

September 2024

# The Viewpoint



## This Month

- Sharpen Your Mind Class!
- WW with Tony Rodgers
- Lunch Bunch at Polly's

## Pastor B.J.'s Reflections



## Celebrating Our 60th Anniversary

On October 27, Laguna Country UMC will celebrate our sixtieth anniversary as a proud member of the United Methodist Church. At a time when mainline churches are struggling to connect with their community, I am extremely proud to serve as pastor of our increasingly vital congregation—a congregation that welcomes and accepts people where they are, regardless of their prior backgrounds and faith traditions. On October 27, we will not only celebrate our last six decades as United Methodists, we will commit to doing so for another sixty years.

Sometimes I think we are best kept secret in Laguna Woods. Hopefully, we will continue to get the secret out. Somehow, we've got to let people know that being part of who we are becoming will be a gift for them. But they won't come unless we invite them, perhaps more than once. I'm thrilled to be your pastor, and my family is here for the long haul. There is no limit to where we can't go together. As we move forward as a proud United Methodist Church, let us also be a community church where everyone can experience the unconditional love of God as witnessed in the life and teachings of Christ. This is our challenge and our gift. Let's share the invitation of Fred Rodgers for Laguna Woods: "Won't you be my neighbor?"

Yours on the journey,  
Pastor B. J.



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

## Daily Bible Readings

**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 10

**Monday:** Esther 1-2

**Tuesday:** Esther 3

**Wednesday:** Esther 4-5

**Thursday:** Esther 6-7

**Friday:** Esther 8-10

**Saturday:** Psalms 115-118

## The Letter "O"

The nine words below are spelled correctly, except they are missing one letter — O. Use these incomplete words to complete the verse below where you will find all the missing O's!

S, NE, ANOTHER, GD, LVED, UGHT, T, ALS, LVE

Dear friends, since \_\_\_\_o\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_o

\_\_\_\_o\_\_\_\_ us, we \_\_\_\_o

o\_\_\_\_o\_\_\_\_o

o\_\_\_\_o\_\_\_\_.

## Verse to Remember

*So, whether you eat or  
drink, or whatever you  
do, do everything for  
the glory of God.*

—1 Corinthians 10:31

## BRAIN TEASERS:

1. There are three houses. One is red, one is blue, and one is white. If the red house is to the left of the house in the middle, and the blue house is to the right of the house in the middle, where is the white house?
2. A farmer has 17 sheep and all but nine die. How many are left?

## October 2024

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	31		

*"October made the leaves on Main Street fit for a crown. They dripped from the trees in jewel-toned shades: yellow and orange and fiery red. The cool wind sent a confetti-cluster of leaves down around us."* —Natalie Lloyd

# Dial - A - Devotion Ministry

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-Oct	Meg Estrada	16-Oct	Liz Heacock	1-Nov	Laddie Perez
2-Oct	David Atkins	17-Oct	Teri Lancey	2-Nov	Pastor B.J.
3-Oct	Glenn Miller	18-Oct	Dick Obermayer	3-Nov	Laura Daillak
4-Oct	Teri Lancey	19-Oct	Marilyn Nicolas	4-Nov	Don Forden
5-Oct	Dick Obermayer	20-Oct	Sherry Atkins	5-Nov	Meg Estrada
6-Oct	Marilyn Nicolas	21-Oct	Laddie Perez	6-Nov	David Atkins
7-Oct	Dick Obermayer	22-Oct	Pastor B.J.	7-Nov	Glenn Miller
8-Oct	Sherry Atkins	23-Oct	Laura Daillak	8-Nov	Teri Lancey
9-Oct	Laddie Perez	24-Oct	Don Forden	9-Nov	Marilyn Nicolas
10-Oct	Pastor B.J.	25-Oct	Meg Estrada	10-Nov	Dick Obermayer
11-Oct	Laura Daillak	26-Oct	David Atkins	11-Nov	Sherry Atkins
12-Oct	Don Forden	27-Oct	Glenn Miller	12-Nov	Laddie Perez
13-Oct	Meg Estrada	28-Oct	Teri Lancey	13-Nov	Pastor B.J.
14-Oct	David Atkins	29-Oct	Dick Obermayer	14-Nov	Laura Daillak
15-Oct	Glenn Miller	30-Oct	Marilyn Nicolas	15-Nov	Don Forden
		32-Oct	Sherry Atkins		

## ♥ October Anniversaries ♥

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

## October Birthdays



Margaret Estrada	October 7th
Joy O'Connor	October 8th
Kiku Yoneda	October 11th
Brenda Roa	October 19th
Joshua Villanueva	October 24th
David Atkins	October 26th
Marilyn Nicolas	October 28th
Mariel Endey	October 30th

## Pastor B.J.'s

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday 10:00am - 3:00pm**

**Tuesday 11:30am - 2:00pm**

**Wednesday 10:30am - 2:00pm**



# Small Groups

**Prayer Group-** Every Tuesday, at 10:00 a.m. at Joy O'Connor. We would love to have you join us as we pray for the needs of others and ourselves. Find strength and peace in this fellowship of prayer.

**Ok Chorale Alzheimer's Choir-** Every Wednesday, at 1:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Did you know we have a therapeutic singing group for people with dementia and their care partners? It's fun and it's FREE! Contact the church office for more info.



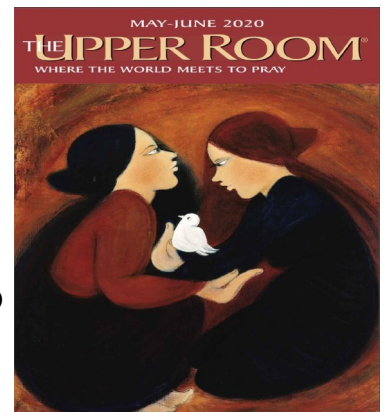
Please remember that we can give to the needy of our church and community at any time through the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. To contribute to this fund simply write a check to LCUMC and include "Pastor's Discretionary" in the memo. Include your contribution in the Sunday offering plate or send it to the Church Office. Thank You!!

## **Liturgists For October & November**

Oct. 6th	David Atkins	Nov. 3rd	Laddie Perez
Oct. 13th	Frank Bristol	Nov. 10th	Don Forden
Oct. 20th	Sharon Holmes	Nov. 17th	Sherry Atkins
Oct. 27th	Meg Estrada	Nov. 24th	Rex Danford

## **The Upper Room**

The Upper Room devotional is available in the Narthex at the cost of \$1.00. If you wish to start receiving your daily Upper Room devotional by e-mail, you can go to [www.upperroom](http://www.upperroom) and sign up. There is no cost



# Sermon Themes

## Life Lessons

### **October 6th: We're not Waiting for Godot: Isaiah 25:6-9**

Samual Beckett's play, "Waiting for Godot", is a response to Friedrich Nietzsche's pronouncement that "God is dead." "Waiting for Godot" suggests that we spend our lives waiting for Godot (God) in our longing to find purpose and meaning in our otherwise absurd existence. When Godot (God) fails to show, we are left with nothing but broken promises and disillusionment. So, is God dead? Are we like Linus, waiting every Halloween for the Great Pumpkin? Isaiah offers a resounding "NO!" and offers an image of God's bounty that fits perfectly on today's World Communion Sunday.

### **October 13th: How to Do the Impossible: Mark 10:17-31**

When Jesus talks to the man who fell at his knees asking what he must do to inherit eternal life, Jesus points the man to the decalogue or Ten Commandments. When the man says he has kept the commandments his whole life Jesus looked at him with love and said he lacked one thing: "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me" (Mark 10:21). The man went away sad, for he had many possessions. To the man, Jesus had asked the impossible. Let's face it, we cannot do the impossible alone. Only God can, for whom nothing is impossible. So, we must allow God to work through us. This is our task as followers of Christ.

### **October 20th: To Be Great Is to Serve: Mark 10:35-45**

"I want the seat at your right hand," James and John tell Jesus. His response is instructive: "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served" (Mark 10:42-45). Striving to be last is the higher goal; striving to serve is the greatest call. Servanthood is the path of following Christ. If our master came to serve, we also are called to serve.

### **October 27th: Finish The Job: Mark 10:46-52**

I was fortunate as a competitive swimmer to have a virtual equal on another team. One meet, I would win the race; the next meet, he would hoist the first-place trophy. Tracy and I pushed each other. Our competition made us train harder and give every ounce of effort we had in the pool. We even sat together at invitationals and genuinely enjoyed each other's company. This is the attitude Paul urges the Corinthians to adopt as he challenges them to continue to grow in the grace of giving: "I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others." (2 Corinthians 8:8).

# October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Prep 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 10:30am Tellers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons	<b>3</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm 8 is Enough	<b>4</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober	<b>5</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm AA Party 6:00pm Choir Prep
<b>6</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School	<b>7</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 5:00pm Choir Prep 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	<b>8</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Prep 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 10:30am Tellers 11:00am Alzheimer's Interfaith Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons	<b>10</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm 8 is Enough	<b>11</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober	<b>12</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 6:00pm Choir Prep
<b>13</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School	<b>14</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Non-Competitive Bridge 5:00pm Choir Prep 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	<b>15</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Prep 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 10:30am Tellers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons	<b>17</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm 8 is Enough	<b>18</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 3:00pm OCASA Fall Fest	<b>19</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 9:30am Men's Group 6:00pm Choir Prep
<b>20</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 11:00am Adult Sunday School	<b>21</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 5:00pm Choir Prep 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	<b>22</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Prep 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 10:30am Tellers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 11:30am Lunch Bunch- Panini Kabob Grill 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons	<b>24</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm 8 is Enough	<b>25</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober	<b>26</b> 9:00am Foundation Meeting 6:30am AA Do It Sober 6:00pm Choir Prep 6:00pm Square Dancing Group
<b>27</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 10:30am LCUMC 60th Anniversary 11:00am Adult Sunday School	<b>28</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 12:00pm Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Non-Competitive Bridge 5:00pm Choir Prep 7:00pm AA Monday Night 12 & 12	<b>29</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 8:30am Choir Prep 9:30am Bell Practice 10:00am Prayer Group 10:30am Tellers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm OK Chorale 6:00pm Hula Lessons	<b>31</b> 6:30am AA Do It Sober 1:00pm 8 is Enough		



# Fellowship Opportunities

**October 13th-** Joy's 100th birthday celebration during fellowship time.

**October 23rd** - Lunch Bunch at Polly's Pies. Meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 a.m.

**October 27th** - LCUMC 60th Anniversary Celebration

**November 10th** - Charge Conference, chili feed.

**November 20th** - Lunch Bunch at Morena's Mexican. Meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 a.m.

**December 8th-** Christmas Carol sing-along

**December 15th** - Christmas Caroling at 2 pm meet at church. End at Ficklin Hall for soup and bread. Carolers and others invited to bring desserts.



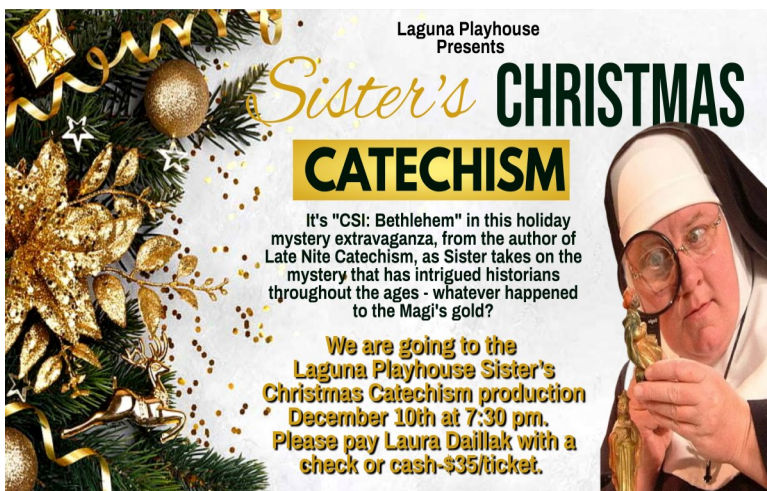
LAGUNA COUNTRY UMC PRESENTS

**WONDERFUL  
WEDNESDAY  
ENTERTAINMENT  
& LUNCH**

FEATURING  
**TONY  
RODGERS**

**OCTOBER 16TH AT 11:30 AM**

Questions contact the office at 949.834.3424 or  
office.lcumc@gmail.com



Laguna Playhouse  
Presents

*Sister's* **CHRISTMAS  
CATECHISM**

It's "CSI: Bethlehem" in this holiday mystery extravaganza, from the author of Late Nite Catechism, as Sister takes on the mystery that has intrigued historians throughout the ages - whatever happened to the Magi's gold?

We are going to the  
Laguna Playhouse Sister's  
Christmas Catechism production  
December 10th at 7:30 pm.  
Please pay Laura Daillak with a  
check or cash-\$35/ticket.



**LUNCH Bunch**  
at Polly's Pie

October 23rd

Meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 am to carpool

# Trustees News



Greetings LCUMC Members,

It was brought to my attention that there are campus activities generated or related to Trustees that our members may not be familiar with and might affect your activities while on campus. Below are the headliners:

Roof repair and replacement will start Early October. Roofs affected are the Sun Room, Youth Room, Maintenance Office, Narthex Office and Main offices. Thank you the Administrative Committee and Foundation for coming together to get this much needed work done.

Both Jacaranda trees overhanging the main office needed to be removed. As beautiful as they were their prolific foliage drop created serious drainage and deterioration problems for years. At some very considerable expense the Ficklin kitchen and adjacent bathroom pipes were snaked multiple times by two different plumbers. Although the cast iron pipes are very old and worn and will eventually need further costly redress, they have not backed up in several weeks and that is an achievement.

We continue to tour childcare organizations interested in renting the Kids Cove portables. We are hopeful a lucrative contract will be signed sooner than later.

Weight Watchers has expressed interest in renting the Youth Room to meet 4 days a week. Joey has worked hard to store Fickling stage items in there and now removing them for this potential use. Much gratitude and fingers crossed this opportunity pans out for both parties.

The City of Laguna Woods will be modifying the sidewalk that runs across the Moulton driveway of both LCUMC and the synagogue to meet ADA requirements. This will be at their cost. A date has not yet been set.

Peace,  
Kelly LaFee  
Trustee



The Administrative Council has set October 27th as LCUMC's 60th Anniversary celebration! More details to follow in the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in volunteering to help plan for this event, please let Laddie Perez know.

Thank you! Laddie



It was a heartwarming trip to Sherman Indian High School, Riverside, CA, where we got to meet the new principal, new dorm coordinator, several students who helped unload vehicles, staff, and our treasured contact at Sherman, Lorene Sisquoc. Reminder: Sherman Indian High School is one of only four Boarding Schools that remain under the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education.

So far, Cal-Pac Churches, United Women in Faith groups, individuals, and networks of other organizations have helped us provide over 100 comforters, 150 beach towels, 150 reusable water bottles, countless art supplies, personal items like shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and a host of snacks. On our first trip, we loaded up two SUVs to capacity, plus a full-sized pickup. This also gave us an opportunity to see if there was anything else that might be helpful. While we were there, we learned of a request for socks from a new dorm coordinator, so we recently purchased \$500+ in socks for women and men in a variety of sizes.

We also learned that the school's art teachers recently resigned, so the many art supplies provided will enable the staff to offer after-school & extracurricular activities for the students. Another trip will be needed to deliver additional resources that staff felt would help their new way of offering to students, which will include beach towels and additional art supplies, mainly clay.

Many Thanks! Wados! don't seem enough for the generosity that so many provided to help these students, who come from all over, feel welcomed and cared about. Those we had the opportunity to meet, especially the new principal, were overjoyed and nearly to tears for all this means to the students, especially that it came from caring members of the Church.

Thanks to the generosity of so many, we still have some funds on hand. We are in conversation with Lorene Sisquoc on additional needs, or to possibly do something additional for those students who are not able to go home for Winter Break.







We kindly ask for your generous support in raising the funds needed to secure our kitchen. Donations can be made during Sunday services, at the church office, or online through our church website. Please make sure to designate your donation for the "Kitchen Cabinet Locks Fundraiser."

Our fundraising goal is \$2,000. This amount will cover the cost of purchasing high-quality locks, as well as professional installation to ensure that they are secure and effective.

# KITCHEN CABINET LOCKS FUNDRAISER

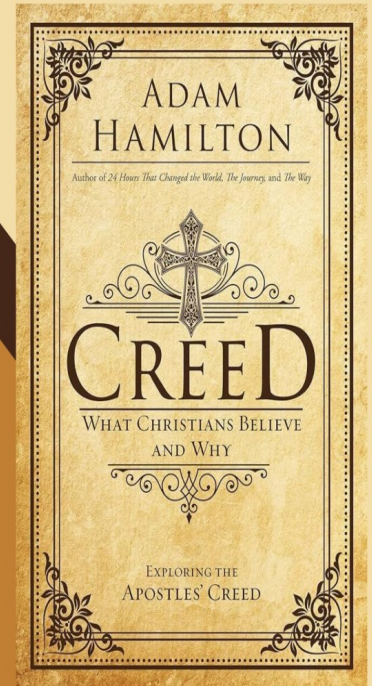
# CREED

What Christians Believe, Why they Believe It, and Why It Matters.

By Author, Adam Hamilton  
Class Led by Meg Estrada

Class will begin September 8th after Fellowship Time in the Wesley Room.

Sign up and purchase your book starting August 25th.



## FELLOWSHIP Schedule

- First Sunday - Choir
- Second Sunday - Sunday Brunch - Fellowship
- Third Sunday - United Women of Faith
- Fourth Sunday - Trustees
- Fifth Sunday - Circle of Friends

If you have a special event you would like to celebrate, like a birthday or anniversary, please let Teri Lancey, Coffee Hour Coordinator know.

## Non-Competitive Bridge

October 14th & 28th  
at 12:30 p.m.  
In the Wesley Room

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

You will be glad you called!



## The *OK* Chorale

Wednesday's at  
1:30 p.m



The OK Chorale is a therapeutic singing group for people with dementia and their care partners. The group is led by Karen Skipper a board-- certified music therapist, along with her piano accompanist Richard Warne. It's fun and it's FREE! Every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

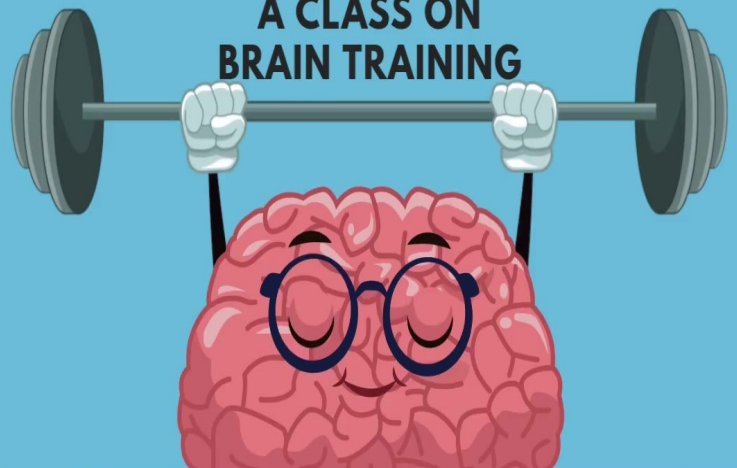
## Men's Breakfast



October 19th at 9:30 a.m.

## Sharpen Your Mind! Memory Tricks & Teasers.

A CLASS ON  
BRAIN TRAINING



**OCTOBER 15TH 1:00 PM**

Learn the secrets of memory training and boost your memory ability in this special one hour class. Try out fun interactive exercises you can use to remember things using evidence based techniques.



# Laguna Country United Methodist Church

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## Laguna Country Staff



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