. Pay attention to that light and let it shine brightly!

# Tulare UMC Preaching Plan

Dates: January 3 – January 31

Date	Scripture(s)	Title	Notes
1/3	Luke 10:25-28	"The Character of a Methodist"	Covenant service for the first Sunday of the year
1/10	Luke 3:1-18, 21-22	"What Does Discipleship Have to Do With Baptism?"	Baptism of the Lord Sunday
1/17	Luke 4:14-30	"Pushing All the Buttons"	Human Relations Sunday
1/24	Luke 5:1-11	"Fishing with Jesus"	
1/31	Luke 6:1-16	"Keeping Sabbath"	

## January Bible readings

Date	Passage	Date	Passage
January 1	Luke 1	January 17	Luke 4:14-30
January 2	Luke 2:1-20	January 18	Isaiah 58:6-12
January 3	Luke 2:21-38	January 19	1 Kings 17:8-14
January 4	Luke 2:39-40	January 20	2 Kings 5:1-17
January 5	Luke 2:41-52	January 21	Luke 4:31-37
January 6	Leviticus 26:3-6	January 22	Luke 4:38-41
January 7	Leviticus 26:7-16	January 23	Luke 4:42-44
January 8	Malachi 4:4-6	January 24	Luke 5:1-11
January 9	Isaiah 62:10-12	January 25	Luke 5:12-16
January 10	Luke 3:1-20	January 26	Luke 5:17-26
January 11	Luke 3:21-22	January 27	Philippians 2:1-11
January 12	Malachi 3:1-4	January 28	Luke 5:27-32
January 13	Ephesians 4:1-7	January 29	Luke 5:33-39
January 14	Luke 3:23-38	January 30	Luke 6:1-11
January 15	Luke 4:1-4	January 31	Luke 6:12-16
January 16	Luke 4:5-13		



# Worship Bits

Happy New Year! I am your new worship chair, which is a bit unusual. Lynnda Boswell did a fantastic job as worship chair last year and I would have been so pleased if she wanted to continue. However, she chose to focus on Outreach instead, another area in which she is incredibly gifted. So, here I am. Here are some worship lessons from 2020 that we will need in 2021.

- Our worship is resilient and creative. When the pandemic struck, we adapted and found new and ancient ways to worship God.
- Our worship team is exceptionally talented. We all know that Landes and Catalina are incredibly gifted, but there are others who share their talents to make our worship services truly from the Spirit. Tino Galicia behind the camera. Pastor Marcelo leading our Hispanic service and assisting in the English service. Lynnda's creativity with our bulletins. Julia Summers who makes sure that all the i's are dotted and the t's crossed and who has a gift for worship visuals. Robin Dung, Steve Gong, and Bob Duncan who usher at our in-person worship, making sure all are safe and well. Dolores Marcelino who is called to be our communion steward. Andrew and his technological gifts. Joseph Smith, Grant Cooper, and Jessica Stone in the praise band. Max and his quiet servant heart. I know I have missed someone who helps us worship in Spirit and truth, and know that I thank God and you for all you have done.
- We will continue, even after "normal" worship returns, to offer online worship for those who can't come in person. Our challenge in 2021 is to know them and engage with them.
- Most importantly, we have learned and will remember that worship is not confined to a particular building at a particular time on a particular day. Worship can happen anywhere at any time and in many ways. Yes, many of us feel connected to God in our sanctuary, but, as we witnessed in our "Silent Night" video, the light of Christ shines in every place and we can share it with others.

If you have thoughts or ideas for our worship, please let me know. My vision for worship is always to offer glory to God and to help worshipers encounter and connect with the living Lord. How can that happen for you in 2021?

## White Gift Epiphany Celebration – Sunday, January 10 Worship



Please bring new socks of any size to donate to Wilson Elementary School. As you know we sponsored several families from Wilson School for Christmas in doing so we realized they have a need. We would like to continue to bless them with items the school can give out as needed.

# The many ways to 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. (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. 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.

## *Bible Study Wednesdays beginning January 6<sup>th</sup>*

*6 pm via Zoom*



Week 1 – “The Sower and the Soils” Mark 4:1-20 (also Matthew 13:1-23 and Luke 8:1-15)

Week 2 – “The Wheat and the Weeds” Matthew 13:24-29, 36-43

Week 3 – “The Shrewd Manager” Luke 16:10-15

Week 4 – “The Unforgiving Servant” Matthew 18:21-35

Week 5 – “The Workers in the Vineyard” Matthew 20:1-16

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



# January 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 <b>Hispanic Worship 9am</b> <b>Courtyard Trustee Meeting 10am</b> <b>Worship 11am</b> <b>Courtyard</b>	4	5 <b>Finance Mtg 6pm Zoom</b>	6 Bible Study 6pm Zoom	7	8	9
10 <b>Hispanic Worship 9am</b> <b>Trustees Mtg Crtyrd 10am</b> <b>Worship 11am</b> Courtyard <i>Church Council following worship</i>	11	12	13 Bible Study 6pm Zoom	14	15	16
17 <b>Hispanic Worship 9am</b> Courtyard <b>Worship 11am</b> Courtyard	18	19	20 Bible Study 6pm Zoom	21	22	23
24 <b>Hispanic Worship 9am</b> Courtyard <b>Worship 11am</b> Courtyard	25	26	27 Bible Study 6pm Zoom	28	29	30
31 <b>Hispanic Worship 9am</b> Courtyard <b>Worship 11am</b> Courtyard						



On behalf of the Outreach Committee I would like to thank everyone who donated either money or boxes of food for our Food Pantry and all who helped throughout the year on preparing and handing outmeals for our homeless community. I am so proud to be a part of this beautiful church family.



*Dear Church Family,  
Please know that I am filled with enormous gratitude for you many cards and phone calls celebrating my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Sincerely,  
Gerry Soultz*



**Patrick Jones  
Bob Mulder  
Mary Gong**

**Jo Sullivan  
Satini Tautuaa  
Kathy Stacy**

**Jack Ribeiro  
Sandra Gist-Langiano**



We are preparing for a food pantry that will benefit our church family and our neighbors. But first we need to prepare by removing the books and items from the old library. We are looking for people who can help box up books and move them to a store

room. Then prepare the area for the generous gift we received from the Reverse Advent items. We also are in need of help cleaning out the room upstairs that holds the Welcome Wear clothes. Please call or text Lynnda Boswell (559) 302-8451 to arrange a time to meet. I will be working on January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10 to noon if you would like to join me. Please keep in mind we will be wearing our mask and social distancing to keep anyone that would like to help save.





In 2021, the Tulare UMC leadership is committed to helping members find new and creative ways to partner with God and the church to accomplish the work God has given us. Look for ideas in each edition of the The Messenger. This month, we learn about charitable remainder unitrusts, which enables you to leave a legacy to your church while enjoying the income of your investments and minimizing your tax liability.

## Charitable Remainder Unitrust

You may be concerned about the high cost of capital gains tax with the sale of an appreciated asset. Perhaps you recently sold property and are looking for a way to save on taxes this year and plan for retirement. A charitable remainder unitrust might offer the solutions you need!

### Benefits of a charitable remainder unitrust

- Receive income for life, for a term of up to 20 years or life plus a term of up to 20 years
- Avoid capital gains on the sale of your appreciated assets
- Receive an immediate charitable income tax deduction for the charitable portion of the trust
- Establish a future legacy gift to the church and/or charity of your choice.

### How a charitable remainder unitrust works

1. You transfer cash or assets to fund a charitable remainder unitrust.
2. In the case of a trust funded with appreciated assets, the trust will then sell the assets tax-free.
3. The trust is invested to pay income to you or any other trust beneficiaries you select based on a life, lives, a term of up to 20 years or a life plus a term of up to 20 years.
4. You receive an income tax deduction in the year you transfer assets to the trust.
5. Your church or favorite charity benefits from what remains in the trust after all the trust payments have been made.

If you would like more information about a charitable remainder trust, consult your financial advisor, or contact our Conference's foundation, the California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation. They will be able to give you more information and assist you in choosing the right financial vehicle

## Online Giving Is on Its Way!

The Finance Committee has been investigating online giving solutions, which will enable people to give to the church securely through our website, Facebook, or an app on their phone. We are talking to Tithe.ly about their platform. Look for more information about e-giving in our weekly email updates and the February newsletter.

### *January Birthdays*

2	Tino Galicia	20	Audre Smith
2	Neva Stevenson	21	Gavin Dias
8	Reed Van Houten	24	Anthony Gonzalez
12	Yvonnica Gonzalez	26	Isaiah Gray
18	Lavon Brogan	28	Rosemarie Boren

**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