



The Viewpoint

November 2025



This Month

- Friendship Gate Service
- Hanging of The Greens
- Christmas Is Coming
- Meet Our Staff

I don't know if it is because we are moving toward Thanksgiving or if it is because I have been focusing on the Generous Giving Campaign here at LCUMC, but I have been thinking about some special people who have blessed my life with their generosity. I think of Del and Norene Fiedler of Central Christian Church in Walla Walla, Washington where I was the associate pastor from 1965-1967. This wonderful couple welcomed Sherry and me into their family and invited us to come to their home every Sunday after the evening service for popcorn and pinochle. They mentored us through the first two years of our marriage and service in the church and became the Godparents for our first child.

I think of Rae Rickard, the secretary of First Congregation Church in Oakland, CA who gave us great support during our fifteen years in Oakland, especially at the birth of our first child. She rescued me financially when, as a young pastor, I totally blew my responsibilities in publicizing an ecumenical event and threw us into debt. I think of Mr. and Mrs. Dorweiller in Bakersfield who secretly and generously included me in their will, giving us an amount which provided the downpayment for a cabin in the mountains. That second home became an amazing gathering place for friends and family for eighteen years.

There are so many more who generously enriched our lives, financially, spiritually, and relationally, during our thirty seven years in Bakersfield, and the seven years we have lived in Laguna Woods. Yes, we know the generosity of God. We also know the generosity that comes through God's people. Let us give thanks for them.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor David

PREPARING FOR OUR OWN DEATH

IN THOUGHT AND ACTION

New Adult Sunday School Study
in the Wesley Room



November 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd
Led by Don Forden

Usher Schedule

November 2nd Rex Danford & Connie Gould
November 9th Kelly LaFee & David Forden
November 16th Frank Bristol & Terri Lancey
November 23rd Art & Judy Feldra
November 30th Rex Danford & Lulu Emery



Charge Conference

November 30th
11:00 a.m.



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

Sermon Themes

November 2nd The Generosity of God **Genesis 1:26-31; Romans 8:31-32**

The scriptures are full of statements of the generosity of God. From the story of creation in Genesis through the letters of Paul, we read of God's provisions for vegetation, animal life, and humankind. The Psalms declare the goodness of God. The God of all people provides sun and rain, seasons of harvest, and the presence of the Holy Spirit to fill and guide all of humanity. God's love is lavished upon the earth.

November 9th The Generosity of God's People **I Chronicles 29:6-13; Acts 2:44-47; II Corinthians 8:1-4**

The people of Israel responded generously when asked to make freewill offerings for the building of the temple and King David responded with a song of praise. The Christian scriptures describe how the early Christians would sell their possessions and distribute the proceeds to any who had need, a true communal. Paul praises the church in Corinth for their generosity even in the midst of extreme poverty, first giving of themselves.

November 16th Generosity Changes the World **Leviticus 19:9-10; II Chronicles 31:5-10; II Corinthians 9:6-12**

The Israelite farmers were instructed to not reap from the edges of the field so that the poor and needy could also have food. This theme continues in the effects of generosity, that there would be enough to eat and to spare. Paul reminds the Church in Corinth that God is able "to provide you with every blessing in abundance," so that they can share abundantly. We plant, but God increases the harvest.

November 23rd Celebration of Generosity: Presentation of Commitment Cards **Psalm 34:1-10; Philippians 4:15-20**

The Psalm of David is one of celebration of the blessings of God. It is full of familiar statements, like "taste and see that the Lord is good," ending with this phrase: "Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing." Paul celebrates the faithfulness of the church providing for him at his time of need, closing with: "And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours..."

November 30th First Sunday in Advent – The People of Hope **Isaiah 9:1-2,6-9; Luke 2:25-38**

There are many references to Jesus, the Christ in the Hebrew scriptures, for there was a longing, a waiting for the coming of the Messiah. The Christian writings in the Gospels constantly refer to the words in the Psalms and the Prophets who spoke of the one who was to come and save the people. And then, in the Gospel of Luke we have Simeon and Anna, who in their old age waited for the coming of the Christ – all people of hope.

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	Sherry Atkins



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!!



November Birthdays

Lynn Burney	November 07
Rex Danford	November 07
Kathy Ritsema	November 08
Shirley Schneider	November 12
Elaine Brady	November 26
Donna Kish	November 26
Maureen Villanueva	November 26
Marcus Cross	November 30

November Anniversaries

Frank & Thelma Bristol
November 7th



The Historian

Preserving Today for Tomorrow

Volume 3 Number 1

Friendship Gate

During the inception of Leisure World, the Rossmoor Corporation donated land on the community's perimeter to various religious denominations, recognizing the marketing value of easy access to various churches for the age group they were trying to attract.

In 1966, as a result of receiving complaints from residents about making long walks on busy traffic streets to attend religious services, Golden Rain agreed to install gates for the benefit of residents attending the four houses of worship located adjacent to Leisure World's walls. The churches and temple paid for the construction, administration and upkeep of these gates. The original concept was that Leisure World

See Friendship Gate - Page 7



Friendship Gate provides evidence that peace and harmony that can exist between people of different faiths.

January - February 2009



FRIENDSHIP GATE SERVICE

Celebrating Unity Between Faiths
Temple Judea & Laguna Country UMC



November 23rd
3:00 p.m.
at
Laguna Country
24442 Moulton Pkwy.
Laguna Woods



January - February 2009

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Brotherhood Gate, pictured in 1986, provided access for vehicles and pedestrians between Avenida Carmel and the parking lots of Temple Judea and the United Methodist Church.

Courtesy Leisure World News

Friendship Gate (from Page 1)

Security would open the gate to allow access to the church whenever a church activity was scheduled to take place. These gates were locked at other times, and when open were checked by Security officers. After they written authorization from their church or temple, individual residents were issued keys to these gates.

On Sunday, June 22, 1969 the Congregations of the United Methodist Church and Temple Judea united in a service of memorial and dedication of "The Brotherhood Gate," a gift to the two congregations by the late Paul I. Wynhausen, a member of Temple Judea.

"The Brotherhood Gate" opened into the parking lots of Temple Judea and the United Methodist Church from Avenida Carmel. Pedestrian gates flanked either side of the entrance, each appropriately identified with a Star of David and the Christian Cross.

Mounted on each side was a bronze plaque on which was inscribed the words from Exodus 3:5: "For the place whereon thou standest is holy ground," one in Hebrew and one in English.

At the dedication, the Methodist Church presented a framed memorial plaque to Temple Judea which read: "to the Glory of God, a special gift of a Brotherhood Gate has been presented by Paul I. Wynhausen and directed to man's concern for Holy Ground shared by Temple Judea and the United Methodist Church of Laguna Hills."

There was also an access gate to St. Nicholas Catholic

Church from United Mutual and a gate to the Lutheran Church of the Cross from Third Mutual. Unfortunately, gates permitted ingress and egress to and from Leisure World to those attending houses of worship also provided a path to those seeking a short cut to commercial enterprises on both Moulton Parkway and El Toro Road.

By 1985, it became obvious that these gates represented a significant security risk to Leisure World. At one time an estimated 1,770 keys were at large and there were numerous incidents of residents propping the gates open or leaving their keys in the gate locks.

After a series of tumultuous meetings and gatherings in late 1985 and January 1986, United and Third Mutuals voted to brick up the walls and remove the gates. In the case of The Brotherhood Gate, the Methodist Church and Temple Judea were given the option to determine the disposition of the physical remains of their gate.

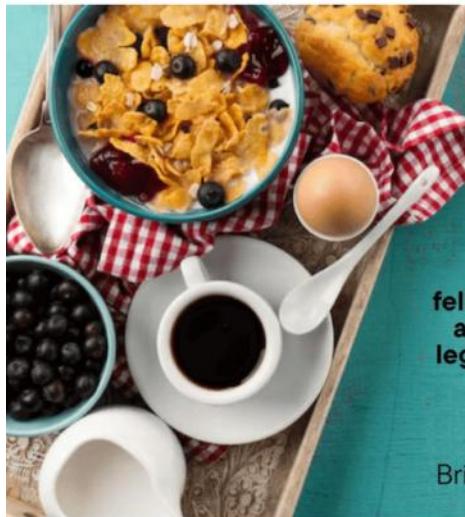
It was then decided that the gate—to be called the "Friendship Gate"—would be used as a symbol of the spirit of cooperation that existed between the church and the temple, to provide physical evidence of the peace and harmony between two different faiths worshiping God in their own way and living side by side.

It is in that spirit that both congregations gather annually at a joint service on a Sunday afternoon to celebrate the meaning of Friendship Gate.

Fellowship Opportunities



Fellowship Opportunities



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 15th
9:30AM

Join us for a morning of food, fellowship, and reflection. Let's talk about how to live - and leave - a legacy that tells a story of purpose, impact, and faith

Don Forden, Speaker

Bring a friend, an appetite, and an open heart!

The Gathering

Free Lunch for 1st time guest

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.

CHILI & CORNBREAD
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9TH
During fellowship time

Join us after Sunday's service for a warm bowl of homemade chili and fresh cornbread! Stay for good food, friendly faces, and great conversation. Everyone's welcome!

Non-Competitive Bridge
November 10th & 24th
at 12:30 p.m.
In the Wesley Room

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

Oso Creek Trail
ALL CHURCH WALK
Sunday, November 16th
Meet at church at 1:00 p.m. to carpool
We are going to the Oso Creek Trail

Shuffle, Deal, and Laugh a Little!

Love playing bridge but not the pressure of high-stakes games? Join our church bridge group for fun, fellowship, and plenty of laughter. We're all about good cards, good company, and maybe even a few good snacks.

No trophies, no stress—just friends around the table. Come play a hand (or two)!

United Women in Faith

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



United Women in Faith

WORLD THANK OFFERING

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

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

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

Some of our members have been collecting for this offering during the year. Our November UWF meeting on **November 15th at 10:30 a.m.** will feature a program and an offering for this ministry.

Blessings, Meg Estrada
Secretary UWF

Prayer Shawl Group

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

Call me if you need more information.

Blessings on your work!

Meg
949-702-1835



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.

November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:00am AA Small Group Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting
2 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Adult Study	3 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 2:30pm Fellowship Committee Meeting 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	4 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	6 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	7 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	8 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 10:00am AA Traditions Play
9 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Adult Study	10 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Worship Committee 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Non-Competitive Bridge 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	11 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	13 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	14 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	15 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am Men's Group 9:30am WW Meeting 10:30am UWF
16 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Adult Study 1:00pm All Church Walk	17 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 5:00pm Choir Prep 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	18 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Admin. Council Meeting	19 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 11:00am Faith, Film, & Feast 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	20 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	21 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	22 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am Millennial Choir 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting 10:30am Vision Team Meeting 6:00pm Rambling Rouges
23 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Adult Study 3:00pm Friendship Gate Service	24 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Non-Competitive Bridge 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	25 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 11:30am Lunch Bunch 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	27 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 1:00pm 8 is Enough	28 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am WW Meeting 11:30am The Gathering	29 10:00 a.m. Hanging Of The Greens 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:00am WW Meeting 9:30am WW Meeting
30 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 11:00am Charge Conference 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Adult Study						

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 19:11–41;
2 Corinthians 1-3
Monday: Ezra 5-7
Tuesday: Ezra 8-10
Wednesday: Nehemiah 1-3
Thursday: Nehemiah 4-6
Friday: Nehemiah 7-9
Saturday: Psalms 124-126

Verse to Remember

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. —Psalm 126:5-6

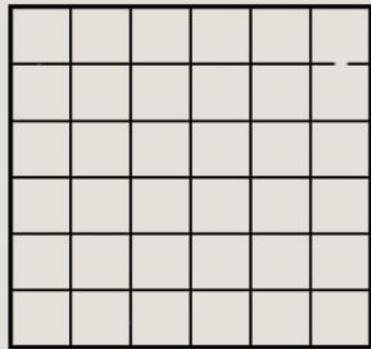
November 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

WORD SHUFFLE

S	O	R	E	L	Y
M	U	S	T	E	R
C	A	M	E	R	A
F	L	A	M	E	S
S	T	O	L	E	N
W	A	I	T	E	R

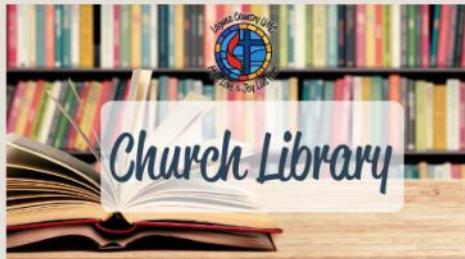
Notice that the diagonal letters in the box to the left spell SUMMER. Shuffle the order of the words so the same diagonal spells WARMER.



Church T-Shirts Available



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



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!

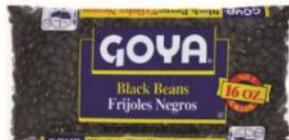
The following is the needs list for the asylum seekers and deportees in Tijuana:

South Of The Border Essential Needs Collection

Rice



Dry beans (pinto, black, or red)



Oatmeal (Old Fashioned Oatmeal)



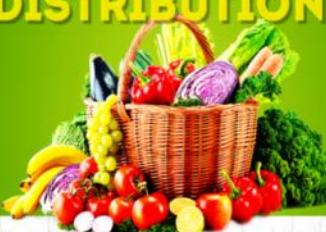
Dial-a-Devotion

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

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

 **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!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Barber ✓ Gardening ✓ Carpentry ✓ Cleaning ✓ Climbing a ladder ✓ Handy Man Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Light Maintenance ✓ Mapping ✓ Painting ✓ Photography ✓ Transportation ✓ and much more...
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Call or email the church office to set up an appointment
949.837.3414 or office.lcumc@gmail.com

Christmas is Coming



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**

The concert is free!
Your tax deductible donation is welcome

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

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





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



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!



CHRISTMAS caroling to the homebound
SUNDAY, DEC 14TH 2:00 p.m.

RSVP to the office 949.837.3414 or office.lcumc@gmail.com



Christmas Cantata
Sing We
Noel

December 21st



During the 9:30 a.m. service

What's Going On



In an effort to be supportive of the Kaida Childcare Center, our Trustees have granted them permission to place a banner above our permanent sign on Moulton Parkway. A permanent sign for the Center will be placed near our sign but will not block it.

What Your Generous Giving Supports

Laguna Country UMC has provided worship and services to this community and beyond for sixty-one years. Twenty-seven years ago we supported a new Korean Congregation financially and with a space to worship and grow. Generous giving through the years has made it possible to build and maintain these aging church facilities which are now used by our two congregations and many outside groups. Generous giving provides opportunities for volunteers to engage in support of worship, fellowship, education, missions, outreach, men and women's groups, and the church office. In addition to the appointment of a full-time pastor (David Atkins), generous giving provides financial support for other staff members: Church Administrator (Ashleigh Kelly), Music Director (Richard Warne), Custodian (Joe Pring), Director of Technology (Michael Beu), and the new position of Handy Man (Roger Gillette). As part of a connectional church, our generous giving is shared with mission work outside of our church and the support of district and conference staff and ministries. In some ways we appear to be a small church, but because of generous giving, we have a large impact in the world.

Choir Loft and Choir Risers

You may have noticed changes in the choir loft. Because the space has been filled in where the organ was previously placed, the bell choir has spread out into a semi-circle. With the help of Richard, music director, risers for the choir are being designed by Rodelio Villanueva. Bids for the construction will be requested. Previously donated funds will support this plus new chairs for the choir.



Office Hours

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

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

Office Hours With Our Church Administrator

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

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

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



What's Going On

Meet Our Staff

By: Pastor David

Richard Warne, Director Of Music

Pastor: Tell me where you are from originally and a little about your family of origin.

Richard: I was born in Glendale, CA March 24, 1941. My mother was from Toronto, CA and my father from Oregon. I have a younger sister who lives in Spokane. When I was about 8, my father, an electrical engineer, bought five acres of Pecan Trees near Northridge. We lived in tents for a year while we built a garage in which we lived until we built a concrete block house. I helped build the house.

Pastor: Tell me about your professional career.

Richard: Early on, like 7, I wanted to play the piano, I don't know why, and we didn't have one so I walked one quarter mile on dirt roads to practice at a home of a family who raised walnuts and other tree nuts. I helped the man in his orchards, mowed lawn, but kept walking down there to practice until I was in my teens. My first public performance was "Moonlight Sonata" at the age of 10 at a PTA meeting. I was very nervous. The coaches would not let me play sports for fear of injuring my hands, so I sat on the bench. At the age of 11 we were at a Barker Brothers store where a pipe organ was being played. I loved the sound and thought, "I have to do that." The Lutheran Church where the family attended had an organ, so I started playing it and at 11 was playing for church. I was so nervous that I couldn't eat breakfast Sunday mornings.

I went to Cal State Northridge, working toward an engineering degree, but wanted to study electrical engineering, so transferred to Pierce College. I became the accompanist for various choral groups. I intended to return to CSN in engineering, but the choral director insisted that I attend the USC school of music. She made arrangements for that, and without applying, I was sent a letter of admission from the dean.

Pastor: When and how did you get connected with Laguna Country UMC?

Richard: It was by accident. I had seen the church before moving into Laguna Woods Village and thought, "Sometime I have to go by there." In February of 2011 I decided to attend worship. The lady greeting me asked about my history as Music Director at Hollywood United Methodist for over 40 years, took me to Jack Hammen who took me to Rev. James Dollins who asked me to play for a funeral that week. I was then asked to submit a resume for the position of Music Director, the first resume of my life. I started with the choir, and it grew to 27 people.



What's Going On

Meet Our Staff

Pastor: What are your basic duties here at LCUMC?

Richard: All the music. Never had a job description. I still don't. I started with the choir, then directing the bells, then all the service music. Organization and communication are always at the center. I believe in long term planning. I still practice. At 84 I ask, "How long can I do this?" I will just keep going and see how long it lasts.

Pastor: What are some of the highlights while working at LCUMC?

Richard: Working with people who are older. People have wisdom and life experience. Here people have gone through life, but it is interesting to see how people who are older can pick up new things

Pastor: What do you like about your job?

Richard: I just love making music and I love sharing that with people. I like working with people who have no music background and see what they can do at 75 or 80 years of age. Music can bridge boundaries. I like working with a pastor who is a musician.

Pastor: What do you find challenging?

Richard: Working with whoever comes through the door. It is different every week. I try to remain flexible.

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

Richard: That keeps changing because I am not the same every day. I like the passage that says, "Do not be anxious about anything." I like the passage in Colossians, that says to let the Peace of Christ rule in your hearts...be thankful...sing to God with thankfulness in your heart. I like to go to ChatGPT and find verses that express where I am at the moment.

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

Richard: Be inclusive. We are an embracing congregation regardless of what people believe. You can be your individual spoke in the wheel and still be part of the wheel. The more spokes there are, the more strength in the wheel. All lead to Christ at the Center.



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