

LA HABRA

# The Vista

December 2025  
Volume 43, Number 12

## CHURCH CAMPUS LIFE



### Christmas Eve Eve Worship Service

Tuesday, December 23rd | Service 6:00pm

Please join us for

Carols, Hot Chocolate and Graham Crackers

We will host Carolers singing a 10-15 minute prelude starting around 5:45PM. Then, as in years past, the carolers will lead the congregation in a series of songs throughout the service, ending in a candlelight processional.



### Advent Season:



First Sunday in Advent with communion - Hope

Second Sunday in Advent - Peace

Third Sunday in Advent - Joy

Fourth Sunday in Advent - Love

There's a lot of hope inspired by believing that such a world is possible. Advent is a season for reflecting on and renewing that hope.

**LHUMC Church office - Taking Time to Rest,** The church office will be closed December 24th & 25th; and also be closed, December 31st & January 1st.

**Preschool Closed Christmas Break** December 20th – January 4th

**Wednesdays, LHUMC** 5pm G.A.P. Bring Your Own Dinner & Games | Lounge

**Thursdays, LHUMC** 2:30pm Exercise Class | | Fellowship Hall

**Fridays, LHUMC** 10:30am Choir Practice | | Sanctuary

**Sundays, LHUMC** 9am Study Class | Library | 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

**Sundays, Church Project** 8am - 1pm Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Classrooms 14,15, 24,25

**Newsletter** Please send your articles and photos for the January newsletter by **Wednesday, December 31st** to the church office at [Lahabraumc@frontier.com](mailto:Lahabraumc@frontier.com)



**La Habra  
United Methodist Church**  
631 N. Euclid Street  
La Habra, CA 90631-3806  
**Office:** (562) 691-1797

**Website:** [LaHabraumc.org](http://LaHabraumc.org)

**Office Email:**  
[LaHabraumc@frontier.com](mailto:LaHabraumc@frontier.com)

**Office Hours:**  
Monday to Wednesday  
10am to 1pm

**Senior Pastor**  
Rev. Dr. Soomee Kim  
**Email:**  
[pastor.lahabra631@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.lahabra631@gmail.com)  
**Cell/Text:** (818) 913-3343

For up-to-date calendar events, please go to the website: [lahabraumc.org/events](http://lahabraumc.org/events)

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



With the first Sunday in Advent on November 30th, Christians started the new year. Happy New Year, dearly beloved!!

Christian calendar, also known as the liturgical year or church year, is a carefully woven tapestry of time used by Christian communities worldwide. It structures seasons of worship and remembrance, focusing especially on the pivotal events in the life of Jesus Christ. The two major

events, birth and resurrection of Jesus, are remembered and celebrated on Christmas and Easter with the seasons for preparation and follow-up.

**Christmas Season with Preparation and Follow-Up:**

**Advent:** Advent is a four-week season of anticipation and spiritual preparation leading up to Christmas. Each Sunday of Advent unveils a theme—hope, peace, joy, and love—as Christians ready their hearts for the celebration of Christ’s birth.

**Christmas:** Celebrated on December 25, Christmas marks the arrival of Jesus, the light of the world. The festive season does

not end on Christmas Day but continues for twelve days, culminating in Epiphany on January 6, which commemorates the Magi’s visit and the revelation of Christ to all nations. The season of Christmas is thus both a time of joyful celebration and of pondering the mystery of the incarnation.



**Season of Epiphany:** Follows Christmas and lasts until Ash Wednesday. The length of the Season of Epiphany varies depending on the date of the Easter. Christmas is always on December 25th, but the date of Easter changes each year. Easter is determined each year based on a calculation

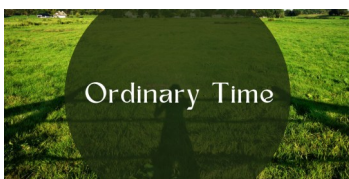
known as Computus, which states that Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after March 21, the vernal equinox. This means that Easter can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25.

**Easter Season with Preparation and Follow-Up:**

**Lent:** The Easter cycle is anchored by Lent, journey of fasting, prayer, and self-examination, starting from Ash Wednesday. The date of Ash Wednesday also changes each year because we count forty days, not counting Sundays, backward from the already determined Easter date for that year. This solemn period invites Christians to prepare their hearts for the resurrection, mirroring Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness. Lent culminates in Holy Week—an intense remembrance of Christ’s passion, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.



**Easter:** At the heart of the Christian calendar is Easter, the triumphant festival celebrating Jesus’ resurrection from the



dead. Easter is not a single day but a season of forty-nine days following Easter Sunday.

The joy of Easter reverberates through the church, signifying new life, hope, and the promise of salvation. Pentecost concludes Easter cycle and marks the descent of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. The season of Pentecost propels believers into mission and witness as the community built on life and resurrection of Christ.

**Ordinary Time/ Kingdomtide:** Ordinary Time is between Pentecost and Advent, focusing on the teachings of Jesus and the development of spiritual life for individual Christians and as the faith community, “The Church.” Kingdomtide, also known as the Kingdom Season, is observed in the autumn and emphasizes the values and glory of God’s Kingdom. It typically runs from the last Sunday in August until the beginning of Advent, with a focus on social justice and the advance of God’s reign. Both are important for spiritual growth and reflection, with Ordinary Time emphasizing the teachings of Jesus, while Kingdomtide highlights the establishment of God’s Kingdom in the world.

Christmas and Easter are the spiritual high points of the Christian year embracing the wonder of Christ’s birth and the victory of his resurrection. Through the waiting and preparation of Advent and Lent, the exuberant celebrations that follow, and the periods of follow-through the messages of Incarnation and Resurrection, Christians are reminded of God’s love and the transformative power of hope. The annual journey through these seasons invites us into the story of salvation and anchors our faith in the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ and remind us how the church should live and have our being in the world.

**Rev. Dr. Soomee Kim**

Senior Pastor || La Habra United Methodist Church

# Church Campus Life

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

During the month of December the Children will be learning about Christmas.

17th Christmas Program 5:00pm School Closes at 5:00

17th Class Christmas Party 11:30am

December 20th – January 4th School Closed for Christmas Break



La Habra

United Methodist Church

Life Events affect each and every one of us. We are born. We grow. We live and we pass away.

Our church family is with us and beside us for many of these sacred life transitions.

"Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there with them."

~Matthew 18:20

## Room Request on Church Campus Need to use our facility?

If you would like to request a room to use on church campus please contact Izzy Izaguirre in the church office, (562) 691-1797.

All room requests go directly to her.

### Here is the process:

- 1) Either call or send an email to lahabraumc@frontier.com
- 2) Include your name, email, phone number, date and room needed.
- 3) Izzy will call or email to confirm the date/room is available.







## Birthdays

11 Pumpkin Bantrell  
 14 Sandy Cram  
 16 Max Parreco  
 17 Marie Chandler  
 18 Gwen Deavers  
 21 Wes Shaw  
 23 Lucy Deavers  
 24 Sara Tannheimer  
 26 Kurt Deniz  
 27 Pam Bellomy

# Church Campus Life

## The G.A.P (God's Awesome People)

This is a fun fellowship group that meets **every-other-month** in someone's home. If you would like to host the fellowship group in 2026, please contact Karen Hill (562) 237-1550.

### *Future Host:*

Please sign up at the next Gap Wednesday Game Night.

Come join us for an evening of Fellowship, games, and Bring-Your-Own Dinner to eat with others.

Great fun and fellowship for all ages.

**We meet every WEDNESDAY | 5PM | Lounge**

**December Schedule: 3rd, 10th and 17th**

If you have questions, contact the church office at (562) 691-1797.

## Breakfast Bags for La Habra Collaborative - We will pack breakfast bags on Thursday, December 11th | 11am | Fellowship Hall

We need granola bars, box juice, and juice cups. Money marked for CRCC will be used to buy cereal, milk, and plastic zip-lock bags.

Bring donations to the church office - Monday - Wednesday: 10am - 1pm or to church on Sunday mornings. Thank you for your help!



Check us out on the Web and join us [www.lahabraumc.org](http://www.lahabraumc.org)

Facebook: LahabraUMC

YouTube: La Habra United Methodist Church

facebook

You Tube

## UMC: CONNECTIONALISM AND APPORTIONMENT

One of the distinct features of the United Methodist Church (UMC) is in its Connectionalism. We are not an individual church but a member of a global church. This means you can see our cross with double flame logo on other continents and know they are one of us. The basic unit of the UMC is an annual conference (AC). California-Pacific Annual Conference, or Cal-Pac, is the annual conference where La Habra UMC belongs to.



Geographically, Cal-Pac includes Southern California, Hawaii, Saipan and Guam. Cal-Pac is therefore the most widely spread annual conference. Annual conference is led by a bishop, elected at jurisdictional conference and assigned to our annual conference for a quadrennium (four-year period). Bishop, Dottie Escobedo-Frank is our current leader and

her office with program and assistant staff are in Cal-Pac office in Pasadena. To make it manageable to oversee and support the individual congregations and pastors, Cal-Pac has divided into five districts, East, West, North, South, and Hawaii and assigned district superintendent to each of the districts. La Habra is located in the East District with the District Superintendent, Rev. Moon Young Lee as our District Superintendent. The five district superintendents help the Bishop as her cabinet members. Cal-Pac also provides various ministries for the local congregations including the Camps and Retreat Centers. Pastors are guided, supported, and examined and eventually ordained at the annual conference. Lay persons have their memberships in the local churches, and clergy have their memberships in the annual conference. Cal-Pac is one of the annual conferences in the Western Jurisdiction, and there are five Jurisdictions in the continent of U. S., North-East, South-East, North-Central, South-Central, and Western. And the annual conferences on the other continents are called Central Conferences.

General Conference meets every four years to lead this huge denomination and provide theological directions. General Conference is made up of delegates, laity and clergy in equal numbers, elected from each annual conference proportionately from the numbers of the membership. General Conference establishes general agencies (or churchwide agencies) to provide essential services and ministries beyond the scope of individual local congregations and annual conferences, and they are important for providing a common vision, mission and ministry for the entire global church. General Conference and the Connectional Table share in oversight of agency programs and ministries. There are 13 general agencies; Archives and History, Church and Society, Communications, Discipleship Ministries, Finance and Administration, Global Ministries, Higher Education and Ministry, Religion and Race, The Status and Role of Women, United Methodist Men, The United Methodist Publishing House, United Women in Faith, and Wespeth (Benefits and Investments). The titles of each agency can give you some idea about what they do. If you studied Discipleship Bible Study some years ago, that curriculum was developed by Discipleship Ministries which also includes the Upper Room. Global Ministries invite, train, and support missionaries, and includes UMCOR which you hear and see often for the work of humanitarian relief and recovery. Higher Education and Ministry oversee UMC's 13 seminaries and over a hundred universities and colleges, just in the US, and establishes the standards and educational requirements for the pastors. Pastor Soomee worked for this agency for 8 years before she came to La Habra.

This huge structure is there to enhance the ministry of the local churches. Local churches, in return, send the apportionment money to support the work of the denomination at these various levels so that the ministries are done in the scale and dimension above and beyond one local church can. Apportionment supports this Connectionalism on various levels. (More to Come)