September 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,

As I reflect on our first month and a half together at Laguna Country UMC, I am filled with deep gratitude for the immense warmth and hospitality you have shown my family and me. It is abundantly clear that this is a community rooted in deep faith, rich history, and generous hearts.

In my conversations with many of you, I have been struck by the decades of faithful service and wisdom represented in these pews. I know that in seasons of change, it can be tempting to think, "I've done my part; it's time for others to take over," but please hear me clearly: your ministry is vital. Discipleship doesn't have a retirement age, and God is nowhere near finished with you, nor with us. No matter what chapter of life you find yourself in, your presence, wisdom, and gifts are essential to the health of this Body of Christ. We need all of us, together.

As we move through our worship together this summer, you will notice a steady thread running beneath our sermons: an invitation to choose hope over fear. This isn't about dismissive platitudes that tell us to pretend we never feel anxious or uncertain. It's about recognizing our very real fears, anxieties, and transitions, and choosing to trust that God is walking through them with us. The world feeds on anxiety and self-preservation, but the Gospel calls us into the expansive, courageous freedom of grace and community.

I am excited for what God is doing—and will continue to do—in our midst. Thank you for walking this journey with me as we step forward into this next chapter together.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Brian James Tipton

Rev. Dr. Brian Tipton



Meet Pastor Brian!

We're so excited to welcome Pastor Brian and his family to Laguna Country UMC!

Laguna Country UMC
Hope Love & Joy Live Here

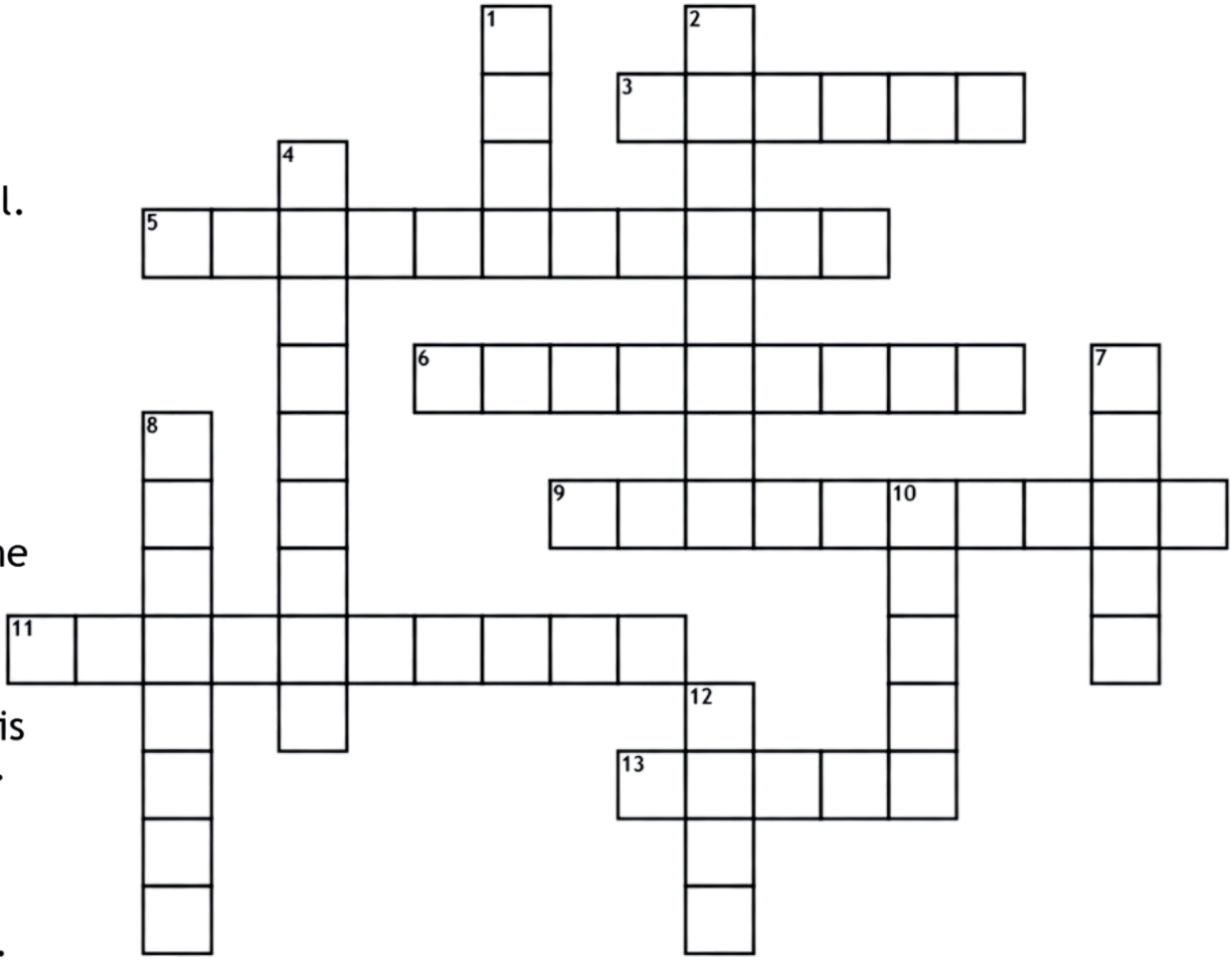
Get to know him better by solving this crossword puzzle!

Across

3. Superpower he'd choose
5. His first job was as a _____ for youth basketball.
6. One word that describes his ministry.
9. Favorite hobby
11. Favorite dessert
13. One of his favorite books of the Bible.

Down

1. Favorite Bible verse is found in this Gospel, chapter 14.
2. Favorite NBA team
4. Grew up in this Orange County city.
7. What he always has on his desk.
8. Favorite national park.
10. Favorite food
12. Favorite season



Bring your completed puzzle to the office *for a prize!*

Thank you for being part of our church family!

Grow In Faith

Studies & Classes at Laguna Country UMC

Learn more. Grow deeper. Walk together.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Honoring the Shift

why change isn't the *End of Your Story*



STARTS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH & SEPTEMBER 6TH

WHERE
After Fellowship Time in the Wesley Room

FOR EVERYONE
All are welcome to join this encouraging and practical class.

MAKING SENSE OF *life transitions.*

Life is full of changes—some expected, and some not. This class offers encouragement, perspective, and faith-filled tools to help you navigate transitions with hope and purpose.

TAUGHT BY
DAVID FORDEN

Come grow in faith and discover that change can be a new beginning.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Discover what
truly matters in life.

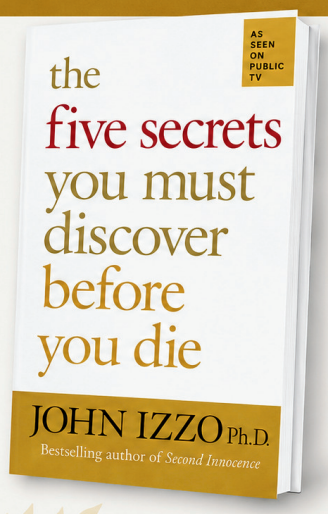
Join us for a six-week journey of discovery and insight based on John Izzo's powerful and inspiring book.

STARTING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
after fellowship time

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

TAUGHT BY
DAVID ATKINS

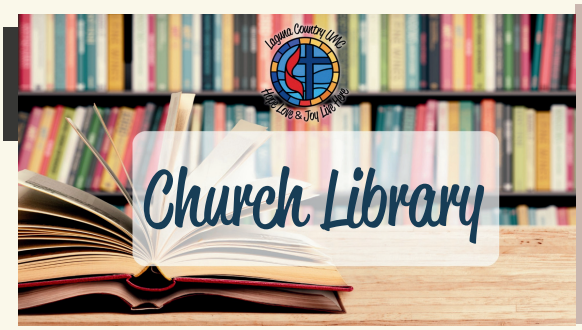
Join us for this life-changing study and take the next step on your spiritual journey!



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.



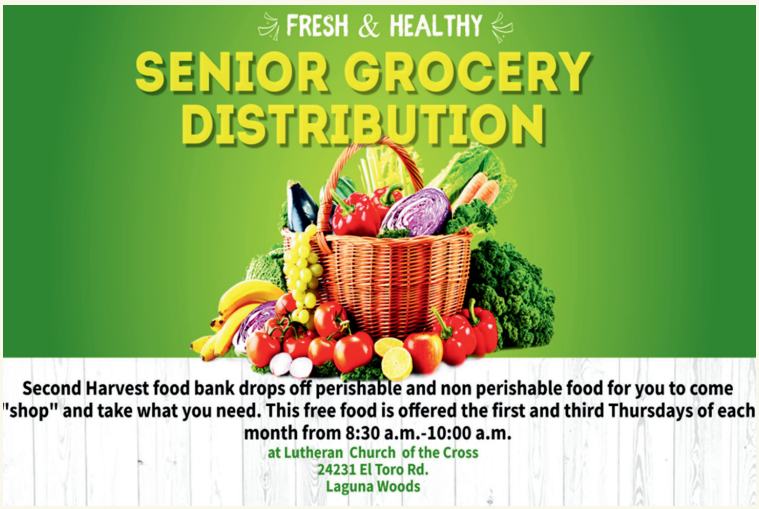
Help Us Start Our Church Library!

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

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





September Anniversaries

Brian & Sharon Holmes	September 2nd
Kelly & Pendra LaFee	September 5th
Leyla & Omid	September 23rd
Steve & Ashleigh Kelly	September 28th
Howard & Kim Lee	September 29th

September Liturgist

September 6th	Frank Bristol
September 13th	Marilyn Nicolas
September 20th	Meg Estrada
September 27th	Laura Daillak

September Birthdays

Bray Kelly	September 6th
Joseph Childers	September 11th
Sally Villanueva	September 16th
Shaylee Nguyen	September 17th
Howard Lee	September 21st
Don Forden	September 23rd
Rhonda Desanti	September 24th
Judy Feldra	September 24th
Kim Lee	September 24th
Laura Daillak	September 27th
Sue Hicklin	September 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

September 6th	Sue Hicklin & David Forden
September 13th	Judy & Art Feldra
September 20th	Amir Atefvahid & Marilyn Nicolas
September 27th	Frank Bristol &Teri Lancey



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.

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30am AA 9:30am Bell Practice 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW 7:00pm Scouts	2 6:30am AA 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula 7:00pm Choir	3 6:30am AA 9:30am WW 1:00pm 8 is Enough	4 6:30am AA 8:00am WW 9:30am WW 11:30am The Gathering	5 6:30am AA 8:00am WW 9:30am WW
6 6:30am AA 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	7 6:30am AA 12:00pm Al-Anon 2:30pm Fellowship Committee 7:00pm AA	8 6:30am AA 9:30am Bell Practice 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW 7:00pm Admin Council Meeting 7:00pm Scouts	9 6:30am AA 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula 7:00pm Choir	10 6:30am AA 9:30am WW 1:00pm 8 is Enough	11 6:30am AA 8:00am WW 9:30am WW 11:30am The Gathering	12 6:30am AA 8:00am WW 9:30am WW
13 6:30am AA 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship-Salads 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	14 6:30am AA 10:30am Worship Committee 12:00pm Al-Anon 12:00pm Non-Competitive Bridge 7:00pm AA	15 6:30am AA 9:30am Bell Practice 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW 7:00pm Scouts	16 6:30am AA 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula 7:00pm Choir	17 6:30am AA 9:30am WW 1:00pm 8 is Enough	18 6:30am AA 8:00am WW 9:30am WW 11:30am The Gathering	19 6:30am AA 8:00am WW 9:30am Men's Group 9:30am WW
20 6:30am AA 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship-Salads 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	21 6:30am AA 12:00pm Al-Anon 7:00pm AA	22 6:30am AA 9:30am Bell Practice 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW 7:00pm Scouts	23 6:30am AA 10:30am Tellers 11:00am Lunch Bunch 11:00am Men's Planning 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula 7:00pm Choir	24 6:30am AA 9:30am WW 1:00pm 8 is Enough	25 6:30am AA 8:00am WW 9:30am WW 11:30am The Gathering	26 6:30am AA 8:00am WW 9:30am WW 6:00pm Rambling Rogues
27 6:30am AA 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship-Salads 11:00am Adult Sunday School 6:00pm AA	28 6:30am AA 12:00pm Al-Anon 12:30pm Non-Competitive Bridge 7:00pm AA	29 6:30am AA 9:30am Bell Practice 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm WW 7:00pm Scouts	30 6:30am AA 10:30am Tellers 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula 7:00pm Choir			

Sermon Themes

6

Reconciled at the Table

Matthew 18:15–20

Too often, we treat the elements of our worship service as mere routine. But this Communion Sunday, we will dig into the profound theological weight of two foundational practices: the Passing of the Peace and the Prayer of Confession. Looking through the lens of Matthew 18, Pastor Brian will explore how these moments are not just polite liturgy, but active, daily invitations to make amends and seek reconciliation. We are reminded that we do not have to come to Christ's communion table as perfect people, but we are called to come as a reconciled people, seeking peace with God and with our neighbors.

SEPTEMBER 13

The Currency of Grace

Matthew 18:21–35

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, the words "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us" roll off the tongue easily. Yet, the biblical reality behind these words is deeply tied to the jarring, practical language of debt. Drawing on Jesus' powerful parable of the unforgiving servant, we will dive into the theological heart of forgiveness. We will confront the difficult, radical call to release the debts of others, discovering how true freedom is found when we stop keeping score and start living in the economy of God's limitless grace.

SEPTEMBER 20

Special Guest-Led Worship

This morning, Laguna Country UMC welcomes Rev. David Atkins and Rev. Don Forden as they co-lead our morning worship service. We invite you to come with open hearts to receive the Word and worship together as a community.

(Note: Pastor Brian will be away this Sunday, returning to Mesa Verde UMC in Costa Mesa as they celebrate their landmark 65th anniversary. All previous pastors who served MVUMC will be returning for this special service.)

SEPTEMBER 27

Beyond the Crowd

Matthew 21:23–32

The world loves to trap us. It watches closely, looking for opportunities to pin us down, demand our credentials, or box us into rigid categories. When the religious authorities question Jesus' authority in the temple, they aren't looking for truth—they are simply afraid of the crowd. This Sunday, we will discover how to pivot away from the exhausting trap of trying to appease the world around us. In a message of deep hope, we will remind ourselves that our ultimate purpose is to serve God, and we do that by resting in the truth that all people are redeemable, and all people are deeply loved: we are all God's beloved.

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







Trustees

Trustees Continue Investing in Our Campus

Our Trustees have been hard at work completing important facility improvements and planning new projects that keep our campus safe, functional, and welcoming. While many of these projects happen behind the scenes, they are vital investments in the ministry and future of Laguna Country United Methodist Church.



Youth Room Renovation Complete

We are excited to share that the renovation of the Youth Room (also home to our WeightWatchers meetings) is now complete! After a long-standing roof leak was repaired, hidden water damage was discovered inside the walls. The walls and ceiling have been removed, new drywall installed, and a fresh coat of paint, new baseboards, and brand-new outdoor carpeting have created a welcoming space for everyone who visits.

Project Cost: Approximately $8,000



Choir Room Air Conditioning Replacement

We're pleased to share that the replacement of the Choir Room air conditioning system has been completed! The old unit, which had reached the end of its life and could no longer be repaired, has been replaced with a new system. The Choir Room is now cool and comfortable once again, providing a welcoming space for choir rehearsals, meetings, and other ministries.

Project Cost: Approximately $20,000

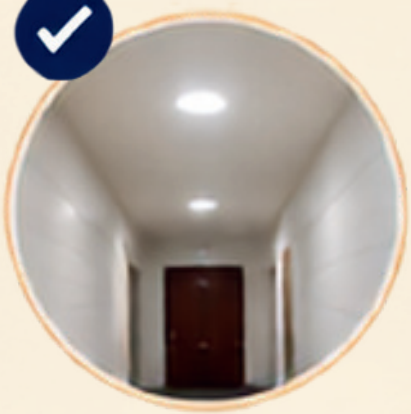


Ficklin Hall Water Shut-Off Valve

A long-awaited project will soon provide Ficklin Hall with its own dedicated water shut-off valve. Until now, shutting off the water to Ficklin Hall required turning off the water to the entire church campus. Because Kaida Childcare operates on our property, California licensing regulations prohibit shutting off water to the childcare center during business hours. Installing a dedicated shut-off valve will allow maintenance and emergency repairs to be completed safely without disrupting the rest of the campus. This has been a much-needed improvement for many years.

Project Cost: Approximately $5,000

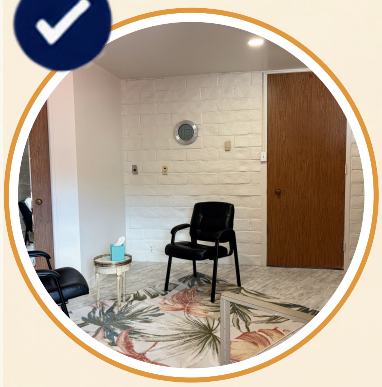
Corner



New Hallway Ceiling

The hallway leading to Ficklin Hall, the KUMC offices, and the Choir Room will also receive a new drywall ceiling. The existing acoustic ceiling tiles collect dust and debris from the building's ventilation system, creating an ongoing sanitation concern. Replacing them with drywall will provide a cleaner, easier-to-maintain space while giving the hallway a fresh, updated appearance.

Project Cost: Approximately $5,000



Narthex Office Renovation

Another major project currently underway is the complete renovation of the office located off the Narthex. After extensive mold and severe water damage were discovered, the room required significant repairs. The office is receiving new drywall, a new insulated ceiling, and new carpeting to create a clean, haven-like space that is safe and secure.

Project Cost: Approximately $8,000

These projects are more than routine maintenance—they are investments in the ministry, safety, and longevity of our church campus. Thank you to our Trustees for their faithful stewardship and to everyone whose generosity makes these improvements possible. Together, we are caring for the place where faith grows and lives are transformed!

Hope, Love & Joy Live Here

What's Going On?

SAVE OUR CAMPUS!

The Future Is In Our Hands!

LAGUNA COUNTRY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Hope, Love & Joy Live Here



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

$211,000

IN PLEDGES

Thank you ♡ for your generosity and commitment!

OUR GOAL
$300,000
OVER THREE YEARS

71% TOWARD OUR GOAL!

Your gifts and pledges are making a real difference today and building a stronger future for generations to come.

MAINTAIN OUR CAMPUS
- Building repairs
- Water damage restoration
- Parking lot improvements
- Electrical upgrades

STRENGTHEN OUR MINISTRY
- Safe and welcoming spaces
- Improved worship facilities
- Support for current ministries

SECURE OUR FUTURE
- Protect church assets
- Preserve our campus
- Invest in future generations

WHAT CAN MY GIFT DO?

MONTHLY GIFT	3-YEAR TOTAL
$25	$900
$50	$1,800
$100	$3,600
$250	$9,000
$500	$18,000

Every Gift Matters.
EVERY FAMILY CAN HELP.

Caring For Our Church Home
These are real examples of projects the campaign will support.


Electrical Infrastructure Updates


Building Maintenance & Water Damage Repair


Parking Lot & Accessibility Improvements


Choir Room Air Conditioning Replacement

Pick up a pledge card today or scan the QR code to learn more.

24442 Moulton Pkwy.
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
949.837.3414
lagunacountryumc.org

NEW *Office Hours*

for **Pastor Brian & Ashleigh**

MONDAY – THURSDAY
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY IS ASHLEIGH'S PRODUCTIVITY DAY
The office is closed on Friday so Ashleigh can be productive and get work done without interruptions.

FRIDAY IS PASTOR BRIAN'S DAY OFF
This is his day to rest, recharge, and spend time with family.

Thank you for your understanding and support! ♡

LAGUNA COUNTRY UMC
HOPE • LOVE & JOY • LIVE HERE



THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE

CLOSED

ON

Labor Day

★ THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO! ★

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.





Dear Friends at Laguna Country United Methodist Church,

Sherry and I thank you for the wonderful Re-retirement Party last Sunday. We appreciate all of the thoughtful and careful preparation that went into making this a special event. The clever "awards" and the "surprise" naming of the winner was great fun. The decorations were delightful, the catered lunch was delicious, the program was innovative, and the gracious response to the awards by those attending was truly heartwarming. The very thoughtful messages on the cards are another testimony of the kind and loving congregation at Laguna Country UMC. We feel so fortunate that we will be able to continue as supportive participants in this community of faith. You are more than congregants in a church; you are family in a ministry of love, hope, and faith.

With much gratitude for "Twenty Months of Grace,"
David and Sherry Atkins

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Laguna Country UMC Staff

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Richard Warne Music Director	rworglbau@aol.com