



TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS -
OPEN DOORS

THE MESSENGER

July 2020



tulareunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com Website: tulareumc.com

Our Mission Statement:

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



Welcome Pastor Allison and your fur babies, we are so happy to have you join our TUMC family.

Remarks from Pastor Allison



Boxes surround me as I write this. The books are cleared from the shelves, the crosses that hang on my wall are carefully wrapped and packed, and the files are cleared from the drawers. The moving van will be here before I know it and I will become part of Tulare.

You have already welcomed me so warmly and I can't wait to meet you and get to know you. My thanks to Pastor Mary, the SPRC, Lynnda, Beth, and all those working so hard to prepare for my arrival as your next pastor.

I have done a little research about Tulare, and it is exciting to come to a diverse, vibrant community. I can also see that there are challenges, especially in addressing poverty, which the Holy Spirit often presents to us as opportunities. I look forward to your helping me know more about Tulare, the church, and you. Things that demographic data can't tell me. I want to hear your stories. How did you come to Tulare? What drew you to Tulare UMC? What hopes and dreams do you have for the community of Tulare and how can we as the church be part of making them happen?

I applaud your commitment to the community and your presence in the historic site of the church. With Mary, you took a look at the neighborhood and recognized ways in which God is calling you to serve your neighbors around the church campus. Your ministries are bold and imaginative. I am so eager to be part of what comes next!

In our first weeks together in worship, I'm going to take the opportunity to share a little about me and some thoughts about how we are the Church together. I hope that you will visit with me about your ideas on how to be the Church. The Holy Spirit is at work, and, as I have discovered, the Spirit comes in surprising ways. We have to keep our eyes and ears open for the ways in which the Spirit will appear and beckon us to come and see.

As we begin to open our campus to worship and groups again, I hope to have a series of times when we can gather as small groups (observing distancing guidelines) to get to know one another. I invite you to ask me anything, and I will answer as best as I can. (I have done this with other churches and you will have to think very hard to beat some of the questions I've gotten already!) And I'll get to ask you some questions too, like those I just asked above, so be thinking about those hopes and dreams!

I look forward to our first Sunday together on July 5th. Until then, let us keep one another in our prayers.



Update from the In-person Worship Team

Greetings in the name of Christ our Lord!

I am so eager to begin our work together! I have spent the last week unpacking and organizing at the parsonage and am ready to begin my time among you as your pastor.

In any other year, our first time together would be worship on the first Sunday in July. However, as we know all too well, this is not an ordinary year. I have been communicating and meeting with our team planning on resuming our in-person worship services. I would like to share our work on this so far with you.

- The Conference has supplied guidelines for developing our protocol for resuming in-person worship as well as Tulare County. We have used those in developing our protocol.
- The Conference has piloted resuming worship in eight churches and we have listened to their experience and learned from them.
- The Conference has a template that each church must complete before being approved to resume worship. The team has the template and is working to complete it.
- Once complete, we will submit the template to District Superintendent Debra Brady for review and approval. **WE CANNOT RESUME WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY UNTIL WE RECEIVE HER APPROVAL.** In talking with DS Brady, she shared that it is taking some time to work through a protocol and usually involves several conversations with the church team and changes.

We have not yet submitted our protocol, and once we do, it will take some time for approval. Additionally, COVID19 cases in Tulare County have not decreased; in fact, they are increasing, which is causing DS Brady some concern. And, in an unexpected wrinkle, I learned on Saturday that I have been in contact with someone whose husband has COVID19 and probably has it too. I immediately scheduled a test, but I have not received the results. The two-week incubation period for me is over on Friday, and I have no symptoms to date. I expect the test to be negative. All this being said, the team met on Tuesday, and we agreed that we are NOT ready to resume in-person worship at this time. We will complete the protocol, train our worship leaders, ushers, and cleaners, and be ready as soon as possible.

Thank you for your patience and your understanding. We know that many of those who are eager to return to worship are also among the most vulnerable to this disease. As John Wesley instructed, we will do no harm, work to do all the good we can, and stay in love with God. I'll see you online this Sunday!

Peace, Pastor Allison



July Birthdays

- 5 BOBBI MOORE**
- 7 RICHARD MONTGOMERY**
- 9 LINDA GALICIA**
- 15 LILLIANA RODRIGUEZ**
- 16 BECKY WAITS**
- 21 MARIAN VANDER WALL**
- 24 JOHN JONES**

July Anniversaries

- 22 DAVID & JULIA SUMMERS**
- 27 CESAR & MEGAN BELTRAN**
- 27 BILL & CAROL HALL**
- 30 BETH & WILLIS COX**

172ND SESSION OF THE
 CALIFORNIA-NEVADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2020 | MODESTO, CALIFORNIA



California-Nevada Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The 172nd Annual Conference will consider legislation, recognize retiring clergy, celebrate a Memorial service for clergy and spouses that have passed during the previous year, and fix the appointments of pastors to the various charges. It is also a holy time to discern God’s will for their future, and a time when persons called to ordained ministry are commissioned and ordained. Fixing appointments is special for us this year because Bishop Carcaño will officially appoint Rev. Allison Byerley to Tulare UMC.

Clergy members of the conference, including Pastor Allison, meet with at least an equal number of lay members, including Sini Tautuaa and Stacy Perry, for worship, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the conference. Bishop Minerva Carcaño presides over these meetings.



Congratulations!

Genises Reyes and her family welcomed a new baby girl, Alma Maribel, on June 29th. Baby Alma weighed 7 lb. 12 oz. Mother and baby are doing well.

Reopening Tulare United Methodist Church Survey

Please complete and return by July 8, 2020

Name _____

1. Do you consider yourself or someone in your home to be in one of the "high-risk" categories for COVID-19 (e.g., older adults, and those with underlying health conditions, such as diabetes, lung disease, or heart disease)?

Yes No

2. How many people are in your household? _____ What are the ages of people in your household (check all that apply)?

- Under 18 25-34 45-54 65-74
 18-24 35-44 55-64 75+

3. If you have worshipped online in the past seven weeks, what has been your experience?

- Exceeded expectations
 Met expectations
 Below expectations
 I have not worshipped online during social distancing

4. After this time of social-distancing and online worship, what do you think will be the change to your pattern of worship?

- In the future, I will worship online more than I did previously
 In the future, I will worship in-person more than I did previously
 No change, I will return to my former pattern of worship
 I was not previously able to attend worship services
 Other (please specify) _____

5. Given your current understanding of the spread of coronavirus, which of the following is necessary for you to attend an in-person worship service (check all that apply)?

- Stay-at-home orders have been lifted
 Other public gatherings have resumed (concerts, theaters, sporting events, etc.)
 When a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19 becomes widely available
 I am already comfortable attending
 I don't know if I will ever feel comfortable attending public gatherings
 Other (please specify)

6. If worship services were offered in July, how comfortable do you think you will you feel attending?

- Eager Comfortable Somewhat cautious Very uncomfortable

7. When we resume in-person ministries, it is likely that the following things will be **MANDATORY**.

Masks required for attendees

- Social-distancing
- No touching other people (handshaking or hugging)
- Hand sanitizer used entrances/exits
- Temperature check at the door with a touch-less thermometer
- Nurseries and children's classes not offered
- Phased exit (leaving gradually, without crowding)

Given these mandatory restrictions how eager are you to return to in-person Worship Services, small group meetings and other ministries?

- Not eager Eager Very eager

8. What precautions are you currently taking (check all that apply)?

- I wear a face mask when in public I follow social distancing guidelines
- I will avoid any physical contact I wear gloves
- I carry hand sanitizer None of these
- I avoid public restrooms
- Other (please specify) _____

9. Does your household have access to online services (check all that apply)?

- WiFi Email Blue tooth enabled headphones
- Flip cell phone Facebook Computer
- Smart cell phone Twitter Active text messaging
- Tablet Instagram

10. Which of the following would you feel comfortable trying (check all that apply)?

- Making reservations for a service indoor.
- Having assigned seating for a service indoor.
- Small worship group that could be safely held in an outdoor setting, such as a patio.

11. Share with us what has helped you to feel connected to the congregation and what more we could be doing. Is there anything else you would like to share about the church's response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Thank you for your input. It will help our church navigate these unusual time



– Submitted by Linda Galicia, Education Chair

Josten and Kaylen Smith really miss the Children's Message with Pastor Mary and the praise music with their dad, drummer Joey Smith. Asked about her coloring pages and activities from the church, Giuliana Martinez said, "I like them a lot." She also likes getting notes and packages in the mail. Piper Reynolds loves the crafts in her Sunday School packets. Her older brother and sister, Xavier and Ava, thought the activity where you stare at the dots and then you could see Jesus was cool. Ban Lee Olguin was surprised at how much he got in his packets, including all the Easter eggs. Esaiez, Sierra, and Elena Amador miss seeing everybody and the activities at the church. Sierra connects with her teacher and classmates using Google Classroom. The family enjoys playing *Taboo-Speak Out*. Gabriel and Mathew Beltran remembered how much fun they had at Kids Game Day playing sardines and eating pizza. Mathew liked being in charge of checking out books at the library on Sunday morning. Yvonnica Gonzalez likes getting packets, and the family is also getting packets for younger brother and sister, Emmalee and Enzo. Older brother, Daniel, will be in sixth grade next year. Anna's family continues to do their schoolwork and Bible work at home. Graduates include: Nelice – 8th grade, Anthony – high school, and Tomas from San Joaquin College prepared to be a medical assistant. Miracle will continue to help with the younger children and check out books when children's library opens again. Lilliana likes the Sunday School packets. Exavian and Isaiah are ready for youth activities. Gray family is doing fine, but they miss everybody. Jayla graduates from high school this year. Anaya, Josiah, and Isaiah also want to get back to worship, youth group, and all the activities at the church. Genises Reyes's kids like getting their Sunday school packets with activities and treats. Belen celebrated her 6th birthday on May 13. Older sister, Eva, is in the youth group.

Tulare UMC youth group met over Zoom a few times since the closure of our beautiful church. We told stories, had a scavenger hunt and got to know some interesting facts about one another. During our last Zoom session in June, we were able to say our final goodbyes to Pastor Mary which was bittersweet. Although there were tears, they weren't all for sadness, we laughed a lot as we took a trip down memory lane using a presentation of pictures and videos from the past 3 years. Change is hard, pandemics are unprecedented for us, the battle for equality is painful. We wish we were together so we could work through all of this together and in person. For now, we are continuing to remind each other there is one love to strive toward- a love that surpasses change, pandemics, color and injustice; that is the love of our creator, father and Savior.



Thanks be to God.
Megan Beltran



TUMC is continuing to serve our neighbors and our homeless community on Sunday providing Burritos, Danish, Coffee and water. Monday evening we are serving about 60 meals. We would not be able to serve our community without the help of all of you. Words cannot express how much this means to our neighbors and homeless community. We continue to need bottled water to hand out.

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

August Messenger articles are due by Sunday July 19th