October 2026

The Viewpoint

Laguna Country United Methodist Church

Hope, Love, & Joy Live Here



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A community of faith, growing together in Christ and sharing God's love with all.

9:30 AM
In Person & Online
Sunday Worship

Connect With Us
lagunacountryumc.org

From Pastor Brain



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Over these past three months of walking alongside you, one persistent truth keeps rising to the surface: The heartbeat of Laguna Country UMC is community and connection. In a single word, it is family.

In a world that often measures our worth by busyness, production, or how tightly we hold to rigid rules, this church is a rare and sacred oasis. You know how to care for each other. You know how to check in on a neighbor, share laughter across a fellowship table, and hold one another gently through grief and life's turning seasons.

All around us—right here in Laguna Woods and across our wider community—so many people are yearning for that exact gift. For many of our neighbors, families live far away, and visits are few. Lifelong companions have passed on. Condos and living rooms have grown remarkably quiet, and many folks are left wondering if anyone is still in their corner, or if anyone will simply show up for them.

They do not need high-pressure guilt or complicated religious performances. They are simply looking for a home. They are longing for a church family where their presence matters and where a seat is always saved for them.

Welcoming people home is not a program we check off once a year. It is who God has already made us to be, and it is the quiet, courageous purpose calling us forward.

Thank you for your warmth, your prayers, and your steady witness. May we keep our church doors open wide, keep the light on for others, and continue pulling up extra chairs so that everyone knows they belong.

Grace and Peace,

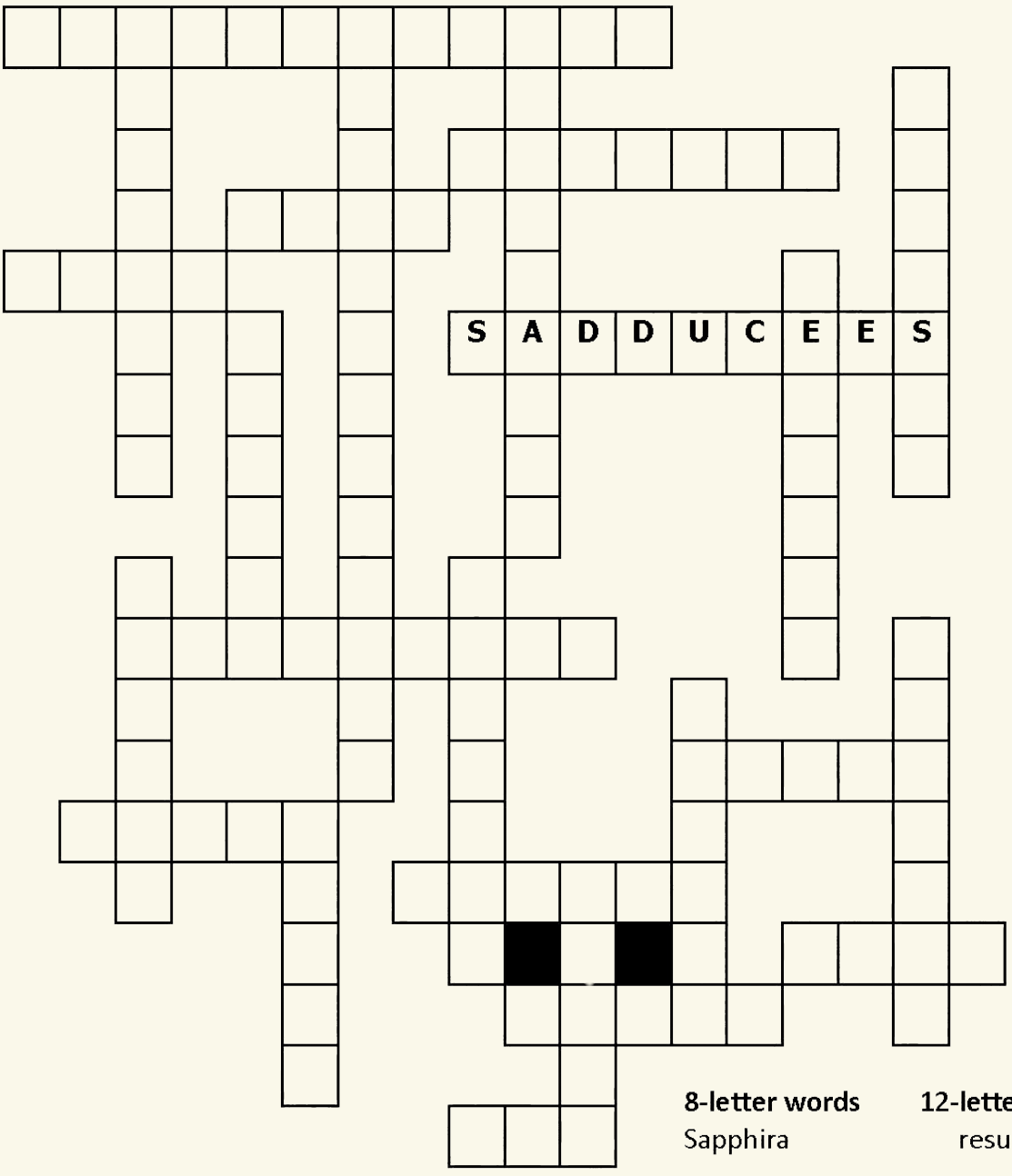
Rev. Dr. Brian James Tipton

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Daily Bible Readings
Sunday: 1 Corinthians 9-12
Monday: Daniel 7-9
Tuesday: Daniel 10-12
Wednesday: Esther 1-3
Thursday: Esther 4-7
Friday: Esther 8-10
Saturday: Psalm 119

CLUELESS CROSSWORD

This crossword has no clues! Fill in the squares according to the length of the words. We've filled in one word to get you started.



3-letter words
God

4-letter words
holy
John
plot

5-letter words
faith
guard
Jesus
Peter
Satan

6-letter words
beggar
Israel
nation
Spirit

7-letter words
Ananias
miracle
priests
prophet
servant

8-letter words
Sapphira

9-letter words
ignorance
Sanhedrin

12-letter words
resurrection

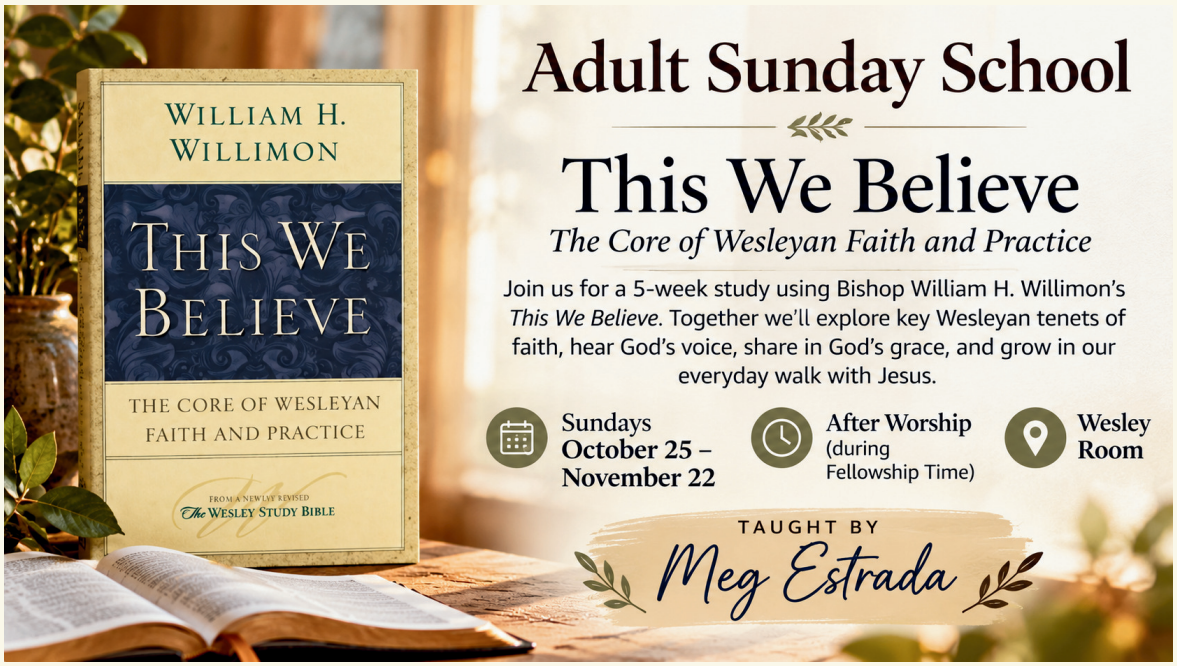
13-letter words
encouragement

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."
—Albert Camus

Grow In Faith

Studies & Classes at Laguna Country UMC

Learn more. Grow deeper. Walk together.



Adult Sunday School

This We Believe

The Core of Wesleyan Faith and Practice

Join us for a 5-week study using Bishop William H. Willimon's *This We Believe*. Together we'll explore key Wesleyan tenets of faith, hear God's voice, share in God's grace, and grow in our everyday walk with Jesus.

Sundays
October 25 – November 22

After Worship
(during Fellowship Time)

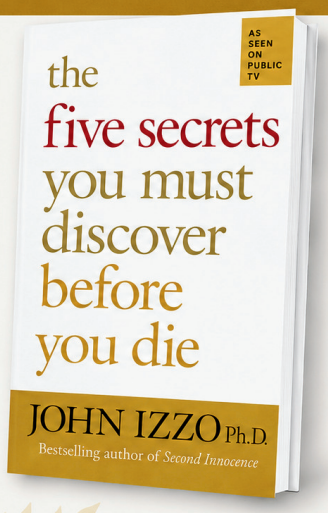
Wesley Room

TAUGHT BY
Meg Estrada

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Discover what
truly matters in life.

Join us for a six-week journey of discovery and insight based on John Izzo's powerful and inspiring book.



STARTING SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13TH
after fellowship time

DURATION:
6 WEEKS
A meaningful study you won't want to miss!

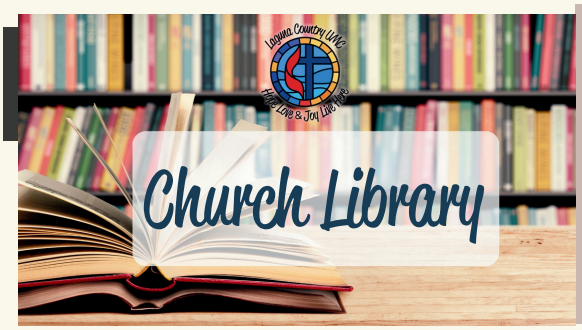
TAUGHT BY
DAVID ATKINS

Join us for this life-changing study and take the next step on your spiritual journey!

BOOKS ARE FOR SALE
in the church office or after the service on Sundays for $10.00

Get your book and join us!

Come. Learn. Grow. Together.



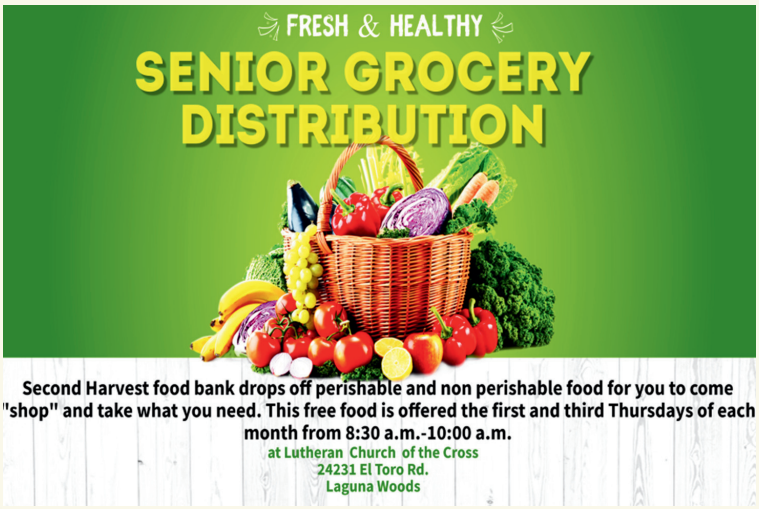
Help Us Start Our Church Library!

We're creating a cozy church library—and we need your help! Please donate gently used books like devotionals, Bible studies, children's books, or wholesome fiction.
Drop off donations in the church office during the week or in the foyer on Sundays.
Thank you for helping us build a library for everyone to enjoy!

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

10/1/2026	Don Forden	10/11/2026	XXXXXXXXXXX	10/22/2026	Meg Estrada
10/2/2026	Meg Estrada	10/12/2026	Judy McCormack	10/23/2026	David Atkins
10/3/2026	XXXXXXXXXXX	10/13/2026	Elaine Brady	10/24/2026	XXXXXXXXXX
10/4/2026	XXXXXXXXXXX	10/14/2026	Greg Lewis	10/25/2026	XXXXXXXXXX
10/5/2026	David Atkins	10/15/2026	Sherry Atkins	10/26/2026	Glenn Miller
10/6/2026	Glenn Miller	10/16/2026	Liz Heacock	10/27/2026	Teri Lancey
10/7/2026	Teri Lancey	10/17/2026	XXXXXXXXXX	10/28/2026	Dick Obermayer
10/8/2026	Dick Obermayer	10/18/2026	XXXXXXXXXX	10/29/2026	Marilyn Nicolas
10/9/2026	Marilyn Nicolas	10/19/2026	Laddie Perez	10/30/2026	Judy McCormack
10/10/2026	XXXXXXXXXXX	10/20/2026	Laura Daillak	10/31/2026	XXXXXXXXXX
		10/21/2026	Don Forden		





October Anniversaries

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

October Liturgist

October 4th	Marilyn Nicolas
October 11th	Lily Hong
October 18th	Don Forden
October 25th	Bev Miller

October Birthdays

Margaret Estrada	October 7th
Joy O'Connor	October 8th
Kiku Yoneda	October 11th
Alex Tipton	October 18th
Brenda Roa	October 19th
Noyln Nguyen	October 20th
David Atkins	October 26th
Marilyn Nicolas	October 28th
Mariel Endey	October 30th



Please Remember

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!!

Usher Schedule

October 4th	David Fordin & Teri Lancey
October 11th	Sue Hicklin & Amir Atefvahid
October 18th	Kay Kelly & Kelly LaFee
October 25th	Frank Bristol & Marily Nicolas



Caring for Our Church Family

PRAYER • SUPPORT GROUPS • EQUIPMENT LOANS

We're here to walk alongside you with encouragement, resources, and care because you are never alone.

TUESDAY Prayer Group

Join us as we faithfully pray for the needs of our church family, our community, and our world.



TUESDAYS AT 11:00 AM

CHURCH CONFERENCE ROOM OR ZOOM

TOGETHER IN PRAYER, STRONGER IN FAITH.

Support & Wellness Groups *at Our Church*

A PLACE FOR HEALING, ENCOURAGEMENT & COMMUNITY

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

Confidential Support • Newcomers Welcome

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

Support for Families & Friends of Alcoholics

Weight Watchers
- Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.
- Friday & Saturday at 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.

Tools for Healthy Living

OK Chorale
For Alzheimer's & Dementia Patients and Caregivers

Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.

Song • Support • Fun
Everyone Welcome!

Scouts
Building Character & Skills for Life

Square Dance
Fun for Dancers of All Ages

Kalda Child Care Center
Nurturing Environment for Young Children

Hula
Traditional Hawaiian Dance

8 is Enough Barbershop Quartet
Friendship • Harmony • Fun!

Opening our doors to all! Your support connects, heals & lifts up. All are welcome!



JOIN US FOR OUR *Dial* A DEVOTION

949.837.5433
Dial for a daily inspiration!

Listen to a message that is meaningful to you and others.

Dial-A-Devotion has a different devotion and presenter each day.

LISTEN
to a message that is meaningful to you and others.

NEW EACH DAY
Dial-A-Devotion has a different devotion and presenter each day.

BE ENCOURAGED
Let these messages uplift your spirit and strengthen your faith.

You will be glad you called!

Here For You

WE HAVE EQUIPMENT

TO HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT.

Our church has the following items available for you to **take and/or borrow:**



WHEEL CHAIRS



CRUTCHES



KNEE SCOOTER



WALKERS
(several available)

If you or someone you know could use one of these items, please **see one of our ushers** or a member of our hospitality team.

We're a church family here to care for one another.

YOU ARE LOVED. YOU BELONG. YOU MATTER.

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30am AA 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	2 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	3 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting
4 Welcome Home Sunday 6:30am AA 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time Potluck 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	5 6:30am AA 9:30am Membership & Outreach Meeting 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	6 6:30am AA 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am OC Alzheimer's 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Scouts	7 6:30am AA 9:30am Nominations Meeting 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 7:00pm Choir	8 6:30am AA 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	9 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	10 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting
11 6:30am AA 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	12 6:30am AA 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 2:30pm Fellowship Committee Meeting 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	13 6:30am AA 9:30am Bell Practice 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Program Committee Meeting 7:00pm Scouts	14 6:30am AA 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 2:00pm Fair Share Meeting 7:00pm Choir	15 6:30am AA 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough 2:00pm Prayer Shawl	16 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	17 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am Men's Group 10:00am Cal Pac UWF Annual Celebration
18 6:30am AA 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	19 6:30am AA 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 5:00pm Choir Prep 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	20 6:30am AA 9:30am Bell Practice 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Scouts	21 6:30am AA 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 7:00pm Choir	22 6:30am AA 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	23 Church Bazaar Setup 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	24 Church Bazaar 6:30am AA Meeting Fellowship 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am Foundation Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting
25 6:30am AA 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	26 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 5:00pm Choir Prep 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	27 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Scouts	28 6:30am AA 10:30am Men's Group Planning Meeting 10:30am Tellers 11:00am Lunch Bunch 1:00pm OK Chorale 7:00pm Choir	29 6:30am AA 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	30 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	31 6:30am AA 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 6:00pm Rambling Rogues

Sermon Themes

OCTOBER 4

Welcome Home: What Does the Lord Require?
Micah 6:6–8

What does God truly ask of us? When life feels noisy, demanding, or lonely, we often assume faith requires grand, exhausting performances. Yet through the prophet Micah, God offers a simpler, life-giving truth: to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly together. Celebrating both Welcome Home Sunday and World Communion Sunday, we will reflect on what it means to open our doors wide, leave the "porch light" on for our neighbors, and discover the quiet grace of a family table where everyone belongs.

OCTOBER 11

God's Gift of Play
Psalm 126:1-3; Zephaniah 3:17

Guest Preacher: Rev. Lynn Francis (Pastor Brian will be serving our wider community at OC Pride on Saturday, October 10th, coordinating the Spiritual Wellness Area, "The Haven"; thus, we have a guest preacher.)

In a world that often measures our worth by how productive, serious, or busy we are, we easily forget that joy and delight are holy gifts. This Sunday, we are blessed to welcome Rev. Lynn Francis to our pulpit to explore God's gift of play. Together, we will rediscover how laughter, lightness of spirit, and recreation are not distractions from spiritual life, but vital ways God restores our souls and knits our hearts together.

OCTOBER 18

Christianity 101: Doing Good & Breaking Bread
Acts 10:34–43

When Peter stands up in Cornelius's household, he offers a clear, grounded summary of what following Jesus is actually about: God shows no partiality, Jesus went around doing good and healing, and the resurrection was revealed first to chosen witnesses—women whose courageous testimony carried the faith forward—before culminating around a shared meal. This morning, we examine "Christianity 101." We will see how authentic discipleship starts simple: showing up for one another, doing good where we are, and sharing life around a common table.

OCTOBER 25

Reformation Sunday: Love as the Fulfillment of the Law
Matthew 22:34–46 & Romans 13:8–10

What does it truly mean for the church to be "always being reformed"? In Matthew 22, Jesus defines the heart of the scripture not through rigid rule-keeping, but through love of God and neighbor. In Romans 13, the Apostle Paul takes up this very teaching a striking moment where Paul directly echoes Jesus—and declares that the entire law is summed up in this one command. As United Methodists celebrating Reformation Sunday, we are reminded that genuine renewal is never a return to the rigid rules of the Church, but a return to holy love. True reformation begins whenever we let Christ reshape our hearts to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Fellowship









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

Opportunities

United Women in Faith

FAITH • SISTERHOOD • ACTION

Blast! 2026

UWF ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 17, 2026
10:00 AM – 2:30 PM

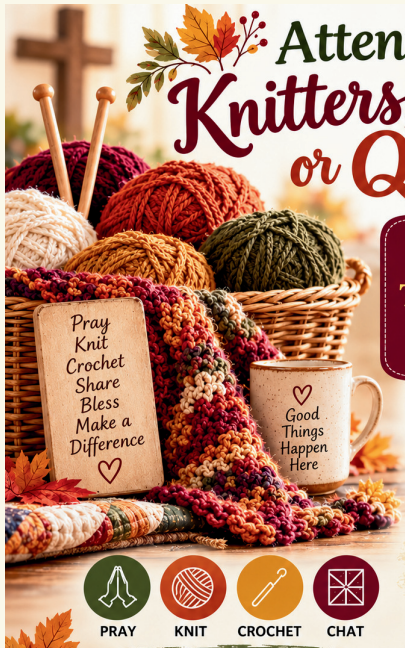
Laguna Country UMC
24442 Moulton Pkwy
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

$25

Register by Thursday, October 8, 2026.

ALL ARE INVITED!

Attention All Knitters, Crocheters or Quilters!



Our Group Will Resume Our Monthly Gatherings on **Thursday, October 15th at 2:30 p.m.** at the Church

We gather in the church office area to pray, knit, crochet, and chat. We also bless the completed shawls and prepare them to give to someone in our church, or our family who are in a difficult time.

Bring your yarn, your needles and hooks, and your friendship, and join our group!

PRAY KNIT CROCHET CHAT

Stitching together love, prayers, and comfort— one shawl at a time!

Questions?
Call Meg at **949-702-1835.**

Church BAZAAR

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

9:00AM – 1:00PM

A portion of the proceeds will be to support Alzheimer's Orange County and our beloved church.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Email Pendra LaFee to save you a table on Oct 24th
  pendra.lafee@gmail.com
- Oct 23rd at 3pm come set up/decorate your table with your wares
- Mark each item with prices
- Arrive Saturday Oct 24th at 8:30 am to man your table
- At 1pm pack up anything that did not sell to take home or to a donation site

THERE WILL BE A BAKE SALE

WE WILL BE SELLING HOTDOGS at lunch time

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Save Our Campus Capital Campaign Update



Thanks to your incredible generosity, our Save Our Campus Capital Campaign has received $218,000 in pledges toward our $300,000 goal! Of that amount, $48,000 has already been received in actual contributions this year!

These funds are already making a difference by helping cover important campus improvements, including:

$17,000 – Choir Room air conditioning

$10,000 – Narthex Office improvements and hallway ceiling repairs near the Choir Room

$10,000 – Fencing to prevent unauthorized camping on church property

$5,000 – Ficklin Hall water shut-off valve

These projects total approximately $42,000 and represent much-needed improvements to our church facilities. The funds received are also helping ease pressure on our annual budget and putting us in a stronger position to meet our financial needs this year.

Thank you for your generosity, faithfulness, and commitment to Laguna Country UMC! Your pledges and contributions are helping us care for our church home today while securing its future for generations to come.

What's Going On?



Exciting News! A Complete Audio/Visual Upgrade Is Coming to LCUMC!
Big improvements are on the way for our sanctuary worship experience!

We're excited to share some wonderful news! Following the September approval of our sanctuary sound system overhaul, the Board of Trustees voted on Sunday, October 4th, to expand the project to include a complete upgrade of our video and live-streaming system, too!
That means our entire sanctuary audio/visual (AV) system is getting a much-needed makeover! We've partnered with Capital Hope Media to create a more reliable, user-friendly system that will improve worship for everyone, whether joining us in person or online.
What's Being Improved?

- Better Sound: Repairs and upgrades to sanctuary speakers, microphones, and choir sound equipment.
- Improved Video & Live Streaming: Upgraded technology for a clearer, more reliable online worship experience.
- Simplified Technology: Removing outdated equipment and making the system easier to operate.
- Volunteer Training: Hands-on training and support for our Sunday technology team.

When Will It Happen?

Work is scheduled to begin Monday, October 26th, with the goal of having our upgraded system ready for worship on Sunday, November 8th!

Volunteers Needed!

We currently have five wonderful volunteers on our Sunday tech crew and are looking for three more! With eight volunteers, each person would generally serve just once a month. No experience is necessary, and training will be provided. Interested? Contact Pastor Brian!

Thank You!

We know the ongoing technical difficulties have been frustrating, and we're incredibly grateful for your patience and understanding. A special thank-you to our Trustees, Administrative Council, staff, and volunteers for helping make these improvements possible.
We're looking forward to clearer sound, better video, and fewer distractions so we can focus on what matters most—worshiping together and sharing God's love!

What Going On









Missions in Action:

Serving Our Neighbors

Our Missions Committee is inviting everyone to take part in two meaningful outreach opportunities this summer. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of families throughout our community.

Help Our Neighbors IN TIJUANA



- There will be an anticipated **5000** Haitians crossing into Tijuana in the next month.
- They have recently lost their Temporary Protected Status and their Work Permits in the United States.
- They will be temporarily staying in shelters and then finding places to live in Tijuana.

Sue Harris
from **Centro 32**
who's in charge of delivery, willl be here

NOVEMBER 21ST
AT 10:00 AM
to speak about the mission.

Everyone is welcome!

WE CAN HELP with that transition by providing
PEANUT BUTTER, RED BEANS, AND RICE
three of their staples.





Join Us for Rise Against Hunger!

Saturday, February 7th
3:00 – 5:00 P.M.
Santa Ana United Methodist Church

We're excited to join four other local churches in a powerful mission effort to package **40,000 meal kits** for Rise Against Hunger—a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities and nourishing lives.

- Our church has a goal to bring **40 volunteers** to help pack meals.
- We're also raising **$3,228** as our share of the event cost.
- Can you lend a hand? Whether by volunteering your time or donating toward our goal, you'll be making a meaningful impact.

Sign-up to volunteer with Frank.

Donate by dropping a check in the offering plate with Rise Against Hunger in the memo line.

Santa Ana United Methodist Church
2221 N. Grand Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Let's come together to make a difference!

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Laguna Country UMC Staff

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Richard Warne Music Director	rworglbau@aol.com