



The Viewpoint

December 2025



This Month

- Christmas Is Coming
- Meet Our Staff
- UWF Year End Report
- Missions Report

Life is full of wonders, beauty, new and old experiences, and messages that seem to appear out of nowhere. It is often during my morning walk that something surprising happens, whether it is the sudden appearance of two young coyotes resting near the pathway, the enchanting hoot of an owl, the sight of a falcon resting on a branch, or an unexpected array of gardenia blossoms in November. The other day, the autumn mist had settled over the trees in the village, some areas almost like a fog, and other areas a dreamy gray growing thicker into the distance. The vegetation close to me was clear, but as I came to a rise in the road and could see into the distance, the further I looked, the trees and buildings were less clear.

I began to wonder if this is what the season of Advent is all about. The prophets told of a time of hope, peace, and joy that would come. They talked about a kingdom. But was this only a vision into the mist, into the fog? We know that many people expected this kingdom to be one in which Israel would once again be a strong force in the world, a material kingdom with the Messiah as the ruler. This was definitely true at the time of Jesus, the Christ, and try as he would, he had a difficult time convincing people, even his disciples, that his kingdom was not "of this world," but was a kingdom of love to be developed in the hearts of humanity. They had a difficult time realizing that the love and power of God had already been placed within them and that the ministry of Jesus was to call forth this love and peace.

It seems that very few in the world have ever been able to see and understand God's ultimate plan of love and peace in the world. There seems to be a fog or mist that prevents us from understanding fully what God has planned for us as individuals and for the world. Pastor David

Continued from pg. 1

Perhaps that is the way it will always be, that in this life "we see through a glass dimly," that we live in "the cloud of unknowing." During that morning walk, I kept moving through the mist, and what was in front of me remained clear. Just so, we keep walking in faith, trusting that even as God came into the world to show us the light, God will give us the vision and insight that we need at that time. Perhaps we can trust God to give us clarity in what we need to see now, to live in this moment, and trust the future to God.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor David

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Ecclesiastes 7-9

Monday: Ecclesiastes 10-12

Tuesday: Song of Solomon 1-2

Wednesday: Song of Solomon 3-4

Thursday: Song of Solomon 5-6

Friday: Song of Solomon 7-8

Saturday: Revelation 19-22

Congratulations on reading the Bible from cover to cover in one year!

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

Christmas Trivia

Directions: Find the answers to the six categories in the group of words below.

1. Santa's reindeer

2. Things that are alive in the carol "The 12 Days of Christmas"

3. Names, according to myth, of the giver of Christmas gifts

4. Gifts of the Magi

5. Fanciful Christmas snowman

6. Christmas plants

Santa Claus					
Calling birds	Kris Kringle	Comet	Partridge	Rudolph	French hens
Frankincense	Dasher	Saint Nicholas	Pelznickel	Myrrh	Pipers
Frosty	Holly	Prancer	Ivy	Geese	Blitzen
Father Christmas	Swans	Poinsettia	Vixen	Mistletoe	Gold

Answers: 1. Comet, Rudolph, Dasher, Prancer, Blitzen, Vixen; 2. French hens, partridge, geese, swan, calling birds, pipers; 3. Santa Claus, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Pelznickel; 4. myrrh, frankincense, gold; 5. Frosty, 6. poinsettia, holly, ivy, mistletoe.



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

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

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?

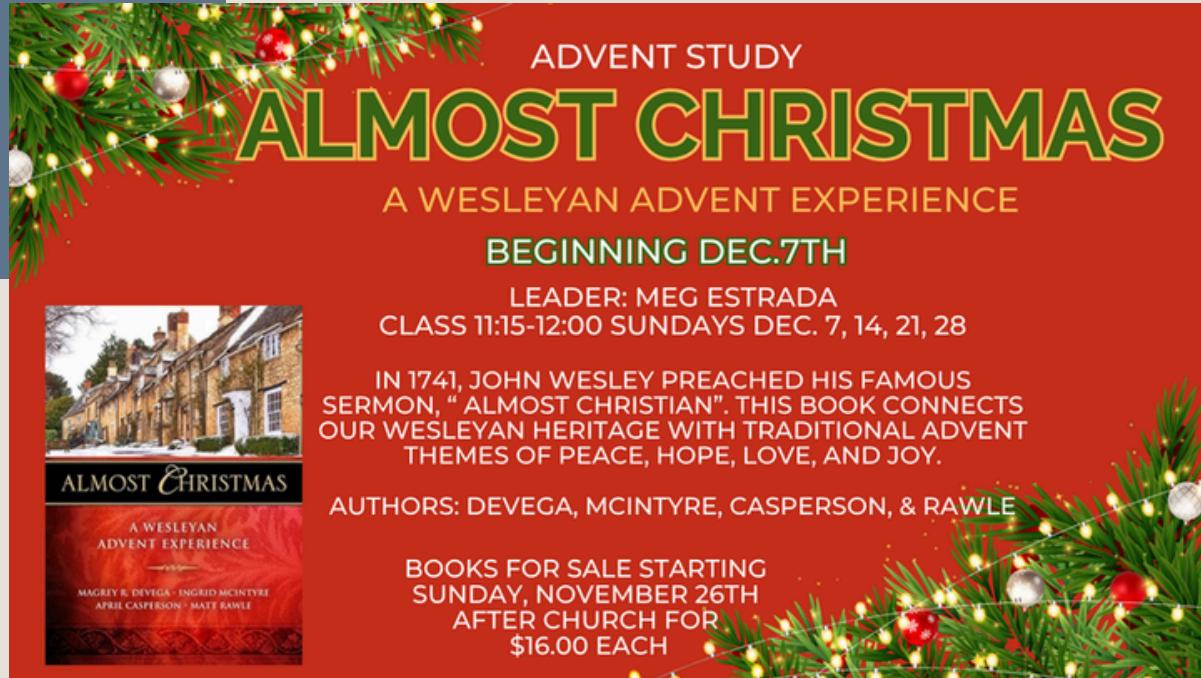
The men's group is here to help!

- ✓ 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

December 7th Rex Danford & Connie Gould
December 14th Kelly LaFee & David Forden
December 21st Art & Judy Feldra
December 28th Frank Bristol & Terri Lancey



ADVENT STUDY
ALMOST CHRISTMAS
A WESLEYAN ADVENT EXPERIENCE
BEGINNING DEC.7TH

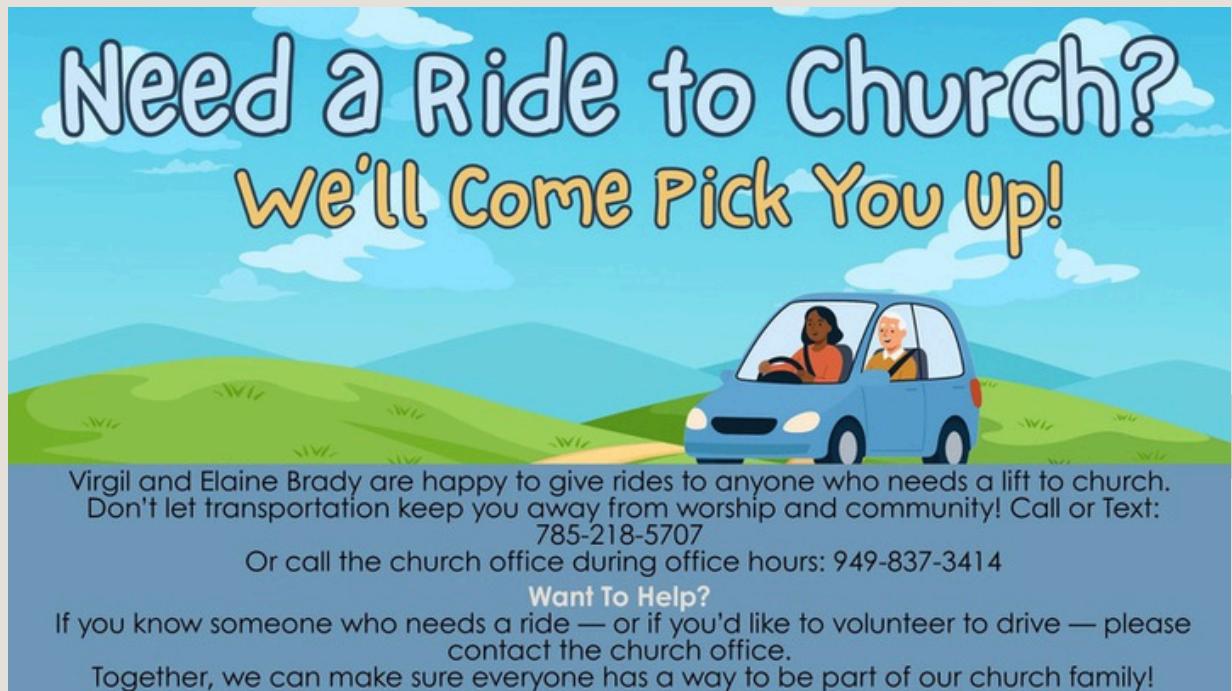
LEADER: MEG ESTRADA
CLASS 11:15-12:00 SUNDAYS DEC. 7, 14, 21, 28

IN 1741, JOHN WESLEY PREACHED HIS FAMOUS SERMON, "ALMOST CHRISTIAN". THIS BOOK CONNECTS OUR WESLEYAN HERITAGE WITH TRADITIONAL ADVENT THEMES OF PEACE, HOPE, LOVE, AND JOY.

AUTHORS: DEVEGA, MCINTYRE, CASPERSON, & RAWLE

BOOKS FOR SALE STARTING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH
AFTER CHURCH FOR
\$16.00 EACH

ALMOST & Christmas
A WESLEYAN ADVENT EXPERIENCE
MAGGY B. DEVEGA - INGRID MCINTYRE
AFRIEL CASPERSON - MATT RAWLE



Need a Ride to Church? We'll Come Pick You Up!

Virgil and Elaine Brady are happy to give rides to anyone who needs a lift to church. Don't let transportation keep you away from worship and community! Call or Text: 785-218-5707
Or call the church office during office hours: 949-837-3414

Want To Help?
If you know someone who needs a ride — or if you'd like to volunteer to drive — please contact the church office.
Together, we can make sure everyone has a way to be part of our church family!

Check out our services at

Lagunacountryumc.org
or on
Laguna Country UMC

You **Tube**

November & December Liturgist

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

Dec. 7th	Meg Estrada
Dec. 14th	Laddie Perez
Dec. 21st	Don Forden
Dec. 28th	Don Forden



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!!



December Birthdays

Ashleigh Kelly	December 5th
Jack Grinstead	December 6th
Eugenia Cross	December 9th
Kelly LaFee	December 20th
Laddie Perez	December 23rd
Pendra LaFee	December 29th
Glenn Miller	December 30th
Bonnie Thurnbauer	December 31st



December Anniversaries

Brenda & Robert Roa
December 20th

Samuel & Marilyn Nicolas
December 30th

Advent Sermon Themes

November 30th – People of Hope: Jeremiah 29:11-14; Luke 2:25-32

As we light the first Advent candle, the Candle of Hope, we remember the hope expressed by the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, who anticipated the coming of the Messiah and the restoration of Israel. The message of the prophets was both a call to righteousness and a reminder that God is always bringing new life and possibilities. In Luke's Gospel, we have the testimony of three older people: Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Simeon. All three of these held on with hope and witnessed the incarnation of God and the birth of Jesus.

December 7th – People of Peace: Isaiah 9:6-7, 26:1-3; Micah 4:3-4; Luke 2:8-14; John 14:27

There are messages of peace and promises of peace throughout the Bible, the Old and New Testaments. Many of the prophets spoke in literal and poetic form about the coming of peace, and it was Isaiah who foretold the coming of the Prince of Peace. It was the angels who brought "good news of great joy to all the people," and then were joined by a "multitude of the heavenly host" who included in their song of praise: "Peace among those he favors." We are challenged in these times of war and division to not only speak peace, but to be the peace that God would intend for the world.

December 14th – People of Love: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-31

In these scriptures, we have separate stories of Joseph and Mary, how each was visited by an angel, Joseph in a dream and Mary by the angel Gabriel. In their love of God and in obedience to what was commanded them, they followed the instructions given them. In these passages, we find ourselves challenged to live the life of love and obedience to God. This life of love often comes with unexpected direction and challenges, as it did for Joseph and Mary. We wonder if and how God is directing us today in this world of anger and hate to be obedient to the life of love.

December 21st – People of Joy – Christmas Cantata: Christmas in story and song. Psalm 16:7-9; John 15:7-11

The message of Joy for all of the world is promised in many of the writings and pronouncements of the prophets, and this joy is for everyone. Do we remember that when we sing one of our favorite Christmas Carols that we are singing "Joy to the WORLD, the Lord has come"? On this final Sunday of Advent, the choir is bringing the message of joy, joined by a small orchestra, through the beautiful music written by Joel Raney, who has used familiar carols and themes in new and exciting ways. The story and song concludes with the congregation joining in the singing of three familiar Christmas Carols. Please invite friends and acquaintances to this special service.

December 24th – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 4 pm

This special service includes the great music that welcomes the birth of the child, a reflection by Pastor David, the lighting of the Christ candle, and a time to humbly reflect on the meaning of Christ coming into our world and our lives.

December 28th – Christmastide: Matthew 2:7-15

God's faithful servant, Meg Estrada, will be leading the worship service and bringing the morning message, "Is That All?" She has designed an inspiring service that includes a reflection on the coming of the "wise men – magi" to visit the Christ child, bridging the gap between Christmas and Epiphany, which occurs on January 6th.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	2 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 Deep Cleaning 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:30pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	4 Deep Cleaning 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	5 Deep Cleaning 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	6 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 12:00pm AA Funeral
7 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:15am Advent Study 2:00pm OK Chorale & Tremble Clefs Concert	8 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Worship Committee Meeting 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Non-Competitive Bridge 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	9 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:30pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	11 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	12 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	13 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am Millennial Choir 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 2:00pm Fellowship Prep
14 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time- Christmas Cookies 11:00am Adult Sunday School 2:00pm Christmas Caroling	15 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	16 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:30pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	18 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	19 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	20 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am Men's Group 9:30am WW Meeting 10:30am UWF Meeting
21 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Christmas Cantata 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School	22 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Non-Competitive Bridge 4:00pm Blue Christmas Service 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	23 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:30pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	25 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	26 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	27 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting
28 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School	29 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	30 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:30pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir			

Fellowship Opportunities



CHRISTMAS caroling to the homebound
SUNDAY, DEC 14TH 2:00 p.m.
RSVP to the office 949.837.3414 or office.lcumc@gmail.com



The Gathering
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.



JOIN US FOR A
Christmas
Cookie
Fellowship
December 14th
After the service, we'll gather for a sweet time of fellowship!
Bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share — festive favorites or your best homemade recipe.
Let's celebrate the season together with cookies, coffee, and community!



Non-Competitive Bridge
December 8th & 22nd 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)!

Christmas at LCUMC

*Christmas in
Song & Story*

December 21st
9:30 a.m.

Sing We Noel
5 Christmas Suites for SATB Choir
Composed & arranged by Joel Raney
Arrangements by Joel Raney & Bill Morgan
HOM 2000

Laguna Country UMC
24442 Moulton Pkwy.
Laguna Woods
949.887.7414
lagunacountryumc.org

You're Invited to a Magical Evening!
CHRISTMAS EVE
*Candlelight
SERVICE*

Wednesday, December 24
4:00 p.m.
Laguna Country UMC
24442 Moulton Pkwy.
Laguna Woods, CA
92637

Join us for a heartwarming night filled with peace, hope, and joy! Let the soft glow of candlelight, uplifting carols, and a message of love guide you into the spirit of the season.

All are welcome to celebrate the birth of Christ

For more details, visit: www.lagunacountryumc.org or 949.310.8739

*Blue
Christmas
Service*

December 22nd
at 3:00 p.m.

JOIN US FOR A CONTEMPLATIVE
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE—A QUIET,
COMFORTING TIME OF WORSHIP
OFFERING SPACE FOR REFLECTION,
HEALING, & HOPE FOR THOSE WHO
ARE HURTING THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON.

*Ho Ho
Holiday Concert*

December 7th 2:00 pm
Featuring holiday favorites performed by:
OK Chorale a choir for people with dementia & their care partners
Tremble Clefs therapeutic singing group for people with Parkinson's disease and their care partners
with special guest: *8 is Enough*

Laguna Country UMC
24442 Moulton Pkwy.
Laguna Woods, CA
92637

The concert is free!
Your tax deductible donation is welcome

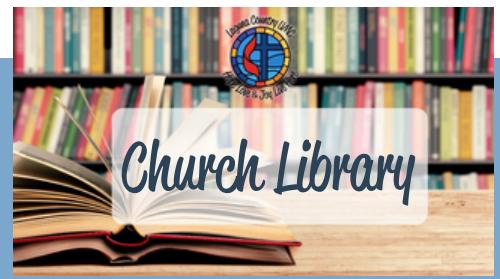
Tremble Clefs is a program of PEP4U a 501(c)3 & The OK Chorale is a ministry of Laguna Country UMC

A Santa Claus figure wearing a striped shirt and red suspenders is singing into a microphone. He is surrounded by Christmas decorations like holly leaves and berries.

Volunteers Needed

Each Thursday at 10:30 a.m., we lead 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.



United Women in Faith

Christmas Gathering

We'll celebrate the season by enjoying a luncheon & singing Carols.

AT 11:30 AM 13th DECEMBER

at the home of Sherry Atkins

This Year: Give with Purpose!

Instead of a White Elephant gift, bring a donation for Orangewood Foundation, supporting youth facing homelessness and aging out of foster care.

Shampoo	Conditioner
Lotion	Deep Treatment Oil
Styling Gel/Cream	Deodorant
Toothpaste	Toothbrush
Loofahs	Leave-in Conditioner
Pads/Tampons	Pads
Wide Tooth Comb	Detangling Brush

Thank you for your generosity!

All women are welcome!
RSVP to the office
or Sherry Atkins

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 —

Ashleigh Kelly, Administrator

Pastor David: Tell me about where you come from and your family.

Ashleigh: I was born in La Mirada, CA, and we lived in Whitter until I was 4, when the Whitter Earthquake moved our house off its foundation. That was my first memory, "surfing on my bed." We moved to Laguna Niguel. My mother's grandmother immigrated from Holland. Both of my parents were born in California, and I have one sister, eight years younger than I. I would say my childhood was fantastic. "I won the lottery with my parents."

I sometimes say, "I was raised by Methodist hippies, open, liberal." They were intentional about raising independent children. I went to several colleges, with a degree in media arts, and actually had my first job in graphic design when I was fourteen. Most of the people know my youngest son, Bray, who has been with me in the church office since he was born 4 years ago.

My daughter, Sadie, is a Freshman at the University of Idaho, Chandler, 15, is a Sophomore in High School, and Dermott, 10, is in the fifth grade.

Pastor David: Besides graphic design, where have you worked?

Ashleigh: I worked in retail, then as a server and bartender, and at age 21 started my church career at La Habra UMC as a youth director, a position I have had in several churches. I had been backpacking through Europe, ran out of money. My parents told me I had a job as a youth minister and brought me home. My parents became United Methodists when I was in second grade. My best friend and I had gotten "in trouble," and her father was a UMC pastor. The two sets of parents became best friends. I am now working part-time as the Youth Director at Aldersgate UMC in Tustin.

Pastor David: What is your history with Laguna Country UMC?

Ashleigh: I was a member at Sea Country UMC when that church merged with Laguna Hills UMC and became Laguna Country UMC. I was in the eighth grade. Terri Lancey had been my Sunday School teacher at Sea Country UMC.



What's Going On

Meet Our Staff

Pastor David: What are your basic duties as Church Administrator at LCUMC?

Ashleigh: I used to say, "I do everything but preach." I came to work here in 2018 and am responsible for all print work, graphics, and email publications: bulletin, Viewpoint, Current Happenings, marketing for the church, posters, and publicity. I manage the purchasing, billing, reimbursements, contractors, and vendors. I coordinate the use of our facilities and scheduling. I keep membership attendance and records, attend a variety of committee meetings, and see that food is available when needed. I am the first contact in the church office, supporting various programs and administrative committees. I receive the comments, concerns, compliments, and grievances of members.

Pastor David: What do you like about your job?

Ashleigh: I love the people. I am a "total people person." I love this congregation. People are loving, open, and willing to do what it takes to build the church. It feels like the church is waking up.

Pastor David: What do you find challenging?

Ashleigh: I have lots of ideas, but I find it hard to find time to implement them. I have been working in churches for a long time and have experienced so much.

Pastor David: A favorite Bible verse or song?

Ashleigh: My favorite Praise Song is "You Make Beautiful Things" (out of us, out of dust) by Gungor. It is tattooed on my foot.

Pastor David: A word for the church?

Ashleigh: I want the congregation to know that they are so incredible, so capable, and do more, even at their age, than members in most churches.

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!

Missions

Year-End Report by: Frank Bristol, Mission Chair

In my first year as mission chairperson, it has been a privilege to help guide our church family at Laguna Country United Methodist in supporting those in need. Much of this work was inspired by Laddie Perez, whose encouragement helped shape our mission goals. Thank you, Laddie! When I began, I wasn't sure where to start. Several members shared ideas and past projects, though many had been paused in recent years due to COVID-19, changes in leadership, and shifting circumstances. With Pastor David Atkins' support, I stepped into this role, and together we moved forward.

In February, we began two mission efforts: Centro 32 and Salavision. Centro 32, a nonprofit in Tijuana, received 10 to 12 boxes of food and towels, which were brought to Park Hill UMC in Chula Vista. Rev. Joey Hortiales warmly welcomed the donations. Scott, thank you for making that long drive with me.

At the same time, we supported Salavision, which assists asylum seekers and migrants who had been detained and had items like shoelaces taken for safety reasons. We collected shoelaces, clothes, and shoes, filling a large box that I mailed myself.

After a short break, we resumed with supplies for Sherman Indian School in Riverside. From June to mid-August, we gathered backpacks, school supplies, towels, ramen, peanut butter, and snacks. With your generosity, we assembled 14 boxes and delivered them to the Native American UMC in Anaheim. Thank you to Don for joining me on that trip.

In September, many of us joined four other churches at Santa Ana UMC for the Rise Against Hunger event. Together, we packaged more than 40,000 meals for the Philippines, finishing in under two hours. It was a meaningful time of working side by side.

This November, we collected oatmeal, rice, and beans for Centro 32 once again. Despite a shorter deadline, your quick response filled six boxes, which Scott and I delivered to University UMC in Irvine.

So far this year, we've completed four donation projects and the Rise Against Hunger event. We will close the year with our Angel Tree, gathering gift cards for Western Youth Services.

Thank you to everyone who contributed food, clothing, supplies, and encouragement. I may guide the work, but it is your generosity that makes our missions possible. Each of you plays a part, and I am grateful for every effort. More mission opportunities are ahead. Thank you again, and God bless.





Year-End Report by Laddie Perez

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.

As another year draws to a close, members are encouraged to reflect on their experiences: What worked well? What did not work, and why? Did the local unit achieve its goals for 2025? As we look ahead to 2026, consideration is given to how the unit will continue to inspire, influence, and impact others.

Despite being small in numbers and facing the challenges of aging, Laguna Country UW Faith has accomplished much. For the third consecutive year, the unit will be recognized as a 5-Star Mission Giving Unit. Contributions were made through Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering. The annual pledge of \$1,200 was met. Additional collections included \$221 for Call to Prayer and Self Denial and \$300 for World Thank Offering, totaling \$1,721 sent to the South District UW Faith. The unit also donated \$200 to the Rise Against Hunger project and provided support to UMCOR, New Entra Casa, and Laura House. While financial resources may be tight, members feel blessed and continue to share those blessings generously.

Kim and Howard Lee were recognized and honored as the 2025 Quiet Disciples. A Candle of Commitment was lit at the California-Pacific Conference UWFaith's Annual Celebration on October 18 at First UMC of North Hollywood, acknowledging the dedications and contributions of the honorees. Laura Daillak was Laguna Country UW Faith's honoree.

Laguna Country UW Faith may qualify for the Reading Program Plan I. Members who have read books from the UW Faith Library are encouraged to email Laddie Perez at laddieperezgalang@gmail.com with the titles they have read to assist in compiling the list. For more information about the Reading Program, Meg Estrada is available to provide details.



United
Women
in Faith

ASSEMBLY 2026

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

Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!

During the November 15 meeting, the following officers were elected for 2026:

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

Special thanks are extended to these women for their willingness to serve, ensuring the continuation of United Women in Faith's mission. Appreciation is also given to Kim Lee for serving as Bookkeeper and Eloise Boortz as Program Resource Coordinator.

The incoming Leadership Team is excited to plan events and activities for 2026. Plans include inviting guest speakers, attending district and conference events, taking field trips, and possibly attending the UW Faith Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana, from May 15-17, 2026. Regular meetings will continue on the third Saturday of each month, with the first meeting scheduled for January 17, 2026. Members are encouraged to share ideas or suggest activities with any Leadership Team member.

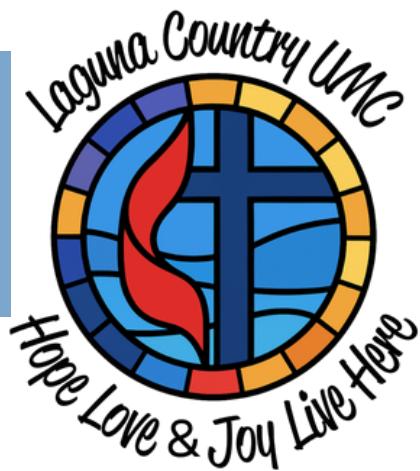
Everyone is invited to mark their calendars for January 25, 2026, which will be celebrated as UWFaith Sunday. More information will be provided as the date approaches.

Laguna Country UW Faith will celebrate the year with a Christmas gathering on Saturday, December 13, at the home of Pastor David and Sherry Atkins. In place of a traditional White Elephant gift exchange, members will collect gifts for the Orangewood Foundation, an organization serving young people experiencing homelessness and those aging out of foster care. Requested items include shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, lotion, body wash or soap, and feminine hygiene products. For further details, Meg Estrada can provide more information.

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

Laddie Perez, Incoming President





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