



TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS -

OPEN DOORS

THE MESSENGER

March 2021



March 14, 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 time has arrived for our in-person worship to move into the sanctuary! It has been a YEAR since we have been able to gather in that space together, and I know how much many of you long to resume worshipping together there. With the changes in state guidelines, increasing numbers of our members receiving vaccinations, and falling COVID rates, we will resume worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, March 7th.

This is not to say that the risk is gone. After rapidly dropping infection rates, new COVID cases have begun to rise nationally as some of the more infectious variants of the virus become widespread. And, honestly, COVID is going to be with us for a while. The good news is that all indications are that the vaccines available are effective at preventing severe disease (requiring hospitalization) and death. We must continue to take precautions to mitigate the spread of this virus. So, our protocols include the best practices to minimize infection. This includes

wearing of masks, limiting live music to instrumental, no singing with recorded music, and seating people so that cross traffic is minimized.

I know that some of you will not be ready to worship inside until you are fully vaccinated. We understand. Our online worship will continue, but it's going to look a little different. Tino Galicia has been so faithful over the last year in recording our worship in the sanctuary. Now, Andrew Summers, Landes, and I will take over, and you will see some different venues for parts of the service. I am also looking for liturgists who can record at home and send me the video, so if you would like to be part of our worship, let me know!

Julia Summers has worked very hard on our protocol and it has been reviewed and approved by our District Superintendent. We have tweaked it to reflect new learnings. That means that we will be keeping doors open to enhance ventilation. We will have the heat or air on prior to worship beginning to make the space as comfortable as possible. While it is still cool in the mornings, you might want to bring a sweater or shawl.

Like most people, I have a favorite place to sit when I worship. Mine is usually the second pew in front of the pulpit. That way I can focus my attention on the preacher. You could probably show me "your" pew in the sanctuary. However, for the time being, we will need to sit where the ushers lead us. Please accept the seat they show you to gracefully and look at it as an opportunity to experience the worship from a different point of view.

I've seen a lot of people get knee replacement surgery over the years. All of them have eventually returned to full lives free of the pain that led to the surgery. However, none of them leapt from the hospital bed the day after the surgery and resumed normal life. It took weeks, sometimes months, of healing and physical therapy to be able to do the things they used to do. It was a process with a lot of small victories along the way.

The same is true for us as we come out of this pandemic. It is going to be a process, and resuming worship in the sanctuary is a big step in the process. But it isn't the final one and there are still limits. Let's rejoice in the victories we see and anticipate the new life that is coming.

Tulare UMC Preaching Plan

Dates: March 7 – March 28

Tulare UMC Preaching Plan

Date	Scripture(s)	Title	Notes
3/7	Luke 15:1-32	“Second Chances”	Communion
3/14	Luke 16:19-31	“Consequences”	Daylight Savings Time begins
3/21	Luke 18:31-19:10	“Eyes to See”	
3/28	1 Samuel 17: 4, 8-11, 32-37, 45-50 Luke 19:29-44	“Jesus, the Giant-Slayer”	Palm Sunday

March Bible readings

Date	Passage	Date	Passage
March 1	Luke 13:10-17	March 17	Luke 17:11-19
March 2	Luke 13:18-30	March 18	Luke 18:1-14
March 3	Luke 14:1-6	March 19	Luke 18:15-17
March 4	Luke 14:7-14	March 20	Luke 18:18-30
March 5	Luke 14:15-24	March 21	Luke 18:31-19:10
March 6	Luke 14:25-33	March 22	Luke 19:11-27
March 7	Luke 15:1-32	March 23	Luke 20:1-8
March 8	Psalms 119:169-176	March 24	Luke 20:9-19
March 9	1 Samuel 16:6-13	March 25	Luke 20:20-26
March 10	Genesis 45:1-9	March 26	Luke 20:27-40
March 11	Genesis 45:21-28	March 27	Luke 21:1-4
March 12	Exodus 2:1-10	March 28	Luke 19:29-44
March 13	John 4:46-54	March 29	Luke 19:45-48
March 14	Luke 16:19-31	March 30	Luke 21:5-18
March 15	Luke 16:1-13	March 31	Luke 21:25-38
March 16	Luke 16:14-18		



Hispanic Ministries

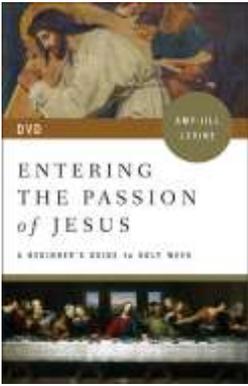
Dear Family of TUMC

One sign of the kingdom is to show mercy and love to our neighbors so every Sunday we are having our service in Spanish at 9:00 am with the regular attendance of 10 adults, 1 youth and 2 children. This is only the beginning of a growing seed in the TUMC Spanish. If you know any Hispanic people who have need for prayer or some pastoral visit I am glad to be of service; you may share my information to those in need.

Rev. Marcelo Escarzaga.

Email: escarzagal@gmail.com

Phone: 559-544-8690 information for prayer.



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.

zoom
BIBLE STUDY MEETING
Additional day and time

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.



The many ways to worship with TUMC:

Before you attend worship in the sanctuary 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.

Mask must be worn at all times on the church property; 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 YouTube Channel: Tulare UMC.



Hispanic Service:

with Pastor Marcelo

Sundays at 9AM in the courtyard by the cross.

Instructions for Congregation Covid-19 Protocols

- Make reservations with the Church Office (686-8523) tulareunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com or Julia Summers (901-5067) sewcreate@aol.com. Let us know how many in your family are to be seated together. Church service will be at 10:00 a.m.
- Arrive at the Church 20 to 30 minutes before the service begins in order to allow for protocols before entering.
- Wear a mask on the Church grounds. **Masks must be worn properly over the nose and mouth and fit well.** The CDC recommends that people wear double masks – a medical style mask and a cloth mask. Recommended but not required.
- Line up on the sidewalk on the west side of the Sanctuary (the ramp side).
- Observe 6' distance from other family groups.
- Please do not greet anyone with a hug or handshake. Waves and friendly greetings are wonderful!
- Your temperature will be taken at the bottom of the ramp.
- Once inside the Narthex, use the hand sanitizer from the dispenser.
- Inside the Sanctuary, you will be guided to your seat by an usher. No one will be allowed to choose their place. We understand that some people have preferred seats, but we are following the best practices. Please don't ask the ushers for a specific seat.
- Masks are to be worn at all times.
- There will be no live singing. Live music will be instrumental only. There will be recorded songs and you are invited to hum and clap along.
- After the service, ushers will direct your exit.
- The offering plate will be at the back of the Sanctuary at the end of the service.
- As you exit, please use the hand sanitizer again.
- Please keep at least 6' between you and other members of the congregation.
- Please go to your cars. I know you want to visit with each other, but it is important to keep everyone safe. Wear your masks and keep a minimum of 6' apart.
- Only the bathroom off the Sanctuary will be used. Keep the toilet lid down before flushing the toilet. Wash your hands with soap and water and then use the hand sanitizer again at the outer door. An usher will be at the outer door.
- If water or tissue is needed, please signal an usher and they will bring it to you.

Thank you for working together to keep everyone safe!





COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS FOR LENT 2021

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.



Sweetheart Dinner:

Thank you so much for the tremendous support for the Sweetheart Dinner. We had a record 92 reservations this year! A special thank you to the Crook Family (Jason, Jennifer, Ryland, Ben, & Ella), and Andrew Summers for serving up the meal and all the clean-up. Thank you to my drivers - Bill Hall, Greg Smith, Ron & Linda Vaughn, Dolores & Lewis Marcelino, Steve & Virginia Beecher, and Connie Smith. Thank you to Greg Smith, Ron Vaughn, Landes Dung, and Pastor Allison for the help with the Sweetheart Presentation. Andrew Summers was the one who delivered the flowers and plaque to our new Sweetheart - Nan Maxfield!

It was a joy to cook for you all!... Love, Julia Summers

Methodist Women's Fellowship

The Methodist Women's Fellowship will meet on Zoom for our monthly meeting, Tuesday, March 9, at 10:00 a.m. Last month we had 16 of us! Let's try to beat that number for March! Don't forget that lunch will be delivered to all the members on Monday, March 8, starting at about 10:00. We look forward to seeing you at our Zoom meeting!

Nan Maxfield ... TUMC Sweetheart 2021

This year was the 60th annual sweetheart dinner. Nan Maxfield was selected as the sweetheart. Here is a little history about Nan.



Nan was born in Tulare County in 1944 while her dad was stationed in the Pacific Islands. Her mother and grandparents were her in Tulare County. When Nan was about a year old, her family moved to Los Angeles and later a brother and sister joined her family. She continued to visit Tulare during the summer months of her youth.

Nan's parents both possessed artistic interests and skills (also she and her siblings do as well), so she learned to draw at an early age. Her parents also instilled a deep interest in spiritual growth and commitment to serve others. She studied various languages including Russian, German and Spanish while in high school and college.

Following high school, she spent some time on a Methodist youth service project working in Pakistan. There she experienced life in some areas which were less than ideally safe. She continued her interest in languages and artistic expression into her College years settling on studying German and Spanish along with sketching and application of acrylic.

Shortly after College, she married Jim (they had originally met in a Methodist Youth Group) and they moved to Kansas City Missouri where she worked in urban inner city High School, followed by other teaching opportunities.

They moved to Tulare County, working in Earlimart, Wasco and Tulare. She eventually settled into teaching Spanish at Tulare Union High School until her retirement. She has used her language skills in many ways helping non English speaking members of the community, working as an interpreter.

Nan has served the Tulare Methodist Church as a Sunday school teacher and coordinator, member and soloist within the church choir, and multiple committee assignments. She has been instrumental in finding help for people needing contact to various governmental programs, housing, etc. She and Jim have taken in at least eleven families over time and helped them get on their feet.

She is an avid reader of her Bible, which she keeps by her side and is filled with notes in the side columns to illustrate faith, courage and insights for coping with numerous challenges which life presents. Now retired, Nan works with the homeless, spends time gardening and rediscovering acrylics and painting. Nan is the artist who painted the mural in the church narthex about 8 years ago.

Congratulations again to Nan Maxfield, the Methodist sweetheart for 2021.

Methodist Women's Fellowship Annual Spring Dinner

Sunday, April 25

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

\$15 adults, \$7.50 children



Take out only

Tri-tip, Potato Casserole, Buttered Carrots, Asparagus with Italian Dressing, Roll,
Peach Apricot Cobbler



Spring is the time for our church to have a facelift. Our balcony needs to be sanded and painted, and The Methodist Men will head this project, but we need your help. We would like to do this after Easter, so if you are able to help, please let the Church Office know. Thank you,

Beth Cox, Trustees Chair

UMCOR's 80-year history is grounded in the teachings of Jesus Christ, "created to do good things" (Ephesians 2:10) that alleviate human suffering. Responding to people suffering from the effects of war, civil unrest, hurricanes, wildfires, famines or floods, UMCOR steps in on your behalf in times of crisis to help individuals, families and communities too overwhelmed to recover on their own.



UMCOR Sunday is one of six special offerings in The United Methodist Church that supports ministries shared by all churches in the denomination. UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, acts on our behalf when there is a crisis. UMCOR Sunday allows us to give to specific Advance projects, as the need arises, with 100% of our gifts are directed to the designated response.

UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities, to respond to those left most vulnerable during this challenging time. And UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR cultivates relationships and helps communities rebuild, often for years after the disaster.

UMCOR can do this because the funds we receive today join with those of millions of United Methodists to help cover the costs of doing business. From training volunteers to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly when disaster strikes.

Please give generously.



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.



March 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 Bible Study 11:30 am	2	3 Bible Study 6 pm	4	5	6
7 <i>Hispanic Worship</i> 9am Courtyard <i>Worship 10am</i> Sanctuary Trustees Meeting after service (11:00)	8 Bible Study 11:30 am Outreach Meeting 5pm	9 MWF 10 am via ZOOM Finance Meeting 6 pm	10 Bible Study 6 pm	11	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Spring forward <i>Hispanic Worship</i> 9am Courtyard <i>Worship 10am</i> Sanctuary Church Council after service (11:00)	15 Bible Study 11:30 am	16	17 St Patrick's Day Bible Study 6 pm	18	19	20 Spring Food Pantry & Welcome Wear 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
21 <i>Hispanic Worship</i> 9am Courtyard <i>Worship 10am</i> Sanctuary COVID Virtual Game Day via ZOOM 1:00 – 3:00	22 Bible Study 11:30 am	23	24 Bible Study 6 pm	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday <i>Hispanic Worship</i> 9am Courtyard <i>Worship 10am</i> Sanctuary	29 Bible Study 11:30 am	30	31 Bible Study 6 pm			

Educational Committee News

By Linda Galicia Educational co-coordinator

Dearest Parents and Grandparents,

Please spread the word to kids and youth about the Educational Committee having their first post Covid Virtual Game Day via Zoom on Sunday March 21, 2021. A delicious piping hot pizza with packaged Zoom games will be delivered to each child's family for the Zoom game event between 1:00-3:00. We will play Bingo, a scavenger hunt, charades, and other games during this gathering.

We want each family to text or call in reservations for the number of children/youth attending this event by texting or call (209) 347-0034 or emailing at adbyerley@gmail.com.

Please begin texting reservations
Feb. 28-March 14, 2021.

In addition, we have partnered Sunday School children with adult pen pals. I hope your children are receiving cards and notes to lift their spirits and show we love and care about them. If they like, the children can also mail back a little note to their pen pal. Each week, Pastor Allison sends out a link via email for a special worship service made just for kids. The link is also on our Facebook page & website. Share worship time with your children or grandchildren!

P.S. We are excited to see all your children at this Game Day Event on Sunday, March 21.



We are moving forward with our Food Pantry. There are still items we will need to have for our soft opening on Saturday, March 20th 11:30 – 1:30.

We need the following: flour, sugar, cereal, dried beans, rice, tomato sauce, canned vegetables, peanut butter and jelly. The week of March 15th we can use corn & flour tortillas, potatoes & eggs.

March Birthdays

5 MARGARET ALLEN
5 JAKIN GARCIA
8 STEVE BEECHER
11 AVA REYNOLDS
12 JUSTIN BROWN
13 PIPER REYNOLDS
14 TAMMY THOMPSON

15 MATHEW BELTRAN
23 DON BOSWELL
30 XAVIER REYNOLDS
30 STACY HERNANDEZ
31 SHIRLEY PHILPOT
31 RUBIE WILHELM

TUMC Chandelier Questionnaire

As most of you know, the chandelier in the sanctuary fell to the floor a couple of years ago due to metal fatigue in the connector on the overhead beam to which the chandelier was attached. This connection was also the electrical connection which allowed the lights to operate. The chandelier has been repaired and the trustees are at a crossroads in determining the operational fate of the chandelier. To attach the structure and make it operational will be very costly. To date, no company has been found which will actually attach the chandelier. We have a few options to present to the congregation for consideration. We NEED YOUR input before proceeding. Please consider the following options and let the trustees know your preference.

Option #1: Hang the chandelier but the lights would not be workable (no electrical attachment) and add extra overhead lighting along the balcony rails.

Pros... This is the least costly alternative (probably less than \$2,500.00 for everything), Very little upkeep and maintenance since the chandelier would be permanently affixed to the beams.

Cons... Need additional lighting along the rails or some other source.

Option #2: Hang the chandelier permanently affixed to the beam with one set of very long lasting LED bulbs and full electrical connection. These would have to be replaced using very tall scaffolding (not easy to find nor get someone to climb).

Pros... The light would be working, at least until the bulbs burn out.

Cons... This would be expensive (at least \$7-10,000.00). The bulbs would have to be replaced eventually and this would be expensive and fairly difficult. It would require removal of some of the pews in order to position the scaffolding for the bulb changing.

Option #3: This would be to connect the chandelier on some sort of device which would allow it to be lowered and then when it is back in place it would be connected to the electrical source. This is what we had before it fell.

Pros ... Light in the middle of the room. Theoretically the bulbs would be able to be replaced by lowering the chandelier.

Cons... The trustees have not been successful in finding anyone who can design a system to accomplish this. Also, the quotes just to have the chandelier able to be lowered are greater than \$20,000.00. This does not include the electrical connection. We do not know how long it might be to find someone with a workable system design for this.

Option #4: Although there are many people who love the aesthetics and the history of the chandelier, some have advocated for not replacing the chandelier and simply finding the best alternative light source as a replacement.

Pros ... This would be the least expensive and could be accomplished the quickest.

Cons ... The loss of the aesthetics and atmosphere provided by the chandelier.

Our budget this year is even tighter than it has been in the past due to the loss of a number of very significant donors. The replacement of the chandelier may have to be funded by special extra giving, depending on which option the trustees are guided by the congregation to choose.

Please let your voice be heard by sending in your vote with your name attached.

Thank you, 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