



TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS -
OPEN DOORS

THE MESSENGER

January 2020

tulareunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com

tulareumc.com

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



Epiphany/White Gift Service on January 5th

Join the Three Kings in honoring the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ at our 10am Worship Service by bringing items/money wrapped in white to support our TUMC Clothes Closet "Welcome Wear." We need socks, tee shirts, under shirts, men's boxers, women's underpants, bras, deodorant, toiletries of all kinds.

Scholarship Soup Lunch – January 5 in Wesley Hall immediately after Worship

Donations from this lunch will be used to offer scholarships to our children and youth for college scholarships, as well as help with extra-curricular activities that they otherwise would be unable to afford. In the past our Church has helped with Boy Scouts, dance, and drama activities, all of which make the world a bigger place for our children of the Westside. Please enjoy our soup lunch and give generously! To donate soup, please contact Cheryl Santos, Chair of Scholarships, at 559-905-8895.



Volunteers Needed for the 3rd Sunday of the month Breakfast before Church. Nyelene needs a partner or two to make pancakes and offer hospitality from 8am to 9:45.

Contact the Office 559 686-8523

January Worship Topics

Have you ever heard of a “negative object lesson?” It’s when you learn things about a bad attitude or behavior and the teacher says, “Don’t do that!” In January our theme is NAUGHTY CHURCHES. We will explore the questionable behavior of several early Christian Churches and see what we can learn as we head toward a new season in the life of Tulare UMC.

January 5 EPIPHANY SUNDAY/Holy Communion

Sermon Title: “**Returning Home by Another Road**”

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

January 12 CELEBRATING OUR TUMC LEADERS

Sermon Title: “**Corinth: To Eat or Not to Eat, That is the Question**”

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

January 19

Sermon Title: “**Ephesus: Breaking Up is Easy to Do**”

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-14, Ephesians 4:1-6

January 26 Blessings for January Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Milestones

Sermon Title: “**Laodicea: Country Club Christianity**”

Scripture: Revelation 3:14-22



Mary’s Musings

Of all the Christmas joys – and there have been literally dozens at TUMC this year – my greatest has been arriving to the Church Office to see the wreath hanging on our door. The other day a Spanish speaking neighbor across the street came over and blew our leaves from in front of the Church Office. When I said Gracias, he responded by pointing toward the wreath and saying Gracias. A week ago, when Lynnda Boswell and I were coming in from Twin Oaks Devotions, a member of our community and a homeless man, both of whom come to No Barriers Bible Study, commented on how good it makes them feel that we trust our neighborhood enough to put a wreath on the door. Several Church members have entered the office saying they are shocked the wreath

hasn’t disappeared. But it hasn’t. For 17 days our wreath has hung on the Church Office door as a testament to our love for our neighbors and our desire to bring warmth, beauty, light, and a living faith to the corner of Kern and G.

Blessings of Comfort and Joy,
Pastor Mary



Thank you to Julia Summers and her Events and Hospitality Team for the lovely Christmas trees in all of our main fellowship and meeting rooms!

Thank you to all the adults, youth, and children who sang in our wonderful “Love Came Down at Christmas” musical pageant. Thank you to all the generous people who gave items for our homeless gift exchange at No Barriers Bible Study.



Walk to Emmaus Invitation

Have you ever wondered what it must have been like to have been one of the two who were walking on the road to Emmaus? While they were talking with each other a stranger, Jesus himself, came to walk with them but they were kept from recognizing HIM. They spoke of how Jesus was recently condemned and crucified. He then interpreted things about himself in all the scriptures. They invited HIM to stay for it was almost evening. While at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he opening the scriptures to us?"

This story from Luke 24:13-35 in the Bible provides the imagery for the Walk to Emmaus Christian retreat. The retreat is a 72 hour experience that begins on a Thursday evening and ends on a Sunday evening. There are both a spring and fall retreat that is held at local churches within our central valley. Although everyone's experience is different, something you can expect is to come away with an even stronger spiritual life and a desire to be active in leadership within your own local church and community. Landes and I were sponsored for this retreat in 2013 and we have been ever so grateful for having had this opportunity. I had reservations about going at first because I had very little information about what the weekend would be about. All I knew is that I would be in this place with people I didn't know and that it might feel pretty awkward. Well, I decided to trust God and was so elated that I went. After having had this experience I now understand why you do not have a lot of details prior to the walk. The best way to describe it is that the weekend is like a gift, if you knew what was in the gift before you opened it you wouldn't get to experience the excitement and joy that you receive as it is unwrapped!

All who are interested in attending the Walk to Emmaus retreat, please let us know as we would love to sponsor any of our church family. Churches who frequently sponsor members from their congregation find the leadership within their own local church becomes stronger and more active disciples in Christ.

The next Walk to Emmaus retreat will be the first two weeks in March. (The men's retreat is the first week, followed by the women's walk the second week).

Please contact us if we can answer any questions. We would love to give the gift of an Emmaus weekend to you!!!

Love and Peace,
Robin Dung (559) 936-3273



CONGRATULATIONS ISIAH GRAY! The Tulare Patriots won the Hall of Fame World Youth Football Championship in Canton Ohio. Mom Sandee was there to cheer him on. Isiah is the far left top.



LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.*



RON VAUGHAN'S CHRISTMAS GIVING MUSINGS:

*Our Church's Salvation Army bell ringers in one afternoon, raised \$421. The kettle was really stuffed! The money helped to fill the nearly 300 Christmas boxes of food, plus toys that were given out on Dec. 21st. The Salvation Army is our sister organization, in that founder William Booth, started out as a Methodist Minister. Also, on the 21st, Linda V. and other Gideons passed out over 200 Testaments (both English and Spanish versions) to those waiting in line at the Salvation Army.

*In addition, our congregation put together 30 gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

*Many gifts of socks, blankets, and other items have been collected for the No Barriers Bible Study Christmas party on the Dec 23rd.

*** Thank you to all who have donated to these ministries.**

We at TUMC do not merely help the poor during holidays. All year long many are donating money and providing food for the Sunday Breakfasts, and Monday Night Bible Study meals. Hundreds of homeless have filled their stomachs and been welcomed by our generous people. In fact, I know of one lady, who does not even attend our services, but cooks one or two pans of food every week for NBBS! Such dedication to giving is amazing! Even the little lad at our church service on the 22nd, apparently caught our spirit of giving. He kept toddling up and down the altar steps, bringing stuffed animal gifts to Pastor Mary. It was a very touching and precious sight to see.

NO BARRIERS BIBLE STUDY CHRISTMAS PARTY



Over 100 wrapped gifts and gift cards were donated by our generous Church family for the No Barriers Bible Study Christmas Party! People from our homeless and marginally housed community were overwhelmed by the kindness and Christmas cheer that was abundantly clear in the delicious food, the beautiful decorations, and the wrapped presents. God bless us, every one!!

Unhanging of the Greens

Please join us in putting away our Christmas decorations and trees on Saturday, January 11th at 9am. New Worship Chair Lynnda Boswell will be providing refreshments.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Every Sunday (JANUARY 5, 12, 19, 26)

- 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** –
- 5:00 **Boy Scouts** - Upstairs – Education Wing

Every Monday (JANUARY 6, 13, 20, 27)

NO BARRIERS BIBLE STUDY

- 5:00 **Fellowship & Music** –
- 5:30 **Supper** – Wesley Hall
- 6:00-7:00 **Study of Acts with Pastor Mary**

Every Tuesday (DECEMBER 7, 14, 21, 28)

- 2:00 **Twin Oaks Devotional**

To be announced

- Tues., Jan 7 6:00 **Finance Meeting** Fireside
- Sun., Jan 12 11:15 **Church Council** Fireside
- Sun., Jan 26 11:15 **Trustees Meeting** Fireside

*Special Charge Conference
 To approve
 Pastor for Hispanic Ministry
 Salary package*

*At Church Council Meeting immediately following
 worship on Sunday January 12, 2020 in the
 Fireside Room*

*See letter on page 8 from
 District Superintendent Debra Brady*



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 TINO GALICIA**
- 2 NEVA STEVENSON**
- 8 REED VAN HOUTEN**
- 12 YVONNICIA GONZALEZ**
- 18 LAVON BROGAN**
- 18 JO SULLIVAN**
- 20 AUDRE SMITH**
- 21 GAVIN DIAS**
- 24 ANTHONY GONZALEZ**
- 24 JULIE WALKER**
- 26 ISAIAH GRAY**
- 28 ROSEMARIE BOREN**

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



Dear Friends, Thanks to all of you for the cards & flowers & prayers you have sent me. I love all of you for thinking of me. I'm at Casa Grande in Visalia, but my thoughts are always of Tulare & the Methodist Church.

Thoughts & Prayers,
 Lavon Brogan
 547 E. Walnut Ave.
 Visalia, CA

Please accept my joy in receiving a beautiful bouquet for my 99th birthday from my Church family. I am filled with God's Blessings.
 In Christ,
 Gerry Soultis

January

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 8:00 Hope Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship -Advent 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 3:00 Kids Game Day	6 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	7 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional 6pm Finance Mtg. - Fireside	8	9	10	11 Unhanging of the Greens 9am
12 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship -Advent 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 11:15 Church Council Mtg 3:00 Kids Game Day	13 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	14 MWF 10am Fireside Rm 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional	15	16	17	18
19 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship -Advent 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 3:00 Kids Game Day 5:00 Stephen Ministry Supervision meeting	20 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	21 10am Hispanic Ministry Council 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional	22	23	24	25
26 8:00 *Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 10:00 Hispanic/Latino 11:15 Trustees 3:00 Kids Game Day	27 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	28 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Pastor Mary Conference Event </div>	29	30	31	



December 15, 2019

Bob Duncan, SPRC Chair & Connie Smith, Chair of the Hispanic Ministry Council

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Tulare United Methodist Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this blessed Season of Advent. It is with great joy that I inform you that, after much prayer and consultation, it is Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño's intent to appoint the Reverend Marcelo Escárzaga to serve as your Pastor for Hispanic Ministry effective January 1, 2020. He will serve your congregation 1/4-time.

I know that you are already familiar with Pastor Marcelo since he has been working with your congregation over the last 18 months in planting the seeds for new ministry. As you may know, Pastor Marcelo also serves the Vida Nueva congregation in Porterville 1/2-time. His wife Corazon Moran is the Associate Pastor at the Visalia UMC and they are parents of four children. The family resides in Porterville.

Your Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and Hispanic Ministry Council applied for a grant from our Conference Committee on Hispanic-Latino Ministry and you were awarded \$7,500 toward Pastor Marcelo's compensation for the first half of the 2020 calendar year. We will assess your progress and make a recommendation on the second half of the year as we discern new pastoral appointments for July 1st. Your SPRC and Hispanic Council will work with Pastor Marcelo to develop ministry goals including plans for evangelism and discipleship.

Bishop Carcaño and her Cabinet congratulate you for your vision and these important steps for new ministry. When I worshipped with you last month, I was delighted to see the refurbished space that will support worship and administration as you continue to welcome your Hispanic-Latino neighbors and accompany new people in the life as Christ-followers.

Please continue to support and fervently pray for Pastor Marcelo and all those who lead your Hispanic Ministry. Pray that God will prepare the way work in the hearts of people who are longing for God's grace and love. Pray for the whole congregation as you continue your growth as a welcoming and nurturing community. I look forward to hearing what God will do in and through you in the new year.

May you all have a blessed Christmas!

Walking with you as we follow Jesus,

Rev. Debra L. Brady

Central Valley District Superintendent

A Vision of Hope from Robin Dung



In 2015, I was attending a retreat and a woman spoke of a time that she was in her church sanctuary alone. When she stood up to leave, there in front of her stood a huge angel! She described him as being an approximately 12 ft. male angel who stood lovingly in front of her. She had a peace about her and knew she didn't need to be frightened. Well after her story I began pestering God through prayer asking Him over and over if He would allow me to see an angel too! I was begging like a child in a candy store.

One day while waiting for my husband I ended up in our sanctuary alone. I closed my eyes and said, "It's me again God. "If it's okay with you can I see an angel?" Well I opened my eyes and I had to smile because one of the sweetest ladies from our church just happened to walk in. I said to myself, "Okay God, I know what you mean. Sheila is an angel!"

Well time went on and I kind of started to forget about my urgent need to see an angel until one special night....God decided to surprise me in a special way.

I had been fast asleep when all of a sudden I woke up and could not believe my eyes. There beside my bed was the most beautiful little girl angel! Her beauty was hard to describe. She was iridescent in color and transparent. I could see the most beautiful colors of energy running through her body. She had beautiful facial features and flowing long wavy hair. Although she didn't speak like we do, she communicated with me telepathically. Her message was, "I have come to give you hope". She had the most peaceful smile and transmitted a love that filled me up so completely.

I love sharing this experience especially at Christmas as we all need to know that there is HOPE for all of us. In good times and in our trials, God is near and so are HIS angels!



Lay Church Planting Training

Thank you Veisia Tautuaa for saying yes to participating in 28 hours of training as a Lay Church Planter! She will travel to West Sacramento for two all day in person sessions, as well as six two-hour online trainings from January – June 2020. Only 40 participants from our entire United Methodist Annual Conference were invited to enroll and Tulare UMC was asked to be a part of this because we have been identified by District Superintendent Debra Brady as a “critical place for new ministry.”

Make disciples...
(and you might plant a church!)



Margaret Allen is our oldest Church member. She will be 104 in March! She is very well loved and cared for by the staff at Twin Oaks, as well as Dorothy Richmond and Linda Day who look in on her frequently and provide a connection between Margaret Allen and her relatives who live away from Tulare. Pastor Mary visits Margaret too. This photo was taken while Lynnda Boswell “blinged” her bulletin board for Christmas. Usually Dorothy Richmond does all the blinging, but with her upcoming knee surgery, Lynnda took over the task. When the bulletin board was finished Margaret said, “It’s hurting my eyes it’s so marvelous!”

Member of the Month Heione Tautuaa by Veisia Tautuaa



Heione’s faith continues to grow and carry her through each day. Literally born into the Methodist church as her parents were both lifelong members of their Church in Tonga. She attended Sunday school all the way through her teen years. She was the Head Prefect at the Methodist College back home. She worked hard throughout her life for her nuclear family as well as for her extended family and still finds time to help others around her. Now enjoying her retirement (as a State of California employee) she’s blessed to care for a wonderful soul Mary Gong. Mary has blessed our family in so many ways.

Heione enjoys spending time with Satini, her husband of nearly 40 years, her sons Sini and William, daughter Veisia along with daughter-in-law Ruta and granddaughters Faith, Lotu & Penelope. She’s delighted being a devoted member of the TUMC church from Sunday devotion, Sunday adult school, Sunday church service to the No-Barrier Bible Study and many more church activities. She loves her church family beyond words to define.

Heione is a warm, lovely, friendly, very serious, helpful and very conscientious soul. She has a heart of gold, quick to learn, you can count on her, a go-to person, and she is very efficient. We’re thankful and blessed to have a great lady with a wonderful personality as our mother dearest. We thank you Mom for your service and your example for all of us!!!



59th Annual Sweetheart Dinner

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Tulare United Methodist Church Social Hall

\$15.00 per person

Tickets on sale beginning Jan. 12th

Come and enjoy a tasty meal, good entertainment, and...be there when the 2020 Sweetheart is announced!

The Methodist Women's Fellowship begins a new year,

Tuesday, January 14

10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Soup Potluck!

Please join us for fun, fellowship, and food!

Thank you so much to Bonnie Thiele (President), Neva Stevens (Vice President), Dorothy Richmond (Secretary), and Beth Cox (Treasurer)! We so appreciate your leadership and time that you have given us this past year!

The new officers for 2020 are, Julia Summers (President), Linda Galicia (Vice President), Martha Linder (Secretary), and Beth Cox (Treasurer).

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 Mary Maaga

Lynnda Boswell,
Administrative Assistant

Landes Dung,
Music Coordinator/Director
Catalina Daggett, Organist

Andrew Summers,
Technical Services Director
Max Muhlenbrock, Custodian

Julia Summers,
Events Coordinator

February Messenger articles are due by Sunday January 19th