Laguna Country UMC
Hope Love & Joy Live Here

The Viewpoint

April 2026





This Month

- New Directory
- April in Paris
- Lent 2026
- Prayer Shawl
- New Adult Study

I want to share some thoughts about God. Yes, I am either very bold or very naïve to approach a subject that theologians, Biblical scholars, and enlightened saints have approached with humility and reverence. People ask: Who, what, or where is God? How can we know God? How can we love God? Does God really exist?

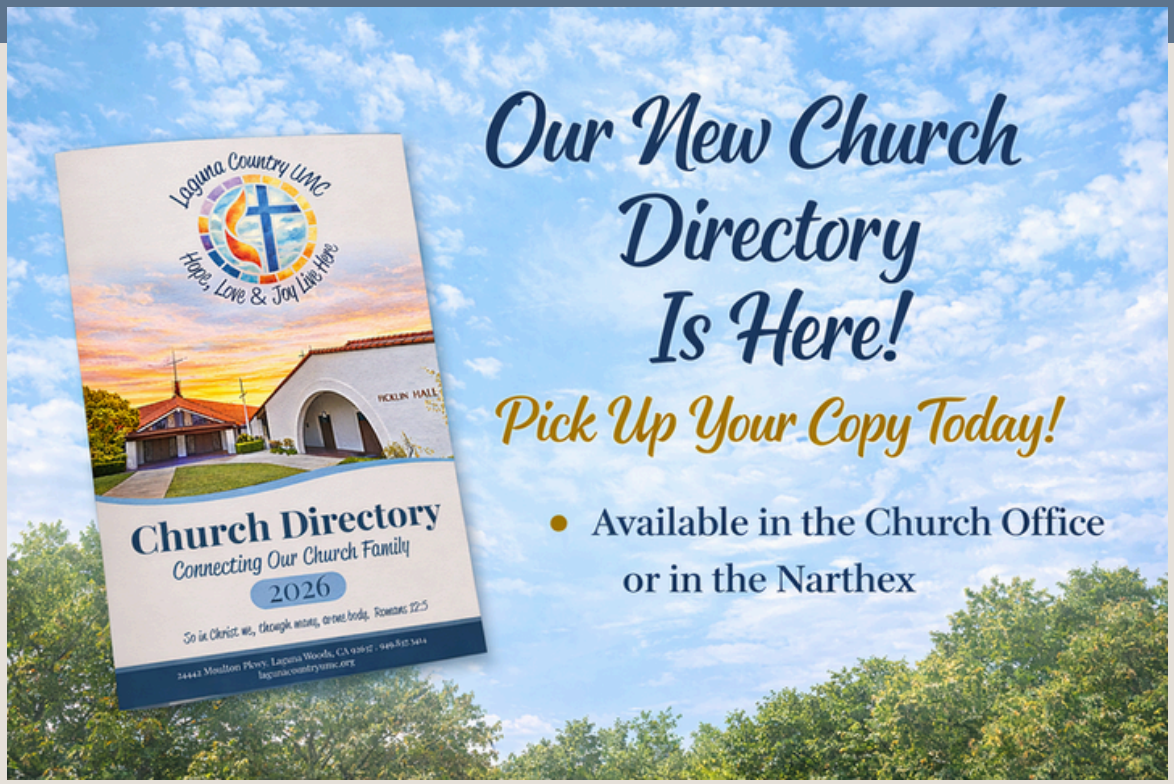
We usually start our faith journey with the concept of God as a being, someone who is like us but much greater, someone out there in the great beyond. As we mature, we realize that God is "mystery," which means we can only know aspects of God. We believe Jesus revealed God, but even that revelation is limited to us.

I believe God is more than we can imagine. Moses encountered the God who answered, "I AM WHO I AM" when Moses asked for the name. What a powerful, ubiquitous response, suggesting God is everywhere. God just is! I like to think of God as the "isness" of life. The theologian, Paul Tillich, identified God as the "Ground of Being," suggesting that God is not "A" being, but "BEING" itself. This suggests that God is the sustaining reality beneath and within all things.

The Apostle Paul wrote of Christ, the incarnation of God, in this way, "In him all things hold together." The invitation is to open ourselves to this mystery, to God, the eternal essence within and among us, the foundation upon which all things exist. The invitation is to trust the mystery without needing to define it.

Peace & Blessings,

Pastor David







Have You Seen John Wesley?

No, he hasn't escaped the history books—but John Wesley is hiding somewhere in this newsletter! Consider this your official invitation to stop skimming, start reading, and go on a holy scavenger hunt. He could be lurking between announcements, peeking out from an article, or dramatically appearing where you least expect it.

Read carefully. No magnifying glass required… but enthusiasm is encouraged.
Happy hunting, faithful newsletter detectives!
Remember, even Methodists can have a little fun

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

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







New Adult Study: Palestinian Christians In Palestine Today

This April, we invite you to take part in a meaningful and thought-provoking Sunday class. This study offers an opportunity to learn, reflect, and engage faithfully with one of the most complex and important issues of our time.

Together, we will explore the historical and present-day realities of life in Palestine through a series of guided sessions that include presentations, readings, maps, and group discussion. The study is designed not only to provide information, but also to help us thoughtfully consider different perspectives and deepen our understanding.

Each session will include time for reflection and conversation, allowing participants to wrestle with important questions such as:

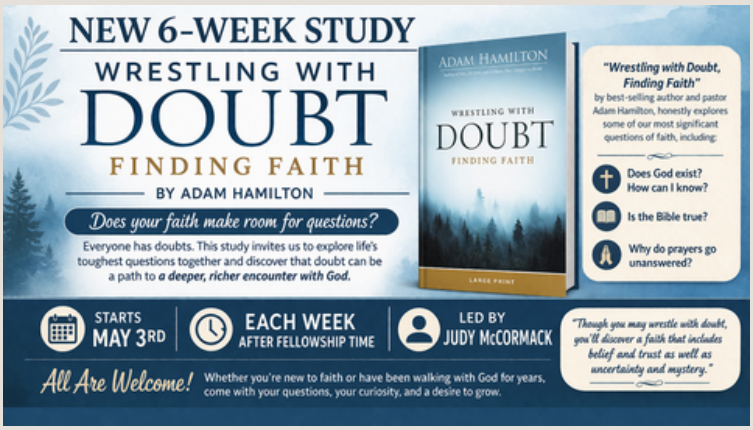
What new insights are we learning?

What challenges or tensions do we encounter?

Where do we see hope?

In addition to historical context, the study will also engage scripture—such as Psalm 13—and invite us to consider how faith speaks into times of suffering, uncertainty, and injustice.
This is a space for respectful dialogue, learning, and spiritual growth. Whether you are new to the topic or have studied it before, all are welcome to join. Come with curiosity, an open heart, and a willingness to listen and learn together as a community of faith.

We hope you will join us for this important and timely conversation.



6-Week Study: Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith

Does your faith make room for questions?

Beginning May 3, you are invited to join us for a meaningful six-week study of Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith by Adam Hamilton, led by Judy McCormack. This study will take place each week following fellowship time, offering a welcoming space to explore faith, questions, and honest conversation together.

We all experience moments of doubt. Questions like Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? are not signs of weak faith—they are part of a living, growing faith. Too often, we feel like we need to hide our uncertainty, but this study invites us to see doubt in a new light: as a pathway to deeper trust in God. In this engaging and thoughtful book, Adam Hamilton explores some of the most common and challenging questions people face, including:

Does God exist? How can we know?

Is the Bible true?

Why do prayers sometimes go unanswered?

Drawing from Scripture, Christian tradition, and his pastoral experience, Hamilton offers insight, honesty, and encouragement for anyone navigating questions about faith. Whether you have been a Christian for many years or are just beginning your journey, this study creates space for authentic exploration and spiritual growth.

Together, we will discover that faith is not about having all the answers, but about trusting God even in the midst of mystery. As we wrestle with doubt, we may find a deeper, richer faith than we ever expected.

All are welcome—bring your questions, your curiosity, and your desire to grow.

April & May Liturgist

April 5th	Meg Estrada
April12th	Laura Daillak
April19th	Sherry Atkins
April 26th	Rex Danford
May 3rd	Laddie Perez
May 10th	Don Forden
May 17th	Bev Miller
May 24th	Lily Hong
May 31st	Hanne Booth



April Birthdays

Norma Godfrey	April 11th
Paul Miller	April 12th
Kirsten Villanueva	April 14th
Leyla Fallahi	April 25th
Lauren Perry	April 26th
Chandler Roberts	April 27th

April Anniversaries

Shig & Tanya Yoneda April 9th



Usher Schedule

April 5th	Rex Danford & Marilyn Nicolas
April 12th	Art & Judy Feldra
April 19th	Kelly LaFee & Amir Atif
April 26th	Frank Bristol & Teri Lancey



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!!



Sermon Themes

Thursday, April 2nd - MAUNDY THURSDAY - 4:00 pm

This special service commemorates the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples as we celebrate Holy Communion together as a congregation.

Sunday, April 5th - SUNRISE SERVICE, 7:00 am in the Courtyard

This will be a joint service with the Korean congregation, featuring instrumental music, singing resurrection songs, and decorating the empty cross. The service will be followed by a light breakfast in the Wesley Room.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE, 9:30 am in the Sanctuary
HE LEADS THE WAY Matthew 28:1-10.

In addition to the pageantry of Easter, the service will include the choir, handbells, and an anthem presented by the Korean United Methodist Church. This scripture's focus on the resurrection is less popular than the story in the Gospel of John. You are invited to read Matthew's narrative and compare it with John 10:1-18.

Sunday, April 12th
WHAT KIND OF PEACE? John 20:19-23

The first time Jesus appears to the gathered disciples, he greets them twice with the same words, "Peace be with you." In this service, we will be looking at the kind of peace that Jesus brought to the world. Did he ever promise world peace? Is there a ruler of darkness on the earth that prevents peace from happening? We will explore these concepts in the worship service.

Sunday, April 19th
THE WALK OF WONDER Luke 24:13-35

While two followers of Jesus travel the road to Emmaus, pondering the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus, they are joined by a stranger who clarifies the meaning of this. It is not until they sit down at the table to break bread together that they realize who it is who has been walking with them. How can we recognize Jesus as the one who walks with us?

Sunday, April 26th
THE ABUNDANT LIFE John 10:1-10

The conclusion of Jesus' description of himself as the shepherd, and as the gate for the sheep, is this remarkable statement: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." Many books have been written about how to have the "good life." We will examine what this means for a follower of Christ.



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30am AA 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	2 6:30am AA 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough 4:00pm Maundy Thursday	3 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 10:00am AA Meeting 11:00am Good Friday Service at Lutheran CC 11:30am The Gathering 7:00pm Good Friday Service at Lutheran CC	4 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting
5 Easter Sunday 6:30am AA 7:00am Easter Sunrise Service 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	6 6:30am AA 9:00am Worship Committee Meeting 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 6:30pm Scout Adult Wilderness Training 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	7 6:30am AA 9:30am Bell Practice 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Circle Of Friends Bible Study 7:00pm Scouts	8 6:30am AA 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Moulton 1 HOA	9 6:30am AA 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	10 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	11 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting
12 3:30am Ragnar Race 6:30am AA 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	13 6:30am AA 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Non-Competitive Bridge 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	14 6:30am AA 9:30am Bell Practice 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Scouts	15 6:30am AA 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	16 6:30am AA 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	17 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	18 6:30am AA 8:00am Millennial Choir 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am Men's Group 9:30am UWF Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting
19 6:30am AA 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	20 6:30am AA 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	21 6:30am AA 9:30am Bell Practice 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Circle Of Friends Bible Study 7:00pm Scouts	22 6:30am AA 10:30am Tellers 11:00am Lunch Bunch 11:00am Men's Group Planning Meeting 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	23 6:30am AA 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	24 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	25 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am Foundation Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting
26 6:30am AA 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	27 6:30am AA 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Non-Competitive Bridge 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	28 6:30am AA 9:30am Bell Practice 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Scouts	29 6:30am AA 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	30 6:30am AA 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough 4:00pm Millennial Choir		

Fellowship Opportunities











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)!

Check out our services at
Lagunacountryumc.org
or on
Laguna Country UMC
YouTube

Fellowship Opportunities











Meetings That Work Start With a Reservation

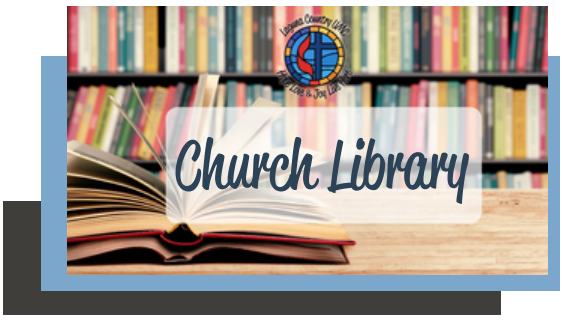
Please Reserve Church Spaces in Advance

To help keep our church running smoothly and ensure everyone has the space they need, all meetings held at the church must be scheduled in advance. Rooms and meeting times need to be reserved ahead of time—unfortunately, we're not able to accommodate groups who simply show up or request space the day of.

Planning ahead helps us avoid conflicts, communicate clearly, and be good stewards of our shared spaces. If you're organizing a meeting, we encourage you to reserve your room and time as early as possible.

Ashleigh is happy to help with communication for your meeting, including announcements or reminders. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping keep things running smoothly for everyone!





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!

Lent at LCUMC









Men's Group Breakfast

All men of the congregation are warmly invited to gather for a meaningful and encouraging morning of fellowship at our upcoming Men's Group Breakfast on Saturday, April 18th at 9:30 AM.

This month's theme, "The Meaning of Love," will guide our time together as we explore what it truly means to love—through the lens of faith, relationships, and everyday life. Whether it's love for family, friends, or our community, we'll reflect on how we are called to live out Christ-like love in practical and impactful ways.

The morning will include a delicious breakfast, engaging conversation, and a time of reflection and discussion that is both welcoming and thought-provoking. This is a great opportunity to connect with other men in the church, build friendships, and grow spiritually in a relaxed and supportive environment. No matter where you are on your faith journey, you are invited and encouraged to come. Bring a friend, a neighbor, or someone new—we'd love to have you join us. We look forward to sharing this special time together!



Support & Wellness Groups

Meeting On Our Campus

Our church is grateful to host several support and wellness groups each week, offering encouragement, community, and a place for healing and growth for both our congregation and the wider community.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
- Daily at 7:00 a.m.
- Mondays at 6:00 p.m.
- Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

Confidential, supportive meetings—newcomers welcome.

Al-Anon
- Mondays at 12:30 p.m.

Support for family and friends affected by alcoholism.

Weight Watchers
- Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.
- Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Encouragement and tools for healthy living.

By opening our doors to these groups, we share in a meaningful ministry of support, connection, and hope. All are welcome.





Laguna Country United Women in Faith

Carrying Our Blessings Forward

Yellow: Life in Christ; Green: Sisterhood; Orange: Action; Blue: Faith

Who are we? We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation.

The Mission: United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

The Vision: Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

The Purpose: We are a community of women whose purpose is to know God; to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

I want to acknowledge Lulu Emery for sharing her story growing up as a Palestinian Christian in Palestine and her journey from Palestine to the United States to Laguna Country UMC. Shukran Jazeelan.

Every meeting, we share a "Mission Moment" from Response. Response is the official magazine of United Women in Faith. Its goals are to inform and inspire members to impact the church and the world. It is published bimonthly, and the subscription price is $32 per year. Digital copy is also now available. The March/April 2026 issue has maps of missions the UWFaith supports in 38 countries. Copies are available to check out from our library. Please see Meg Estrada or Lulu Emery for more information.

Our next UWF general meeting is on Saturday, April 25, at 9:30 am. Our guest speaker is Deaconess Perla Baker. She will share a documentary on Methodism in the Philippines that includes when and how Deaconesses work started. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Don't miss it.

Please help us up make a cookbook. You probably already have seen the promotion. We are collecting recipes to be included in the cookbook. Please send your recipes to either Ashleigh or to me.

Lastly, I am sharing an article (below) from Judy Edelblute of St. Marks' UMC in San Diego. It is titled "You Make a Difference." Judy is the Program Resource Coordinator of the South District UWF.

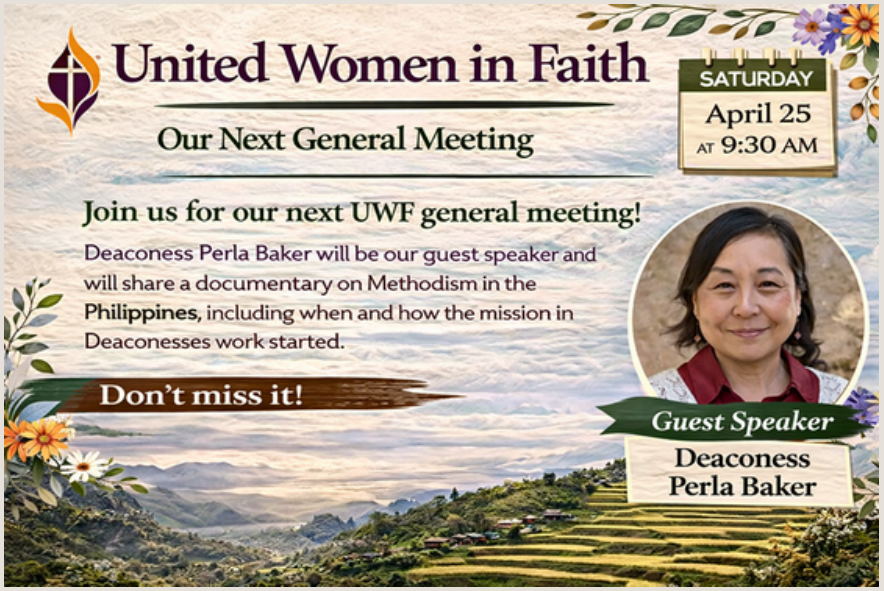
As always, we welcome your comments and inputs. Please see any of the UWF officers; we'd love to hear from you!

Thank you for all your support and contributions. Laguna Country UWF is unstoppable!

Laddie Perez, President



faith
action
sisterhood



United
Women
in Faith

ASSEMBLY 2026

May 15-17, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana
uwfaith.org/assembly

The United Women in Faith

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

Presents

"The Filipino Deaconess in Mission"
a Documentary

Produced by the
Southern California Deaconess Association and Friends

Saturday, April 25, 2026, 9:30 am

Contents:

- When and how Methodism Started in the Philippines
- When and how Deaconess Work Started in the Philippines
- The Making of a Deaconess – Harris Memorial College
- Deaconess role in the church and community
- Deaconess role in ministry and mission



A group of deaconesses present at the premiere showing of the documentary at the Artesia-Cerritos UMC in September 2023.

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