



The Viewpoint

October 2025



It has been fifty years since Sherry and I attended a weekend for married couples sponsored by the Roman Catholic Church. It was called "Marriage Encounter" and consisted of many segments, some led by a priest and others by a couple. They would give a talk, we would be asked to write our personal thoughts on the subject, then go to our hotel room to share our responses with each other. It was called "dialogue." We shared thoughts, desires, ideas, feelings that we had never been able to share in the first ten years of our marriage. Feelings of grace and acceptance came out of this. The primary theme for the weekend was: Love Is A Decision.

A few days after the weekend I wrote these words and put them to music.

Love is a decision to give itself away.
It's more than emotion changing day to day.
Love will always find a way.
Love cares for all people no matter what they've done.
It keeps no score of right or wrong or trophies they have won.
Love embraces everyone.
You and I are much more than we appear to be.
It's love that makes an open space of possibility.
Love will always set us free.
Love is always a decision. Love is always searching for a way.
That's the way that life must start, when love comes from the heart.

This Month

- Church Picnic
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 3 Simple Rules
- Meet Our Staff

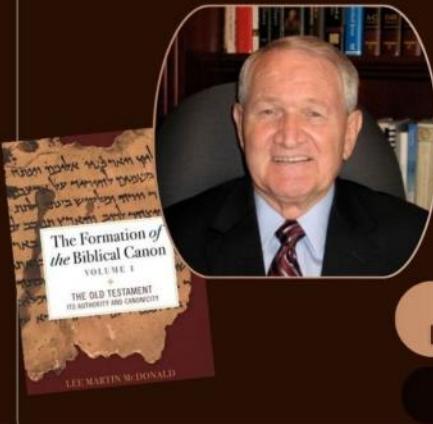
Blessings,
Pastor David

Christian Education

HOW WE GOT OUR BIBLE

A Seminar on the Formation of the Bible

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH 9 AM - 3 PM
AT LAGUNA COUNTRY UMC**

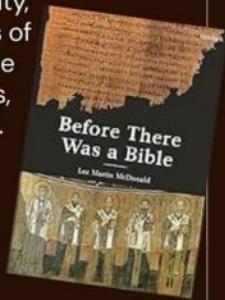


Dr. Lee Martin McDonald — Renowned New Testament scholar, author of over 30 books, and lecturer worldwide. Former president of the Institute for Biblical Research and dean at Acadia University, Dr. McDonald is a leading expert on early Christianity, the origins of the Bible, and the formation of the Old and New Testaments. He speaks internationally on topics including the Dead Sea Scrolls, Jesus in historical context, and the Bible's enduring relevance.

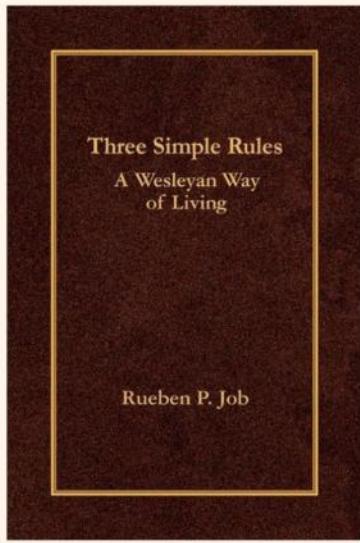
Register online at:
Lagunacountryumc.org

\$15 Registration Fee
Includes lunch

949-837-3414 office.lcumc@gmail.com
Laguna Country UMC 24442 Moulton Pkwy, Laguna Woods, CA 92637



3 Simple RULES A Wesleyan Way Of Living



**October 12th, 19th, and 26th
during fellowship time**

Join us as Meg Estrada leads a three-week study on Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living by Rueben P. Job. Together we'll explore Wesley's simple guidance for faithful living: Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God. Books are available on Sunday or in the church office for \$6.

Sermon Themes

October 5th

Dr. Lee McDonald, guest speaker
Matthew 20:1-16 "How Fair Is God?"

This is the story Jesus tells to describe the mercy and grace of God. It is about a landowner who hires workers at various times through the day and, at the end of the day, pays them all the same amount. This is a challenging story for us as we compare what we believe is "fair" with the fairness of God.

October 12th

World Wide Communion Sunday

II Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19 "A World Without Borders"

Paul writes to Timothy while he is in chains, like a criminal, because he has been preaching the gospel of Jesus the Christ, raised from the dead. He declares that the word of God is not chained and encourages Timothy to not be ashamed of the work he is doing. The story in Luke is about the ten lepers who are healed, but only one, a Samaritan, returns with sincere gratitude and praise to God.

October 19th

II Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8 "Remaining Faithful"

There was a great concern during Paul's time that people would be led astray by false teachings, that they would turn away from the truth and "wander away to myths." Paul encourages Timothy to endure the suffering that comes with his ministry. Similarly, Jesus encourages his followers to continue in prayer and to not lose heart, then tells them a parable about the persistence of a widow who pleaded for justice, whose determination prevails.

October 26th

"Sermon in Song"

Pastor David Atkins will be presenting the morning message at the piano through hymn tune variations by several composers and biblical passages that relate to the message of these songs. This special service will include narration, soloists, the choir, and the congregation, interspersed with scriptures that are relevant for these favorite and familiar hymns.

October & November Liturgist

Oct. 5th	Meg Estrada
Oct. 12th	Laddie Perez
Oct. 19th	Don Forden
Oct. 26th	Sherry Atkins

Nov. 2nd	Rex Danford
Nov. 9th	Hanne Booth
Nov. 16th	Marilyn Nicolas
Nov. 23rd	Laura Daillak
Nov. 30th	Pendra LaFee



Please remember that we can give to the needy of our church and community at any time through the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. To contribute to this fund simply write a check to LCUMC and include "Pastor's Discretionary" in the memo. Include your contribution in the Sunday offering plate or send it to the Church Office. Thank You!!



September Birthday Celebration

October Birthdays

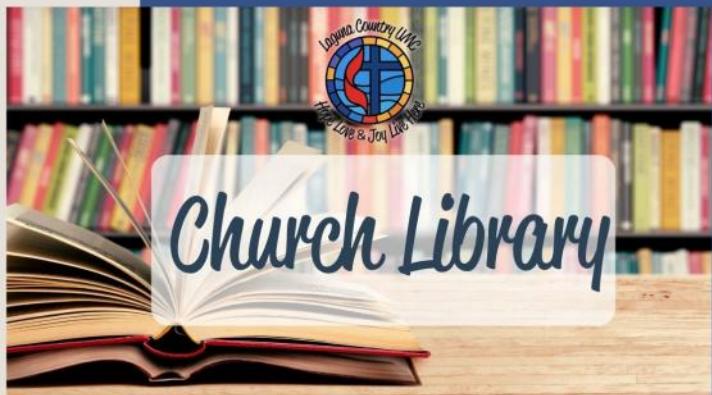
Alden Stoneman	October 5th
Margaret Estrada	October 7th
Joy O'Connor	October 8th
Kiku Yoneda	October 11th
Brenda Roa	October 19th
Harper Perry	October 22nd
David Atkins	October 26th
Marilyn Nicolas	October 28th

October Anniversaries

Pat & Liz Heacock	October 13th
Lauren & Ryan Perry	October 19th
Rex & Sara Danford	October 20th



Sunday, October 12th, is Worldwide Communion Sunday. We at Laguna Country UMC are blessed with a diversity of people from many nationalities. You are invited to bring something to worship on October 12 that represents the land and culture from which you have come, or with which you have ancestral ties. It can be a flag (big or small) or anything that represents your background. We will be displaying these during the worship service, so bring them before the service if you are able.



Help Us Start Our Church Library!

We're excited to share that our church is starting a brand-new library! Our hope is to create a cozy little corner filled with books that encourage faith, inspire hope, and bring joy to readers of all ages.

To get started, we'd love your help. If you have gently used books—Christian living, devotionals, Bible studies, children's stories, or even good, wholesome fiction—please consider donating them. Every book will help build a collection that our whole church family can enjoy.

Donations can be dropped off in the church office during the week or placed in the library donation box in the foyer on Sundays. Thank you for helping us plant the seeds of a library that will bless our community for years to come!

New Church T-Shirts Available



We're excited to share that new church t-shirts are now available for! Shirts are \$15 each and come in sizes S–XXL. This is a great way to show your church spirit and support our ministry. Orders can be placed through the church office.



Exciting News!

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to an anonymous donation, new insulated cups featuring our church logo are now available to all members and constituents at no cost! These cups are a great way to show your support and help spread the word about Laguna Country UMC.

You can pick up your cup in the narthex this Sunday after worship. We encourage you to take it with you wherever you go, to help advertise and raise awareness of our wonderful church family.

Fellowship Opportunities



Fellowship Opportunities

Men's Breakfast



October 18th at 9:30 a.m.

Alzheimer's ORANGE COUNTY



Interfaith Outreach

Laguna Country United Methodist Church
and Alzheimer's Orange County

Invite you to a specially adapted interfaith religious service for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders and their families & caregivers.

- Experience messages of hope and comfort.
- Experience an opportunity for spiritual expression regardless of cognitive ability.
- Experience unity and serenity in a sacred place with short, familiar scripture readings and music.

October 16, 2025 at 10:30 AM



Laguna Country United Methodist Church
24442 Moulton Pkwy
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

Light lunch provided following service

For any questions regarding our program or to RSVP, please contact Joan Walker at:
churchworker@aol.com or at 714-292-6148 or Patty Mouton at: patty.mouton@alzoc.org

Alzheimer's Orange County is not a faith-based organization and welcomes all faith centers and traditions.

Helpline 844.373.4400 | www.alzoc.org

Alzheimer's | ORANGE COUNTY



Non-Competitive Bridge

October 27th
at 12:30 p.m.

In the Wesley Room

Contact Jan Dvorznak to reserve a place.
All bridge players welcome.

Shuffle, Deal, and Laugh a Little!

Love playing bridge but not the pressure of high-stakes games? Join our church bridge group for fun, fellowship, and plenty of laughter. We're all about good cards, good company, and maybe even a few good snacks. No trophies, no stress—just friends around the table. Come play a hand (or two)!



United Women in Faith

WORLD THANK OFFERING

The World Thank Offering is a way for members of United Women in Faith to show their gratitude for God's blessings and find creative ways to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children and youth.

Some women drop a coin in a box or a jar each day to give thanks for their daily blessings, while others add coins and dollars on special occasions in their lives.

Through the World Thank Offering you support the total program of mission carried on through United Women in Faith's national office in the United States and around the world.

Some of our members have been collecting for this offering during the year. Our November UWF meeting will feature a program and an offering for this ministry.

Blessings, Meg Estrada
Secretary UWF

Volunteers Needed

Each Thursday at 10:30 a.m., Rev. Steven Jenkins leads a one-hour worship service at Freedom Village, an assisted living community. This is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love and fellowship with the residents. We are looking for volunteers to help with greeting, singing, reading scripture, and simply being present to support the service.

If you are available to help once in a while—or on a regular basis —please contact the church office. Your presence will be a blessing to both the residents and our ministry team.

Prayer Shawl Group

Our first meeting last Thursday went very well! There were four of us and we agreed we should meet every other month on Thursdays at 2:00. I am looking forward to expanding the group!

Our next gathering will be Thurs., November 13 at 2:00 in the church office area. You may bring what you are currently working on, or just come for the fun and fellowship! Call me if you need more information. Blessings on your work!

-Meg

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	2 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	3 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	4 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:00am Bible Seminar 9:30am WW Meeting
5 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School	6 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 5:00pm Choir Prep 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	7 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	8 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	9 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	10 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	11 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting
12 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School	13 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Worship Committee Meeting 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	14 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	15 OK Chorale 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:30am Tellers 11:00am Faith, Film, & Feast 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	16 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 10:30am Alzheimer's Interfaith Service 1:00pm 8 is Enough	17 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	18 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am Men's Group 9:30am WW Meeting 10:30am UWF Meeting
19 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School	20 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	21 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 12:00pm Lunch Bunch-All Church Picnic 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	23 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	24 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	25 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 6:00pm Rambling Rouges
26 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School	27 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Non-Competitive Bridge 5:00pm Choir Prep 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	28 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	29 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	30 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	31 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 1 Corinthians 13-16

Monday: Ezra 1-4

Tuesday: Haggai 1-2; Zech. 1-2

Wednesday: Zechariah 3-6

Thursday: Zechariah 7-10

Friday: Zechariah 11-14

Saturday: Psalms 120-123

Germany Scramble

Here is the alphabet with some letters omitted. When you find all the missing letters, unscramble them to spell the name of a well-known German city. Write your answer on the line provided.

P Q S T C D E

F X Y Z I J K V

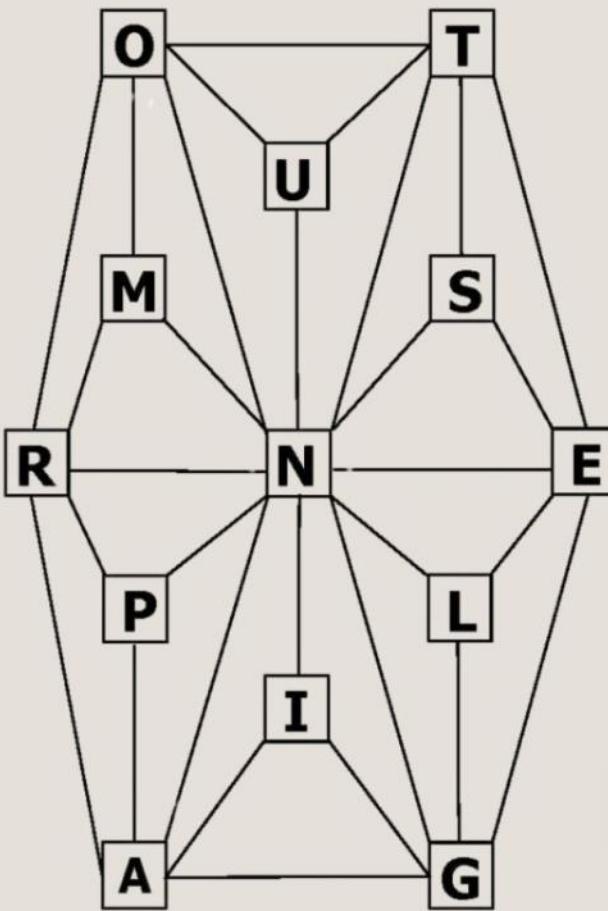
W L N O

Word Maze, possible words:
4-letter words: gain, pain,
lens, mote, page, nuts,
nest, sent, raint, rain, paint,
5-letter words: giant, paint,
tent, notes, stone, stout,
motor, mount; Longer
words: morning, raging,
routes, giants, mounts,
promote, German
Hamburg.

WORD MAZE

Directions: Spell as many words as possible by starting anywhere in the maze and moving along the connecting lines. Do not skip letters.

For example, you cannot form the word **must**, since to get from **m** to **u** you would need to skip either **o** or **n**. You may return to use the same letter twice as when you form the word **noun**, but you cannot use the same letter twice in succession.



Four-letter words

Five-letter words

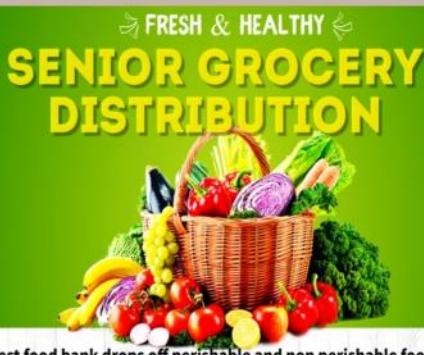
Longer words

Dial-a-Devotion

Dial-A-Devotion always needs a few more dedicated presenters to supplement the group. If you follow this group via phone, you know that it means presenting a message about every three weeks from your home. It allows you to share a message that was meaningful to you or to others.

Let the office know if you would like to try it out. 949.837.5433

October 1st	David Atkins	October 11th	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	October 21st	Meg Estrada
October 2nd	Glenn Miller	October 12th	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	October 22nd	David Atkins
October 3rd	Teri Lancey	October 13th	Greg Lewis	October 23rd	Glenn Miller
October 4th	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	October 14th	Sherry Atkins	October 24th	Teri Lancey
October 5 th	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	October 15th	Laddie Perez	October 25th	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
October 6th	Dick Obermayer	October 16th	Liz Heacock	October 26th	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
October 7th	Marilyn Nicolas	October 17th	Laura Daillak	October 27th	Dick Obermayer
October 8th	Elaine Brady	October 18th	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	October 28th	Marilyn Nicolas
October 9th	Joy O'Connor	October 19th	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	October 29th	Elaine Brady
October 10th	LaFee Family	October 20th	Don Forden	October 30th	Joy O'Connor
		October 31st	LaFee Family		



FRESH & HEALTHY
SENIOR GROCERY DISTRIBUTION

Second Harvest food bank drops off perishable and non perishable food for you to come 'shop' and take what you need. This free food is offered the first and third Thursdays of each month from 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
at Lutheran Church of the Cross
24231 El Toro Rd.
Laguna Woods



Looking For Help Around The House?

The men's group is here to help!

- ✓ Barber
- ✓ Gardening
- ✓ Carpentry
- ✓ Cleaning
- ✓ Climbing a ladder
- ✓ Handy Man Work
- ✓ Light Maintenance
- ✓ Mapping
- ✓ Painting
- ✓ Photography
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ and much more...

Call or email the church office to set up an appointment
949.837.3414 or office.lcumc@gmail.com

Usher Schedule

October 5th	Rex Danford & Connie Gould
October 12th	Kelly LaFee & David Forden
October 19th	Art Feldra & Judy Feldra
October 26th	Frank Bristol & Teri Lancey



The Gathering

Free Lunch

A new weekly gathering for fellowship and support
Meets at Restaurant 19 in Laguna Woods Village
Every Friday from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

"The Gathering" includes a free lunch and offers non-denominational, non-political discussion on various topics. This group is for people who wish to meet others or who wish to obtain or provide information that may benefit others. Meetings will be held either in Room 3 or on the balcony, depending on availability. Email TheGathering.lcumc@gmail.com to attend, indicating the number of attendees, your name, and if you need a "Gate 12 call-in" option.

Check out our services at

Lagunacountryumc.org
or on
Laguna Country UMC

YouTube



Office Hours

David

Monday – 9 am to 2 pm
Tuesday – 11 am to 2 pm
Wednesday – 9 am to 2 pm
Thursday – 9 am to 2 pm

Ashleigh

Monday – 8:30 am to 2 pm
Tuesday – 8:30 am to 2 pm
Wednesday – 8:30 am to 2 pm
Thursday – 8:30 am to 2 pm
& 12pm every other Thur.
Friday - 8:30 am to 12 pm

Office Hours With Our Church Administrator

We are so blessed to have Ashleigh serving as our church administrator! She adores and loves each one of you, and she is always happy to lend a hand. To help her balance assisting the congregation while also tending to the many responsibilities of the office, her drop-in hours will now be:

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

She is still in the office after 12:00 p.m., but those afternoons are set aside so she can focus on completing her administrative duties. If you need assistance after 12:00 p.m., she will gladly meet with you by appointment.

Thank you for honoring this schedule and for showing your support as she continues to serve with joy and dedication!



What's Going On

Meet Our Staff

By: Pastor David —

Joe Pring, Custodian

Each month we will be highlighting one of our amazing staff members so you can get to know the people who serve and support our church family. Pastor David interviewed Joe Pring, our church custodian and shares this with you.

Pastor: Where are you from originally and tell us something about your family.

Joe: I was born in the Philippines on August 3, 1949, and am the oldest surviving child in the family. I have two brothers and five sisters still living. Two sisters died in infancy. Our family has a fish farm in the Philippines and one of my brothers runs that. Two of my sisters live in San Francisco.

Pastor: When did you come to the United States?

Joe: I came here with my father in November, 1983. My father has passed away. I had attended college in Manilla to become a mechanical engineer, but I got caught up in "city life" and didn't complete it. My father said, "Let's go to America." My mother was scared because I didn't have a college degree, but I said, "I will survive." I was married in 1971, but we divorced 25 years ago and I became "mother and father" to my two sons and daughter. One son is an engineer with Disneyland, my daughter works for a pharmaceutical company, and the other son is like me. I have 10 grandchildren, six boys and four girls and another grandson due in November.

Pastor: When did you first get connected with Laguna Country Church?



What's Going On

Meet Our Staff

Joey: When we came I rented a condo near the church, saw the sign, and decided this was my church. I became a member in 1991. We lived across the street from a Methodist church in the Philippines; my great, great grandfather was a Methodist bishop there; one of my nieces is the pastor of a Methodist church in Dubai.

Pastor: When did you become the custodian here?

Joey: In September of 2010. Fifteen years ago.

Pastor: Could you describe some of your duties as the custodian?

Joey: I do everything here. I can't do it all in one day. I take care of the carpets, floors, dusting, mopping, cleaning restrooms, cleaning windows.

Pastor: How can members get in touch with you?

Joey: They can leave me a note in my box in the office.

Pastor: What do you like about your job?

Joey: I enjoy what I do here because I am one of the family. I also do house cleaning in Laguna Woods Village so I go back and forth.

Pastor: What do you like to do when you are not working?

Joey: Traveling. A friend told me 20 years ago to travel while I could.

Pastor: Do you have a favorite Bible verse or hymn?

Joey: John 3:16. The hymn I like was my mother's favorite: "My Hope Is Built." When Pastor James was here I told him I didn't come to church because of the pastor, I come to hear the message the pastor gives. I come for the message.

Pastor: What word of encouragement would you give the people of this church?

Joey: Love your neighbor. Don't hate anybody. Don't hold a grudge.



**24442 Moulton Pkwy.
Laguna Woods, CA 92637**

949.837.3414

office.lcumc@gmail.com

lagunacountryumc.org

Laguna Country UMC Staff

Pastor David Atkins
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Richard Warne
Music Director

rworglbau@aol.com

Michael Beu
Director Of Technology

Michaelbeu@gmail.com