Laguna Country UMC
Hope Love & Joy Live Here

The Viewpoint

February 2026





This Month

- Meet Our Staff
- What's Going On
- Directory update!
- How the UMC works
- Accomplishments of 2025

I cannot count the number of times I have prayed the powerful words in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done." I have been sincere in my prayer, and yet, as I reflect on decisions I have made through the years, I sometimes wonder if I was following my will or God's will. However, even at the beginning of our friendship, I knew it was God's will that I marry Sherry. During my college years, I knew it was God's will that I become a pastor, and after thirty-two years of pastoral ministry, I knew it was God's will that I become a full-time licensed therapist.

As I have shared previously, it was never my intention to return to pastoral ministry, but it became clear in October 2024 that this was God's will. For the last sixteen months, I have been richly blessed in this service for God at LCUMC. Now what? My family has urged me to retire for many years, but it never seemed right. It seemed like God always had new and different plans for my life. However, it seems like now is the time. I gave up full-time counseling a year ago in order to focus on full-time pastoral work. On June 30th, I will be giving up pastoral leadership for LCUMC, and the Bishop will be appointing a new pastor.

In consultation with our D.S., Rev. Garcia, Sherry, and I will continue to participate in the life of the church as we have for a number of years, especially in music ministry. Even as you have showered love and support for my ministry, I trust that you will continue to do that for each other and for the pastoral leader. We march on together to do God's will.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor David

Faith in Connection
A Snapshot of the United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church (UMC) is part of a global connection of congregations working together to share God's love, make disciples, and serve the world. While each local church has its own personality and ministries, we are connected through a shared structure, mission, and set of beliefs.

At the local level, our church is guided by clergy and lay leaders who work together to oversee worship, ministries, finances, and facilities. Members serve in leadership roles such as the church council, trustees, finance, and other committees, helping make decisions that support the life of the congregation.

Beyond the local church, United Methodist churches are connected through districts and annual conferences. Our pastor is appointed by the bishop of our annual conference, which allows clergy to serve where their gifts are most needed. Bishops provide spiritual leadership and oversight, while conferences support churches with resources, training, and accountability.

On a wider level, the UMC is governed by the Book of Discipline, which outlines our beliefs, organization, and practices. Major decisions affecting the whole denomination are made at General Conference, where clergy and lay delegates from around the world gather to pray, discuss, and vote together.
This connectional system means no church stands alone. We support one another, share resources, and work together in mission—locally and globally—to live out our faith as United Methodists.



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

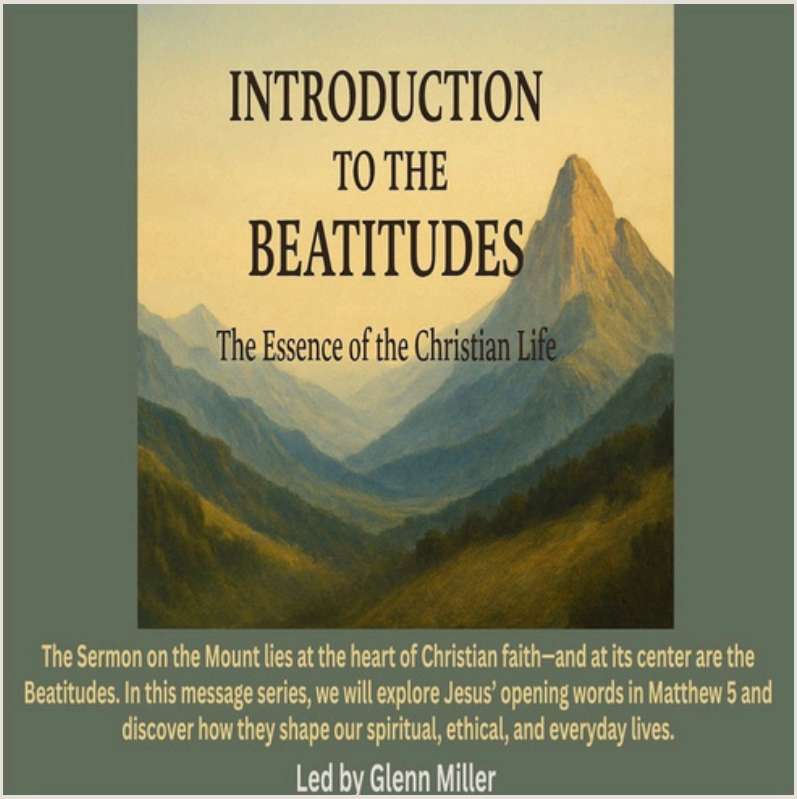
Feb 1, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXXX	Feb 16, 2026	Liz Heacock	Mar 1, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXX
Feb 2, 2026	Don Forden	Feb 17, 2026	Steven Jenkins	Mar 2, 2026	Teri Lancey
Feb 3, 2026	Meg Estrada	Feb 18, 2026	Greg Lewis	Mar 3, 2026	Dick Obermayer
Feb 4, 2026	David Atkins	Feb 19, 2026	Sherry Atkins	Mar 4, 2026	Marilyn Nicolas
Feb 5, 2026	Glenn Miller	Feb 20, 2026	Laddie Perez	Mar 5, 2026	Judy McCormick
Feb 6, 2026	Teri Lancey	Feb 21, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXX	Mar 6, 2026	Elaine Brady
Feb 7, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXX	Feb 22, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXX	Mar 7, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXX
Feb 8, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXX	Feb 23, 2026	Laura Dailak	Mar 8, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXX
Feb 9, 2026	Dick Obermayer	Feb 24, 2026	Don Forden	Mar 9, 2026	LaFee Family
Feb 10, 2026	Marilyn Nicolas	Feb 25, 2026	Meg Estrada	Mar 10, 2026	Steven Jenkins
Feb 11, 2026	Judy McCormick	Feb 26, 2026	David Atkins	Mar 11, 2026	Greg Lewis
Feb 12, 2026	Elaine Brady	Feb 27, 2026	Glenn Miller	Mar 12, 2026	Sherry Atkins
Feb 13, 2026	LaFee Family	Feb 28, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXX	Mar 13, 2026	Laddie Perez
Feb 14, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXX			Mar 14, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXX
Feb 15, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXX			Mar 15, 2026	XXXXXXXXXXXX





Usher Schedule

February 1st	Connie Gould & Lulu Emery
February 8th	Kelly Lafee & Don Forden
February 15th	Art & Judy Feldra
February 22nd	Frank Bristol & Teri Lancey







February & March Liturgist

Feb. 1st	Laddie Perez
Feb. 8th	Rex Danford
Feb. 15th	Don Forden
Feb. 22nd	Bev Miller
Mar. 1st	Lily Hong
Mar. 8th	Hanne Booth
Mar. 15th	Pendra LaFee
Mar. 22nd	Frank Bristol
Mar. 29th	Donna Kish





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!!



February Birthdays

Thelma Bristol	February 2nd
Edurado Capulong	February 6th
Teri Lancey	February 9th
Catherine Decker	February 10th
Sadie Roberts	February 26th
Bev Mohnkern	February 27th

February Anniversaries

Michael and Laura Daillak
February 8th



Sermon Themes

February 1st – Communion Sunday – Living the Foolishness:

In the epistle reading from I Corinthians 1:18-31, over and over, Paul tells how God has chosen what is foolish to shame the wise. He states that the world does not know God through wisdom but through foolishness and weakness. The theme is continued in the first few verses of the "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 5:1-13 when Jesus offers the beatitudes, which emphasize how blessings are given to the poor, meek, sorrowful, and pure in heart.

February 8th – The Witness of Weakness:

The letter to the Corinthians (I Cor. 2:1-12) and Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5:13-20) continue from the previous week. Paul again emphasizes how he came in weakness and fear to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, not with superior speech or wisdom. And yet, he became powerful because of the Spirit. Likewise, Jesus uses the example of salt and a lamp to emphasize how God can use our weakness to give glory to God.

February 15th – Transfiguration Sunday – Fear or Enlightenment?

The passage in Matthew 17:1-9 contains the rich and amazing experience of Peter, James, and John with Jesus when he appears in his radiant form, along with Moses and Elijah, also in their radiance. Peter testifies to this experience in his second letter to the church, II Peter 1:16-21, and finds confirmation that Jesus is the beloved son. This raises the question of our own experience of confirmation in the truth of the gospel.

February 18th - Ash Wednesday Service – 4 pm in the Sanctuary

February 22nd – One Act of Righteousness

Paul makes a profound and inclusive statement in Romans 5:12-19, as he reminds the reader that sin came into the world through one man's disobedience, but righteousness is given to all through one man's obedience. The passage in Matthew 4:1-ll is well-known as the temptation of Christ in the wilderness, how the devil uses scriptures to tempt him, and how Jesus responds using scriptures as well. These passages invite us to know and use God's truth as a shield.



Feburary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	2 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:00am Outreach Meeting 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	3 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Circle Of Friends Bible Study	4 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	5 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	6 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	7 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 11:00am Boy Scout Blue and Gold Lunch
8 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 10:30am Salad & Bread Fellowship 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	9 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Non-Competitive Bridge 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	10 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	11 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	12 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	13 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	14 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting
15 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worshipl 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	16 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	17 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Circle Of Friends Bible Study	18 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 4:00pm Ash Wednesday 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	19 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	20 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	21 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am Men's Group 9:30am WW Meeting 10:30am UWF Meeting
22 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	23 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Non-Competitive Bridge 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	24 Men's Group Planning Meeting 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	25 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 11:00am Lunch Bunch 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	26 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	27 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	28 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting

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)!

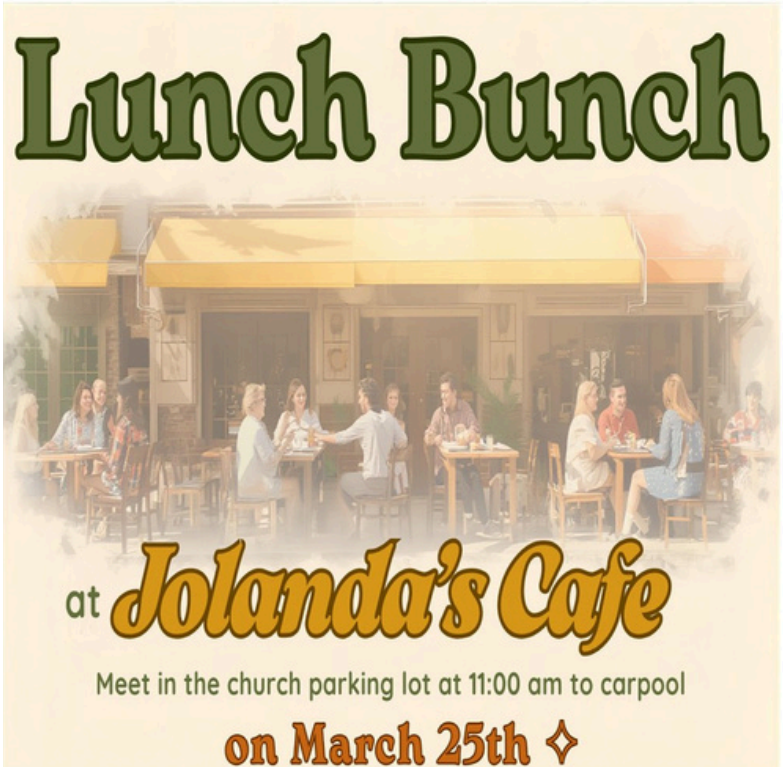
Check out our services at

Lagunacountryumc.org
or on
Laguna Country UMC

YouTube

Fellowship Opportunities





February Men's Breakfast

Why Do We Wear Masks?

At our upcoming Men's Breakfast, we'll dig into a question many of us quietly wrestle with: Why do we hide behind masks? Not the kind we wear on our faces, but the ones we use to cover our fears, doubts, failures, or insecurities. Over breakfast and honest conversation, we'll explore what it means to be authentic, why vulnerability is so hard, and how faith calls us to live with integrity and openness. Come hungry—for food, for connection, and for a deeper understanding of yourself and others.



New Member Reception

BEN YONEDA: Ben is coming today for confirmation and full membership in this church. He was baptized here as an infant and has been part of the church all of his life. Ben is a Sophomore at Long Beach State University and a recipient of a Foundation scholarship. You may have seen him recently ringing hand bells. Sponsor: Don Forden.

KAY KELLY: came to our area recently from Palm Desert. She was baptized as a child at the Mt Hope United Methodist Church in Lansing, Michigan, and comes to Laguna Country church desiring full membership. Sponsor: Tanya Yoneda

JANET THOMPSON: came to this area to be near her two adult children, who subsequently have moved to other states. Janet has been active at the Shepherd's Grove Church in Irvine and wishes to transfer her membership and become a full member of this church. Sponsor: Laddie Perez

LEYLA FALLAHI & OMID MAHMOUDI: husband & wife recently moved to Southern California from Georgia, after fleeing from Iran (Persia) to Turkey as refugees. They received Christ into their lives and were baptized as adults in 2014 and 2016, respectively. Leyla is a cosmetologist, and Omid is a mechanical operations technician who has volunteered to help us with our aging facilities in any way he can. They come desiring full membership in the church. Sponsors: Kelly and Pendra LaFee

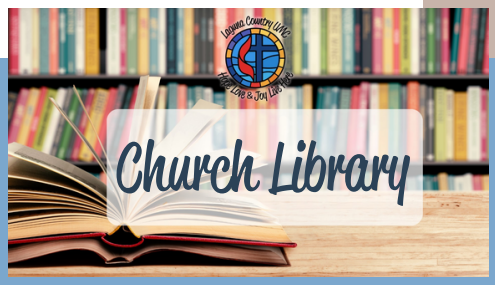
MARY GRACE CARPENTER: is well known to most of you. You see her regularly in the choir. She was originally part of a group that was received into membership last Fall, but was ill that Sunday and unable to be acknowledged. Mary Grace has a full and rich background in the Roman Catholic Church and is an extremely active senior in Laguna Woods Village. Don't try to keep up with her. She has said, "I love this church." Like many others, she has found this to be a warm and loving congregation and wishes to be a member of it. Sponsor: Donna Kish.



What's Going On

Celebration of accomplishments in 2025 led by the leadership team:

1. Established a vision team
2. New roof is happening!
3. Scouts task force – cleaning, ushering, special projects, moving pews…
4. Committees activated: membership, outreach, missions, worship, fellowship, education
5. Community outreach – 2 plays
6. History of the bible seminar
7. New epoxy flooring
8. Deep cleaning of campus
9. Fantastic handyman (Rodger)
10. 19 new members + 6 coming
11. Solved problems for the child care facility
12. Several successful mission projects: Rise Against Hunger, Angel Tree, Shoelace mission, Sherman Indian School
13. The Gathering: a weekly lunch for community outreach
14. New rental agreements
15. Joint celebration with the Korean church for Christmas Eve
16. Joint Thanksgiving service with the Jewish Synagogue and the Korean Church
17. 2 Cantata services (Easter and Christmas)
18. Ecumenical services with the Lutheran Church and Persian church
19. Improved audiovisual for online services
20. Weekly ministry at Freedom Village
21. New brochure and welcome booth for new members
22. Education classes on Sunday mornings expanded to 22 participants
23. Blue Christmas service added
24. Reconfigured the choir loft to accommodate the bell choir
25. Multiple fellowship activities
26. Structured approach to recruiting Sunday service volunteers
27. Integrated new members onto the leadership team
28. David was appointed as a full-time pastor
29. Accommodation new gas line through our property
30. Doubled in-person attendance



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!

What's Going On

Meet Our Staff

By: Pastor David

Michael Beu, Director of Technology



Pastor: Tell me about where you were born, raised, and about your family.

Michael: I was born in Tacoma, Washington, and raised in Oak Harbor, WA, until I was about ten. My parents were both ministers and served churches in Washington until we moved to California. I went to middle school and high school in California before going to Cal State Northridge to major in film. I was an only child, and we had a very strong family unit. About being a PK (preacher's kid) – It was okay, being connected with the church, but always very embarrassing when my parents would cite me in their sermons; overall, a good experience.

Pastor: What is your education and work background?

Michael: I graduated from Cal State Northridge in 2019 as a film major, right before the pandemic. It was hard to find work. I started working in churches – Vista UMC, north of San Diego; Pacific Beach UMC; Newport UCC; Shepherd of the Hills UMC, Mission Viejo – and other part-time jobs with video companies. I chose this area of work because I have always loved technology, computers, and film work, which led me to film school, focusing on editing and post-production work.

Pastor: What drew you to this kind of work?

Michael: I have always liked learning new things, and I like interacting with technology and computers, creativity and problem-solving are involved.

Pastor: How did you come to work at LCUMC?

Michael: I already had a connection with LCUMC through my Mom, an ordained UMC pastor, who was friends with Pastor James Dollins and Pastor Doug Williams. I attended church here and went to UMC film camps through the conference. We showed some of my short films at the church. I received a scholarship from the church Foundation to go to film school. Then, when my dad, BJ, became the pastor, he realized the church needed help in creating a live-stream worship, so I was hired.

What's Going On

Meet Our Staff

Pastor: Do you have other work besides the AV at LCUMC?

Michael: Yes, I work full-time as the AV technician at the Pelican Hill Resort in Newport.

Pastor: Describe your work at LCUMC.

Michael: I manage the video and technology of the church, primarily around Sunday morning worship: video, projection, slides, cameras, switches, audio components, microphones, and live stream. I manage both the in-house service and live stream. I like the problem-solving and creativity that is involved, overseeing the technical aspects. It is very fast-paced and needs attention at different levels: camera directions, microphones. I find it challenging when microphones fail, sound cuts out. We have enhanced the video portion, but the sound is difficult. Two of our wireless microphones recently fell apart, which reduces flexibility.

Pastor: What do you want the congregation to know?

Michael: This job is technically very demanding with a lot of moving pieces happening all at once. We in the booth have to wear different hats and actually manage a lot of different jobs. The margin for error is very slim, and things can go wrong very quickly. It is like trying to drive a car while you are flipping pancakes. About the church: It is not a big church, but it has a good group that is supportive of each other, connected, like they really care for each other.



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.

"Love is in the air everywhere I look around. Love is in the air every sight and every sound." It must be the love month – February!

If you missed the January 17 General Meeting, the following officers were installed by Perla Baker. Perla is a Deaconess and attends the San Clemente UMC. She is currently serving as Language Coordinator of the Cal-Pac UWFaith and CON Chairperson of the South District UWFaith. She will be back in April to give a documentary on the Deaconesses program in the Philippines.

· Laddie Perez, President
· Teri Lancey, Secretary
· Tanya Yoneda, Treasurer
· Meg Estrada, Program Resource Coordinator
· Joy O'Connor, Spiritual Growth Coordinator
· Lulu Emery, Librarian

On Sunday, January 25th, we celebrated Women's Sunday with a guest speaker, Young Mae Kim, who attends Holliston-Dream UMC in Pasadena and currently serves as a member of the Program Advisory Group representing Cal-Pac Conference and the Western Jurisdiction to the National UWFaith. We distributed a simple questionnaire asking the women about their knowledge and involvement in the works of the United Women in Faith. We plan to share the results with you.
We will be mailing Valentine's cards to homebound/shut-in members and to anyone who needs one. Meg Estrada is making the cards. Please see her if you need cards to send and for the list, so we're not duplicating the mailings.

The third Sunday is UWFaith's Fellowship Sunday. This is the Sunday that we serve cake(s) to celebrate birthdays for that month. If you would like to donate towards that, please see Tanya Yoneda, UWFaith treasurer.



faith
action
sisterhood

Please mark your calendars, our next General Meeting is on Saturday, February 28th, at 1:00 pm. It's in the afternoon because there's a conflict in the morning. We will be doing the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Service. What is that, you ask? "A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial is an annual United Women in Faith event inviting participants to pray, reflect on the gospel, and make sacrificial financial gifts to support mission projects, particularly for women, children, and youth. It emphasizes spiritual communion with God combined with actionable, selfless giving to address global needs." This year's focus is "The Future is Now: Invest in Our Children." Gifts to a Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2026 will support vulnerable children through the work of National Mission Institutions. NMIs help children through low-cost early childhood education, after-school programs, enrichment programs, mental health support, guidance for the transition to adulthood, reunification with family, and more. We hope you'll be able to join us!

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

Thank you for all your support and contributions. Laguna Country UWFaith is unstoppable!
Laddie Perez, President



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!

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