



TULARE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS -

OPEN DOORS

THE MESSENGER

March 2020



tulareunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com

tulareumc.com

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

LENT 2020

WILL YOU TAKE FLIGHT?



Birds are present in Scripture, song, poetry, and stories to represent closeness with God. Early Christians believed that the higher flying birds – like eagles – actually flew alongside the lower flying angels, creating a flock both heavenly and earthly.

Charles Wesley, brother of Methodist founder John Wesley, described the Resurrected Christ as “Risen with healing in His wings.”

Each Sunday in March will emphasize a different bird that will teach us how to prepare ourselves for the extraordinary gifts of atonement on Good Friday and everlasting life on Easter Sunday.

Our freedom from sin and death is what allows Christians to take flight!

GOD WANTS TO GIVE YOU WINGS





Palm Sunday, April 5: Jesus's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem will be remembered with palms, preaching, and song. This is a combined English/Spanish service. New members will be taking their vows.

Catch-up Monday, April 6, 5:30 supper, 6:00 – 7:00 program: Join the No Barriers Bible Study for Pastor Mary's review of the events in Jesus's life on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 6:00pm, Sanctuary: The Last Supper, Foot Washing, Prayer in the Garden at Gethsemane, Betrayal, Abandonment, and Arrest. We will remember all of these with Scripture, song, and Holy Communion. Service ends with silent "stripping" of the Sanctuary in preparation for Good Friday.



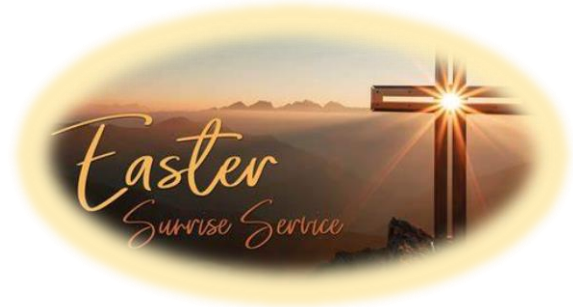
Good Friday, April 10, noon, Sanctuary: Remembering the gift of salvation bought by Christ's suffering. Brief reflections on the Seven Words the Lord spoke from the Cross.

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.

April 12th Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service in the Hope Chapel Courtyard, followed by breakfast provided by the Methodist Women's Fellowship in Wesley Hall



10:00am Celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord!



March Worship Topics: The Season of Lent
Will You Take Flight?

*Blackbird singing in the dead of night – take these broken wings and learn to fly.
All your life, you were only waiting for this moment to arise.*



March 1 LENT 1/HOLY COMMUNION

Sermon Title: “OSTRICH: I Can’t Fly with My Head in the Sand”

Scripture: Micah 1:8-9, 1 John 1:5-10

March 8 LENT 2

Sermon Title: “PIGEON: How Can I Get These Wings to Fly?”

Scripture: Leviticus 14:21-22, 1 John 2:1-6



March 15 LENT 3

Sermon Title: “DOVE: Where Is My Nest?”

Scripture: Genesis 8:6-12, 1 John 2:12-17

March 22 LENT 4

Sermon Title: “SWAN: Can Even I Be Beautiful?”

Scripture: 1 John 3:11-22



March 29 LENT 5

Sermon Title: “EAGLE: Flapping Will Only Get Me So Far”

Scripture: Isaiah 40:27-31, 1 John 4:13-21

*Blackbird singing in the dead of night. Take these sunken eyes and learn to see.
All your life, you were only waiting for this moment to be free.*

Paul McCartney



Mary's Musings



Over the years many of you have asked me how I ended up becoming a vegetarian. The answer is Lent. Every year since becoming a Christian I give something up during the forty days and forty nights of preparation for Holy Week, so that I can feel more deeply the love and power of Good Friday and Easter. One year over 30 years ago I gave up meat and ended up feeling so much better both spiritually and physically that I never went back to it. Giving something up for Lent is one way to honor the season. Another way is to take something on. During the 6 Sundays of Lent you might choose to come to Hope Chapel for prayer and Holy Communion from 8am – 8:30am. You might come to the Church Office for the 6 weeks of Lent and spend time in Hope Chapel praying for all the people we have on our prayer board by name.

Actively practicing forgiveness of those who have hurt you is always a good practice during Lent. Ask the Holy Spirit what makes the most sense for you and choose something that will set this season apart and make your Holy Week come alive. This year I am giving up Facebook. I have observed how social media has the tendency to bring out judgment and jealousy in others – I want to “fast” from Facebook to make sure that judgment and jealousy have not begun to sneak into my soul. I hope not, but there is no better way to find out than to do without it from Ash Wednesday (February 26th this year) until Easter (April 12th this year) and see if I feel better without it. I have calculated that I spend about an hour in total per day on Facebook. Instead, whenever I would otherwise have logged on, I will pray instead. I look forward to learning about your Lenten commitments in the week ahead. Love in the Spirit of Christ, Pastor Mary

Member of the Month Jayla Gray



Jayla has grown up in the TUMC, attending with her parents, John and Cassandra, as well as her siblings Danielle, Anaya, Josiah, and Isaiah. Jayla is a Senior this year at Tulare Union where she serves as President of the Black Student Union and is taking classes such as Spanish 5 and Latin. She will be certified bilingual at the end of the school year! Jayla is still deciding where to attend college. Though she would love to attend an HBCU (Historic Black College and University), she is exploring local options as well. She hopes to be an elementary school teacher or maybe a Spanish teacher.

Jayla loves TUMC and her family's history in it. She enjoys the youth group and is always eager to help wherever she can, from Children's Church to the Sweetheart Dinner. She also is an amazing help at home, dependable and hardworking always. Jayla has an amazing future ahead!

Twin Oaks Devotions – Tuesday at 2pm everyone is welcome. The Devotions group received a thank you from Margery Dooley, Marian Vander Wall's sister. She wrote “Thank you so very much for the prayers, card, hanky and beautiful prayer stole. I know one of you made it and you did a beautiful job. I will treasure it always along with the prayers and pass it on to my family.”

Events & Hospitality



The Event & Hospitality Committee sponsored the Annual Sweetheart Dinner, February 4th. Approximately 80 were served a “sit-down” dinner. This included the 11 youth that helped serve, wash dishes, and plate

food. Greg Smith announced the 2020 Sweetheart. There were 2 Sweethearts this year! Dolores Marcelino and Pastor Mary Maaga! Julia Summers, Events and Hospitality Chair



It is almost Spring! Time to “deep” clean! Please help us at the

All Church Cleaning Day

Saturday, March 7, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Lunch provided

(This time we will be working on several areas in the Sanctuary Building)

Methodist Women’s Fellowship

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10, 10:00 a.m., in the Fireside Room. Shirley Philpot will do devotions and be our hostess. Our program will give everyone a chance to share their favorite scripture and explain how it has influenced their life.

The Women's Fellowship is open to all women. Along with our monthly meetings, this year we are the sponsors of Shrove Tuesday Supper (Feb. 25), Sunrise Service Breakfast (Ap. 12), Spring Dinner (Ap. 26), a Women's Retreat (Sept. 26), and the Harvest Dinner (Nov. 1) The Spring Dinner and the Harvest Dinner help to raise money for local charities, all paper products for the local Church, and a variety of other items that is needed by the Church. Please join us!



Thank you to all of you who make worship attendance a regular practice. It is very moving to see people who have mobility issues, people who depend on others for transportation, people who struggle with eyesight, or hearing, or other physical challenges, people who are afraid they will

cry through the service, people with tiny infants or toddlers, people with loved ones in wheelchairs or walkers, people who have hardly a penny to their name, people who have been afraid they would be rejected by Church people, people who aren't sure there is a God, people who are pretty sure there is a God (but that God is mad at them), people who are rejoicing in their new life in Christ, people who love following their Savior and have been doing so for a very long time, young people, old people, every color of people, ALL OF US TOGETHER WORSHIPPING GOD AND SINGING HIS PRAISES!

MARCH CALENDAR

Every Sunday (MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

- 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 (MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23, 30)

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 (MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

2:00 **Twin Oaks Devotional**

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|--------------|-------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Sun., Mar 1 | 11:15 | <u>SPRC Meeting</u> | Fireside |
| | 11:15 | <u>Outreach Meeting</u> | Fireside |
| Tue., Mar 3 | 6:00 | <u>Finance Meeting</u> | Fireside |
| Sun., Mar 8 | 11:15 | <u>Church Council</u> | Fireside |
| Sun., Mar 15 | 11:15 | <u>Education Meeting</u> | |
| Tue., Mar 17 | 10:00 | <u>Hispanic Ministry Council</u> | |
| Sun., Mar 22 | 11:15 | <u>Trustees Meeting</u> | Fireside |

Membership Classes

Come join Pastor Mary and Pastor Marcelo for 3 membership classes to prepare for joining TUMC on Palm Sunday (April 5). The classes will be from 11am – 1pm on **March 15**, **March 22**, and **March 29**. The first 20 minutes will be presented by Pastor Mary and Pastor Marcelo together, then the class will split between English and Spanish, with a combined time of refreshments, fellowship, and prayer to close. Let the Church Office know if you will be attending.



March Birthdays

- 5 MARGARET ALLEN**
- 5 JAKIN GARCIA**
- 8 STEVE BEECHER**
- 9 SANDRA LANGIANO**
- 11 AVA REYNOLDS**
- 12 JUSTIN BROWN**
- 13 PIPER REYNOLDS**
- 15 MATHEW BELTRAN**
- 14 TAMMY THOMPSON**
- 23 DON BOSWELL**
- 30 XAVIER REYNOLDS**
- 30 STACY HERNANDEZ**
- 31 SHIRLEY PHILPOT**
- 31 RUBIE WILHELM**

If we are missing your Birthday or Anniversary please call the Church office.

Happy 104th Birthday Margaret Allen



If you would like to give a card for Margaret, please send it or bring it to the church office by March 3rd so Pastor Mary can deliver them.

We need plastic bags and bottled water for our food pantry, Welcome Wear and No Barriers Bible Study.

Thank you for Blessing us with what we need.



March 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 8:00 Hope Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 English Worship Historic Sanctuary 10:00 Spanish Worship Kay Poston Rm 11:15 Outreach/SPRC 3:00 Kids Game Day	2	3 6pm Finance Mtg. - Fireside	4	5	6	7 All Church Cleaning Day 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Lunch provided
8 Daylight Savings Time 8:00 Hope Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 English Worship Historic Sanctuary 10:00 Spanish Worship Kay Poston Rm 11:15 Church Council Mtg 3:00 Kids Game Day	9 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	10 MWF 10am Fireside Rm 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional	11	12	13	14
15 8:00 Hope Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 English Worship Historic Sanctuary 10:00 Spanish Worship Kay Poston Rm 11:00 Membership 3:00 Kids Game Day	16 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	17 10:00 Hispanic Ministry 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional	18	19	20 1st Day of Spring	21
22 8:00 Hope Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 English Worship Historic Sanctuary 10:00 Spanish Worship Kay Poston Rm 11:00 Membership 11:15 Trustees Mtg 3:00 Kids Game Day	23 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	24 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional	25	26	27	28
29 8:00 Hope Chapel 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 English Worship Historic Sanctuary 10:00 Spanish Worship Kay Poston Rm 11:00 Membership 3:00 Kids Game Day	30 **5:00 NBBS 5:30 Supper 6-7 Bible Study with Pastor Mary	31 2pm Twin Oaks Devotional				



STEPHEN MINISTRIES

Claire Grant, Stephen Leader

Jun Gong, Heione Tautuaa, Sini Tautuaa, Linda Galicia, and Juan Torres have all said yes to being trained as Stephen Visitors. It will be an 18 hour training program of how to care for those who are hospitalized, in rehab, or due to health reasons are no longer able to be a part of our church community. We will begin on February 23rd and continue for 6 three hour sessions. A commissioning service is planned for Sunday, May 10th. Please hold these special people in your prayers as they enable themselves to become care givers.

Stephen Ministers Travel!

Pastor Mary and our five Stephen Ministers and two Stephen Leaders will be traveling to Pleasanton, CA for a continuing education event on March 8th following Worship. Stephen Ministers from six different United Methodist Churches will be coming together to hear Pastor Mary speak on "Finding a Pathway to Joy" followed by a community-wide presentation by Pastor Mary on "Guarding our Hearts and Minds" on how our contemporary struggles and the Biblical themes of anxiety and fear can be transformed by joy.

Adult Sunday School – 9am every Sunday morning

How blessed we are to have Pastor Marcelo Escarzaga on the staff of TUMC! He is eager to get to know everyone in our Church, English, Spanish, and Bilingual speaking. In order to form relationships and improve his English, Pastor Marcelo will be teaching the Adult Sunday School class from March 1st – May 24th using the Cokesbury curriculum "Who is my Neighbor?" With this material Spanish speakers will have a chance to teach English speakers some basic Spanish and it gives Spanish speakers a chance to practice their English. What a wonderful way to show our unity as followers of our Savior Jesus Christ.



Inviting All Who Enjoy Singing

Our Church LOVED the musical Christmas pageant and wants to hear more from our talented singers! Our choir will be presenting music during Worship on March 29th (5th Sunday of Lent), April 5 (Palm Sunday), and April 12 (Easter). Rehearsals will begin on March 1st immediately after Worship in the Sanctuary.

Lent is the Christian Holy Season when we deepen our commitment to Jesus Christ. These forty days between Ash Wednesday and Easter are an invitation to do things differently for this short period of time in order for YOU to be open to how God will transform YOUR life!





KID'S CORNER



The 2020 Educational Team is up and running! On Feb.2 we changed our Sunday School time to 10:15-10:55. Students received postcards in the mail at the end of January. All students are encouraged to attend their class at this new time while their parents are in church service. We now have a rotating schedule of primary and intermediate teachers. The youth will be assisting the Sunday School teachers as once a month volunteers.

Also we still are in need of two more Sunday School teachers to take the Safe Gathering online class. Please contact Linda Galicia if you are interested in this ministry. There is a need for 10 teachers a month to make this program successful.

In addition our Children and Youth library is up and reading from 9:00-9:50 every Sunday. Primary Sunday School teachers have been overseeing the library at this early morning time. Older and younger children partner read during this time period. Parents and grandparents are also encouraged to read to children at this time or after church service and check-out books. An incentive program will be created for the children and teens who read books throughout the week. Many students are now reading our library books and enjoy the cozy feeling of the library.

We are also in need of clerical helpers for the library. We need to update the check-out sheets and give students reminders of books they still have at home and are now overdue. Linda Galicia will continue to do this job but we need two more adults helping in this capacity.

On another note, we will be creating more library floor space with comfortable cushions and pillows so the library will be a relaxing haven to relax and read. Please stop by and enjoy our small but mighty library!

Next, Kids Game Day is also meeting at 3:00-4:30. Children and youth enjoy playing games together and socializing with each other. A light meal is hosted by our dedicated Sunday School teachers. Feel free to donate food for these afternoon gatherings.

TUMC members have donated a multitude of books within a short time period. The educational team appreciates all of your generous donations. There still is a need for 8th-12th grade books. We can't wait for a built in bookcase underneath the window. The large table will be taken out and we are in need of a portable adjustable height rectangular small folding table instead.

Thank-you, thank-you,
Linda M. Galicia, Church School Superintendent



**Thank you Miracle Gonzalez
and Mathew Beltran for
being Reading Assistants
in our Library.**



Youth Sunday School will have a new teacher joining Megan and Cesar Beltran and Greg Smith: Pastor Mary! We will be meeting at 9am every Sunday in the Youth Center. This is a wonderful opportunity to discuss our beliefs and moral dilemmas with the Pastor. If you want to be confirmed in May you must attend Sunday School every week starting March 1st. Thank you Youth Group for serving at the Sweetheart Dinner. Your service is always greatly appreciated

Pentecost Pageant – May 31st during Worship

Calling all children and youth! Pastor Mary is writing one final pageant for us to perform and she needs YOU to be a part of it. This acting, singing, dancing extravaganza is called PAUL THE EPISTLE APOSTLE and will recount some of the highlights of Paul’s missionary journeys. Rehearsals will begin the Sunday after Easter (April 19) immediately following Worship. If you would like to participate, please let Pastor Mary know right away.



Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

The people of The United Methodist Church

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Únase a La Pastor Mary y él Pastor Marcelo para 3 clases de membresía y prepararse para unirse a TUMC el Domingo de Ramos (5 de abril). Las clases serán de 11am a 1pm el 15 de marzo, 22 de marzo y 29 de marzo. Los primeros 20 minutos serán presentados por el Pastor Mary y el Pastor Marcelo juntos, luego la clase se dividirá entre

inglés y español, con un tiempo combinado de refrigerios, compañerismo y oración para cerrar. Informe a la Oficina de la Iglesia si va a asistir.

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

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

April Messenger articles are due by Sunday March 15th