



The

September 2025

# Viewpoint



## This Month

- Back to Church Sunday
- New Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Wesley Family Study
- New Church T-Shirts

It may seem like a small thing, but to a boy nine or ten years-of-age, it was big. My dad, the pastor of our small church in rural Oregon, often took me on his visits to members of our church. We had traveled out to the farm of Bill Stuber and I was admiring his collection of rocks. I was particularly taken with a piece of obsidian with brown streaks in it. He handed it to me to feel the smooth sides and sharp edges of this volcanic glass. It felt wonderful, almost magical in my hands. He asked me if I would like to have it. Believe it or not I was very shy at the time and I probably looked up at my dad to see if it was okay to accept this precious stone. It was acceptable. That was the first time I remember the generosity of someone outside my family. I have kept that rock for over seventy years. The internet says it is worth about \$15. It is worth a lot more than that to me. It is a treasure. It is a symbol of generosity. I was taught by my parents to be generous. This generosity included giving of my talents, giving of my time, giving of my energy, and it also included giving of my financial resources. Sometimes I wonder if the financial security that Sherry and I experience now is due to that spirit of generosity. Paul lists this as one of the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22) There are so many scriptures about the generosity of God to us, God's children. And then there is that powerful statement in Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over..." Today I give thanks to God who lavishes love and blessings on us. Today I give thanks for those who have been generous to me both in love and materially. Today I give thanks for the opportunity to be generous to others.

Blessings,  
Pastor David



# How We Got Our Bible

**OCTOBER 4 & 5, 2025**

The purpose of the event is to help our Laguna Woods Community explore the history of the Bible in new and deeper ways - raising practical questions and introducing insights they may not have considered before.

**Who:** Dr. Lee McDonald, respected biblical scholar and author, will lead the weekend. Attendees will include members of Laguna Country UMC and guests from the surrounding community. Registration is open to the community (\$15.00 donation includes lunch - limited scholarships are available)

**What:** A weekend of learning and faith exploration, focused on how the Bible was formed, why certain texts were included or excluded, and how early Christian and Jewish traditions shaped what we read today. Saturday's format includes lecture-style presentations with time for questions. Dr. McDonald will also speak at the Sunday service of worship at 9:30 a.m.

**Where:** Laguna Country United Methodist Church (Church Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall)

**When:** A Saturday - Sunday event on October 4 & 5, 2025  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Saturday 9:30 a.m. Sunday

**Why:** To offer a thoughtful opportunity to engage with Scripture in a deeper and more informed way — bridging the gap between personal faith and historical context. The series invites reflection on how the Bible came to be, how we interpret it today, and what this means for our shared life of faith.


**How:** Dr. McDonald will focused his engaging lectures around key questions about the history of the Bible. There will be Q & A sessions in the morning and afternoon programs. Dr. McDonald will be speaking in the Sunday morning sermon to conclude the weekend.

## HOW WE GOT OUR BIBLE

A Seminar on the Formation of the Bible

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH 9 AM - 3 PM**

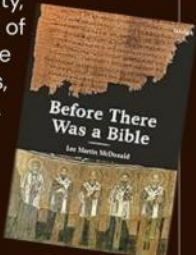

**AT LAGUNA COUNTRY UMC**



Dr. Lee Martin McDonald — Renowned New Testament scholar, author of over 30 books, and lecturer worldwide. Former president of the Institute for Biblical Research and dean at Acadia University, Dr. McDonald is a leading expert on early Christianity, the origins of the Bible, and the formation of the Old and New Testaments. He speaks internationally on topics including the Dead Sea Scrolls, Jesus in historical context, and the Bible's enduring relevance.

Register online at:  
[Lagunacountryumc.org](http://Lagunacountryumc.org)

\$15 Registration Fee  
Includes lunch



949-837-3414 office.lcumb@gmail.com  
Laguna Country UMC 24442 Moulton Pkwy, Laguna Woods, CA 92653



# Sermon Themes

## **September 7th - "It's About Relationships"**

**Philemon 1-3, 8-16; Luke 14:25-33**

In Paul's brief letter to Philemon, he is pleading that Philemon welcome back Onesimus who was a slave who has possibly run away and has come to serve Paul while he is in prison. He is appealing to Philemon's forgiveness of Onesimus, who Paul believes has changed and can be useful now. Jesus gives the great challenge that to be his disciple one must be willing to give up everything, all of one's possessions, carry the cross, and follow faithfully.

## **September 14th - "I Found It! Rejoice With Me!"**

**1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10**

Paul writes about the mercy and grace of God and his faith and love in Christ Jesus because of the forgiveness he has received. He calls himself a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence before his conversion. Luke tells us how Jesus is criticized for welcoming sinners and eating with them. He responds by telling two parables in chapter 15, one of the lost sheep and the other of the lost coin and how much rejoicing comes as a result, comparing that to God's joy when one sinner repents.

## **September 21st - "Whatever it takes"**

**1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13**

We are invited, encouraged by Paul to pray for everyone, even for kings and people in high places since God's desire is for everyone to be saved. He includes the power statement that there is one God and Christ Jesus gave himself "a ransom for all." Jesus gives a surprising parable about a shrewd but dishonest manager who is commended by his master, then admonishes the followers to be faithful in whatever they are given.

## **September 28th- "Living with Generosity"**

**1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19, Luke 16:19-31**

Paul gives a strong statement about living in a state of generosity, aware that it is God who provides for us. Paul does not condemn the wealthy person, but entreats Timothy to instruct those with wealth to "be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share." Jesus tells the parable of the rich man and poor Lazarus who ate crumbs that fell from the rich man's table and what happens to each when they die.

# September & October *Liturgist*

Sep. 7th	Sherry Atkins
Sep. 14th	Laura Daillak
Sep. 21st	Bev Miller
Sep. 28th	Frank Bristol

Oct. 5th	Meg Estrada
Oct. 12th	Laddie Perez
Oct. 19th	Don Forden
Oct. 26th	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!!

## *September Birthdays*

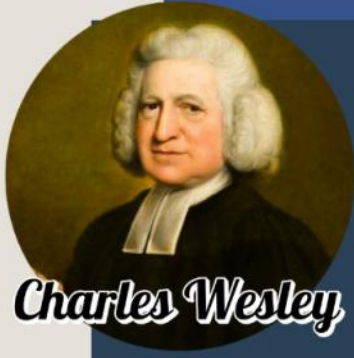
Bray Kelly	September 6th
Joseph Childers	September 11th
Howard Lee	September 21st
Don Forden	September 23rd
Rhonda Desanti	September 24th
Judy Feldra	September 24th
Kim Lee	September 24th
Laura Daillak	September 27th

## *September Anniversaries*

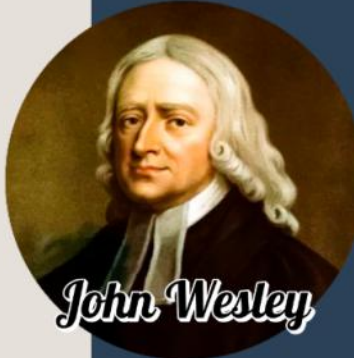
Brian & Sharon Holmes	September 2nd
Kelly & Pendra LaFee	September 5th
Ashleigh & Steve Kelly	September 28th
Howard & Kim Lee	September 29th



# Adult Classes On Early Methodism



Rev. Steven Jenkins will be leading four classes on early Methodism and its founders starting Sunday, September 14th 11:10 am (after worship and fellowship). Rev. Jenkins has given numerous lectures about many historical figures in England, as well as reviews of movies regarding those characters. He has lived almost equally in England and the United States, and has engaged in graduate work on both sides of the Atlantic.



**The schedule of classes is as follows:**

**Sunday, September 14th** – Susannah Wesley (mother of John, Charles, and others)

**Sunday, September 21st** – John Wesley – Evangelist, Missionary, Social Reformer, Hymn Writer.

**Sunday, September 28th** – Charles Wesley – Poet, Hymn Writer, Evangelist

**Sunday, October 5th** – Early Methodism in America



**The classes will take place in the Wesley Room,  
from 11:10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

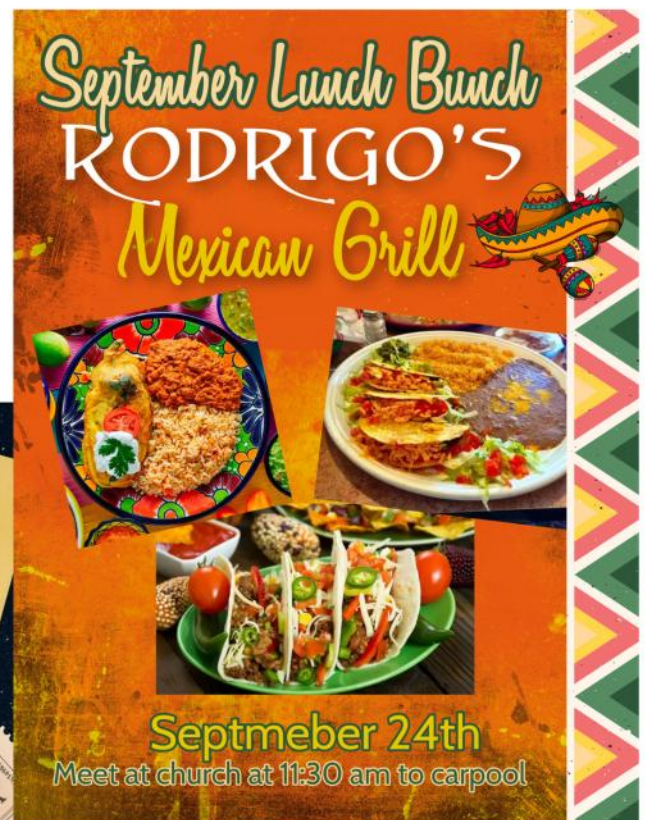
## New Church T-Shirts Available



We're excited to share that new church t-shirts are now available for order! 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.



# Fellowship Opportunities





# The Prayer Shawl Ministry

By: Meg Estrada

Shawl (shol)n.: A square or oblong piece of cloth worn as a covering for the head, neck, and shoulders. (earlier: shal, shaul, from Urdu, Persian)

**"Shawls...made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. they wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify.**

**Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles..."**

**(Written in 1998 by Janet Bristow)**

In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo began the ministry. Care and the love of knitting have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many blessings are \*knitted into every shawl. (\*The shawls can also be crocheted, woven, or quilted) Whether they are called "Prayer Shawls", "Comfort Shawls", "Peace Shawls", or "Mantles", the creator begins each shawl/ with prayers and blessings for the recipient. Intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. When the shawl is completed, it is offered a final blessing by the group or congregation before being sent on its way. Some recipients have continued the kindness by making one themselves and passing it on to someone in need. Thus, the blessing is rippled from person to person with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, mothering God!



## New Prayer Shawl Ministry Beginning

We are excited to announce the start of a new Prayer Shawl Ministry! This ministry will bring together those who enjoy knitting or crocheting to create beautiful shawls that are filled with prayer and care. Each shawl will be given to someone in need of comfort, encouragement, or a reminder of God's love. The group will gather regularly, either in members' homes or at the church, for fellowship, prayer, and creating together. Whether you are an experienced knitter/crocheter or just learning, all are welcome to join. This is a wonderful way to share your gifts, grow in community, and bless others in a meaningful way.

If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact the church office or Meg Estrada for more information.



# UWF



United  
Women  
in Faith

## South District: Annual Celebration 2025

*"I was a Stranger and you Welcomed Me"*

**Saturday, September 20th, 2025**

Shepherd of the Hills UMC

26001 Muirlands Blvd, Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Registration ~ 9:00 AM

Program ~ 10:00 AM

Lunch ~ 12:30 PM



*Our speaker is*

*Monalisa S. Tu'itahi*

*(Interim Immigration Ministries Coordinator)*



## Words Of Thanks from Eloise Boortz

Thank you all so very much for the beautiful Bible with all of your notes and signatures that was presented to me in August. I will truly cherish it forever. Laguna Country UMC is very special to me and I am fortunate to have been a member since 1991.

## Volunteers Needed

Each Thursday at 10:30 a.m., Rev. Steven Jenkins leads 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.



## Thank You For Your Generosity

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated school supplies for the students at Sherman Indian School! Your generosity will make a real difference in helping the students start their school year well-prepared and encouraged. We are so grateful for the love and care you have shown through your gifts—it is a blessing to share God's love in such a practical way. A special thank you to Don Forden & Frank Bristol for delivering the supplies.



# September

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 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 11:00am KUMC Praise & Worship 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	4 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm 8 is Enough	5 6:30am AA Do It Sober	6 6:30am AA Do It Sober
7 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time	8 6:30am AA Do It Sober 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 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Administrative Council Meeting	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 1:00pm 8 is Enough	12 6:30am AA Do It Sober	13 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am UWF Meeting
14 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Rally Sunday Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School	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 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 11:00am Faith, Film, & Feast 1:30pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	18 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm 8 is Enough	19 6:30am AA Do It Sober	20 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Men's Group
21 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 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 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	23 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 6:30am AA Do It Sober 10:30am Tellers 1:30pm OK Chorale 11:30am Lunch Bunch 6:00pm Hula Lessons 7:00pm Choir	25 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm 8 is Enough	26 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:00am Ka Hula O 'Aulani 9:30am KUMC Class	27 6:30am AA Do It Sober 11:00am Ka Hula O 'Aulani 6:00pm Rambling Rouges
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 8:30am Choir Prep 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts				



### Daily Bible Readings

**Sunday:** 2 Thessalonians 1-3

**Monday:** 2 Chronicles 23-25

**Tuesday:** 2 Chronicles 26-29

**Wednesday:** 2 Chronicles 30-32

**Thursday:** 2 Chronicles 33-36

**Friday:** Ezekiel 1-3

**Saturday:** Psalms 103-105



### ACROSS

2. \_\_\_\_\_ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

5. Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they will see God.

6. Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_ after righteousness.

7. Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they will receive mercy.

8. Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they will inherit the earth.

9. Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_, for they will be filled.



### BEATITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, New International Version.

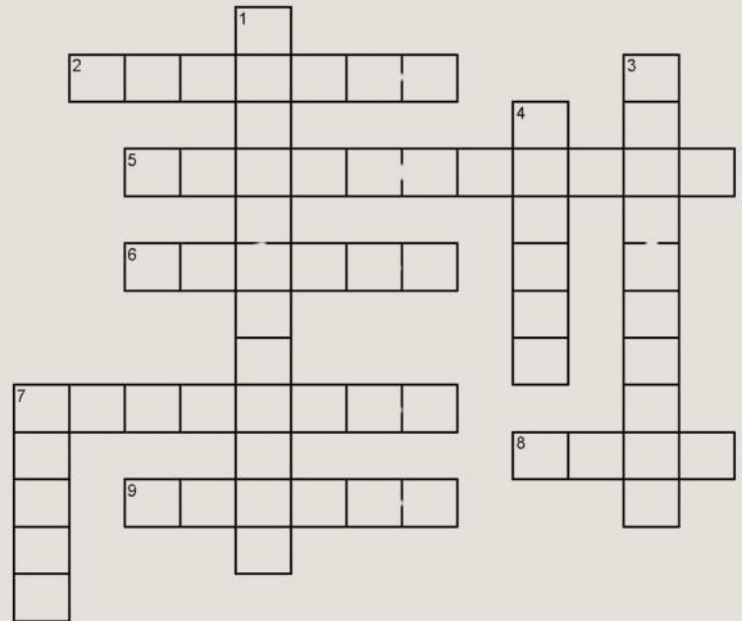
### DOWN

1. Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

3. Blessed are those who are \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness' sake.

4. Great is your \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.

7. Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_, for they will be comforted.



Check out our services at  
[Lagunacountryumc.org](http://Lagunacountryumc.org)

or on **You Tube**

Laguna Country UMC



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

**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.lcmmc@gmail.com](mailto:office.lcmmc@gmail.com)

## Men's Breakfast



September 20th at 9:30 a.m.





**24442 Moulton Pkwy.  
Laguna Woods, CA 92637**

949.837.3414

office.lcumc@gmail.com

lagunacountryumc.org

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## *Laguna Country UMC Staff*

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