



**"IN-TOUCH" with MUMC**  
**February 4, 2026.....Coming Events.....**



**Ash Wednesday**  
— Lent Begins

**ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18TH**

Early Christians observed the Lord's passion and resurrection with great devotion, and it became the custom of the church that before the celebration of Easter there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

Come and begin your journey to Easter this year with a worship service and imposition of ashes in the sanctuary on **February 18th at 7:00 PM.**



**INTRO TO MURRIETA UMC**

The Introduction to Murrieta UMC class **begins Sunday, February 22nd, at 11:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall** and runs for four consecutive Sundays. The classes aim to foster conversation and fellowship while teaching about church membership. Interested individuals should contact the church office to RSVP for lunch, provided. Please call 951-677-6174 or email

[officeadmin@murrietaumc.org](mailto:officeadmin@murrietaumc.org).

**Our Vision:**

To build a community where ALL are welcome to grow in faith in Jesus through study, worship, prayer, and an invitation to serve God, our neighbor, and beyond.



**Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany**

Join us for worship **Sunday, February 8th at 10:00 AM.** Rev. Melissa Rusler will bring the message:

"True Wisdom"

The scripture reading is  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Below are the links to the praise songs for this Sunday if you would like to listen this week:

What An Awesome God

<https://youtu.be/vFOe4c08dHc?si=28KCwgVNvxt2Orwk>

This I Believe (The Creed)

<https://youtu.be/nNiYUPsHgls>

If you wish, you can join us for worship online. Go to our website – [www.murrietaumc.org](http://www.murrietaumc.org) – and then click on the link titled "Worship Live Stream".



**CHOIR REHEARSAL MOVES TO THURSDAY NIGHTS AT 7PM STARTING TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 5th.**

# SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY

## SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8TH!!

Celebrate the Super Bowl with Murrieta United Methodist Church's Soup-er Bowl Sunday! We will celebrate by collecting soup for the Food Pantry. We'll have three baskets out, one for the Patriots, one for the Seahawks, and one for the Commercials! Put all your soup in the cart that is your pick in the game, and we'll see which team MUMC has picked to win! The Pantry really does need soup, but any other items in the baskets will go for that team, as well.

### Pages Circle



**PAGES Circle: Praise And Gratitude for Every Season**

PAGES Circle will be meeting via **Zoom on Thursday, February**

**12th at 10:30 AM** to discuss the book, Social Justice for the Sensitive Soul by Dorcas Cheng-Tozun. If you are interested in joining, please email Julie Noblitt at [julia@thenoblitts.net](mailto:julia@thenoblitts.net) and she will add you to the Zoom invite.



## MURRIETA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WANTS YOU!!

In this faith community, we believe that we are all called to serve God and one another. We are fortunate to have many ways in which you can live out that calling.

In Sunday service: Choir & Praise Music, readers, ushers, greeters, communion servers, tech team.

In this congregation: Administrative (facilities, committees, & office help), Caring Ministry (cards, prayers, meals, visits), Education Ministry (children, youth, bible study, small groups), SonRisers (fundraisers to pay for camp)

In our community: Food Pantry, United Methodist Men, & Missions (fundraising for local & global needs, service projects)

For more information, email Sandy in the church office at [officeadmin@murrietaumc.org](mailto:officeadmin@murrietaumc.org) or call (951) 677-6174.

## Sing-in for Justice & Peace

Monday, Feb 16 at 6:30pm

Doors Open 6:00pm

United Church of the Valley

41685 Date St., Murrieta

### MUSIC

#### UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF LOVE

When our hearts feel heavy with all this is broken in the world, we come together in song...to give each other strength, to know that we are stronger together, to listen, to hope and to remind one another that peace and justice are still possible.

Join us for an evening of singing together music that lifts the spirit, opens the heart and strengthens our resolve to lead with love. In harmony, we will blend our different voices into one strong body.

**OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY. ALL ARE WELCOME**

Come as you are. Let us sing toward a more just and peaceful world.

Questions? Contact Lynne Bradley ([lbradley93168@gmail.com](mailto:lbradley93168@gmail.com)) or Deb Hudson ([admin@ucvchurch.org](mailto:admin@ucvchurch.org))

## IT'S TAX TIME

### FREE TAX SERVICE AT MUMC

Volunteers from AARP/VITA will prepare and file your 2025 tax returns in the Fellowship Hall. This free drop-in service is open to all; you DO NOT need to be a retiree nor a church member to use this service. Bring your documents to the **Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM, from February 3rd until April 14th.**



**SONRISERS** will meet

**Saturday, February 21st at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship**

**Hall.** All women are invited. Any questions, feel free to call Donna Dewey at (951) 541-6499.



CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank  
Resident Bishop of the Los Angeles Area

Over the past few weeks, we have witnessed the shooting of two persons on the streets of Minneapolis by federal officers. Renee Good and Alex Pretti were doing their part to care for their neighbors by witness and by protest, when they were shot and killed. We also watched Liam Ramos, a 5-year-old child, being sent to detention. And we saw an elderly citizen, Chongly Scott Thao, removed from his home while undressed, and carted away in the middle of winter. These are the stories we see, and there are many we don't. News outlets additionally report that eight people have died in dealings with ICE so far in 2026, and that 13 have been shot during immigration operations since September 2025. When we see these acts of cruelty and brutality on our screens, we too become witnesses for God's hurting people. We are stirred to prayer, to lament, and to action.

Below, I am sharing the official statement from The UMC Council of Bishops, released earlier this week. As one body, The UMC Bishops condemn the violence in Minnesota, and recognize that a statement is just one step, our work toward peace happens on the ground.

Grace y paz,

*Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank*

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank  
Resident Bishop of the Los Angeles Episcopal Area



## United Methodist Church Bishops Condemn Violence in Minnesota

Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church  
January 26, 2026

### United Methodist Church Bishops Condemn Violence in Minnesota

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

In recent days, events in Minnesota and beyond have caused deep grief, concern, and alarm across our connection. The use of lethal force in public spaces, the detention of naturalized citizens, members of our indigenous communities, children, documented and undocumented immigrants, and the treatment of other vulnerable persons have weighed heavily on the hearts of many in our church. These actions have unsettled communities, strained trust, and intensified fear among those already living at the margins.

Scripture reminds us that "when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer with them" (1 Corinthians 12:26). As a Connectional church, we are reminded that we are one body that cares for and needs each other. The whole body is suffering, right now, today! The violence being perpetrated on our streets, the loss of safety, and the inhumane treatment of God's children, are hurting us all. We cannot stay silent in the face of the evils of our day.

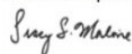
The United Methodist Church deplores the use of violence, fear, separation, and intimidation as a means of creating social order. Such means do not build beloved community. We reaffirm our longstanding commitment to the sacred worth of every person and to the way of peace taught and embodied by Jesus. We stand against the separation of children from their families. We detest the inhumane, evil actions that are perpetuated by governmental authorities.

Our Social Principles are clear: "We reject governmental use of threats, extortion, unlawful detentions, extrajudicial killings, and other forms of coercion to silence political opponents and those objecting to unlawful or immoral government policies and practices." They further affirm that the church has both the right and the responsibility to educate and equip its members to be advocates for justice in the wider world (§163D).

This is a moment that calls for prayerful courage to speak against actions that are bringing harm to our neighbors. This is our time to have an effectual faith that stands with those who are suffering. This is our faithful response to our baptismal vow that summons us into what is required of us "to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8). We must continue to work for justice to help heal the brokenness in our communities and in the world.

We ask you to pray for peace and for justice. And we ask that we work together with our communities so that we can create a world where the sword is turned into plowshares, and the lion lays down with the lamb. May we be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, who empowered by the Holy Spirit, do our part to bring comfort, just practices, and healing for all God's suffering people.

In Christ's peace,



Bishop Tracy S. Malone  
President, Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church



**California-Pacific Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

### **Wednesday, February 4**

8:00 AM—4:30 PM Home School~ Fellowship Hall  
9:00 AM Food Pantry Prep  
10:30 AM Lectio Divina~ Sanctuary  
6:30 PM Al-Anon~ Fellowship Hall

### **Thursday, February 5**

9:00 AM Food Pantry Prep  
9:00 AM AA Meditation Group~ Fellowship Hall Rm 8  
10:30 AM Disciple Bible Study~ Fellowship Hall  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal~ Sanctuary

### **Friday, February 6**

8:00 AM Food Pantry

### **Saturday, February 7**

7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous~ Fellowship Hall

### **Sunday, February 8**

10:00 AM Worship~ Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Sunday School Pre K-5th~ Fellowship Hall  
10:00 AM Youth Sunday School~ Youth Room  
10:00 AM Presbyterian Church of Ghana~ Fellowship Hall  
11:30 AM Study & Discussion Group~ Youth Room  
11:30 AM Soup-er Bowl Soup Drive~ Courtyard

### **Monday, February 9**

8:00 AM—4:30 PM Home School~ Fellowship Hall  
6:00 PM Board of Trustees~ Zoom  
6:30 PM Women's 12-step Meeting~ Youth Room

### **Tuesday, February 10**

9:00 AM—1:30 PM AARP/VITA Tax Prep~ Fellowship Hall  
10:00 AM Women's Alcoholics Anonymous~ Youth Rm

### **Wednesday, February 11**

8:00 AM—4:30 PM Home School~ Fellowship Hall  
9:00 AM Food Pantry Prep  
10:30 AM Lectio Divina~ Sanctuary  
12:00 PM Caring Ministry~ Office Conference Room  
6:30 PM Al-Anon~ Fellowship Hall

### **Thursday, February 12**

9:00 AM Food Pantry Prep  
9:00 AM AA Meditation Group~ Fellowship Hall Rm 8  
10:30 AM Disciple Bible Study~ Fellowship Hall  
10:30 AM PAGES Circle~ Zoom  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal~ Sanctuary

### **Friday, February 13**

8:00 AM Food Pantry

### **Saturday, February 14**

7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous~ Fellowship Hall

### **Sunday, February 15**

10:00 AM Worship~ Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Sunday School Pre K-5th~ Fellowship Hall  
10:00 AM Youth Sunday School~ Youth Room  
10:00 AM Presbyterian Church of Ghana~ Fellowship Hall  
11:30 AM Study & Discussion Group~ Youth Room



### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please email prayer requests to [mumc@murrietaumc.org](mailto:mumc@murrietaumc.org) and your prayer will be forwarded to Pastor Melissa, Pastor Tom and our email prayer team. You can also leave a prayer request on the church office voicemail, 951-677-6174. Thank you.

If there is a **pastoral emergency** please call or text Pastor Melissa at 714-856-6817 or Pastor Tom at 714-478-9266.

Church office hours are 9:00 AM—1:00 PM Monday-Thursday.



### **TITHES & OFFERINGS**

We are grateful for your continued support of the ministries of our church. There are three ways to donate to the church. First, you can mail in your donations to the church post office box at Murrieta UMC, PO Box 602, Murrieta, CA 92564

Second, donate online on our website at [www.murrietaumc.org](http://www.murrietaumc.org) or scan the QR code below to set up your donation.

Third, put your donation in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Thank you.



Scan to donate  
from your phone



## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

1-Feb	Craig Hansen
2-Feb	Susan Jeffries
3-Feb	Bruce Lecair
5-Feb	Jim Glidewell
5-Feb	Bryse Knowles
5-Feb	Kathleen Ricketts
6-Feb	Finley Rhodes
6-Feb	Dorothy Skidmore
7-Feb	Lillian Nyan
9-Feb	Carol Smoot
11-Feb	Lucy Nyan
11-Feb	Helen Young
15-Feb	Carole Nichols
16-Feb	Ed Carmichael
18-Feb	David Jeffries
19-Feb	Belle Geibel
21-Feb	Dawn Rhodes
22-Feb	Ina Mae MacAfee
24-Feb	Sandra Andert
24-Feb	Suzie Hogan
24-Feb	Michael Saffell

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

14-Feb	33 years	Ken and Linda Koorndyk
15-Feb	40 years	Joel and Karen Thacker