

# The Vista

CHURCH CAMPUS LIFE

January 2026  
Volume 44, Number 1

## SEEING THE LIGHT

Epiphany is all about light.

The star in the sky leads the magi to Jesus, the light of the world, the revelation of divine love who came to dwell among

**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 February newsletter by **Wednesday, January 21st** to the church office at [Lahabraumc@frontier.com](mailto:Lahabraumc@frontier.com)



**Trustee Meeting** | Library | Tuesday, January 13th | 1pm

**Church Project Meeting** | Library | January TBD

**Church office & Preschool** we will be closed | Monday, January 19th  
In observance of Martin Luther King Day



**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

**Worship Service:** 10:30am

**Communion Sunday:**

First Sunday of each month

**Senior Pastor**

Rev. Dr. Soomee Kim

**Email:**

[pastor.lahabra631@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.lahabra631@gmail.com)

**Cell/Text:** (818) 913-3343

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

I have never thought I would identify with John the Baptist. Ever since I preached about him during the Advent, however, he kept coming to me in my prayerful moments. As I prayed about the direction for the new year, for our church, and what my focus as the pastor should be, it became clearer that I should be like John the Baptist to prepare the way for all of you to relate to God more intimately and follow Jesus as He leads our church to the next phase.

John was steadfast in proclaiming his message of repentance and preparing the way for the coming



of Jesus. I already told you I have strong reactions to “repentance” because of the unhealthy connotations and narrow theology that concept suggests and has been practiced. What repentance attempts, however, is a fundamental shift in attitudes and actions rather than just feeling regrets or sorry for getting caught. Repentance moves us away from whatever either blocked or prevented us from honestly and openly relating to God and taking another direction to move towards God. True repentance is a deep,

heartfelt change of mind and direction, which may involve sorrow for wrong, confessing that awareness of wrong either to God directly in prayer or with someone you trust, making amends if necessary, and committing to a transformed life. John reminded me it is my role, as a pastor, to inspire all of you to seek a higher purpose, pursue truth, and embody integrity. To do that we need constant evaluation of our relationship with God. And it may take some repentance even if we have been good citizens and faithful Christians. Repentance is like lifting our heads from whatever has occupied us to look around and evaluate where we are and expand our horizon to be where we can be with God’s help and guidance.

Another key element of John’s leadership was his courage in speaking truth. He was fearless in confronting both religious authorities and political leaders, calling them to account for their actions and urging them to live lives worthy of repentance. John’s example teaches me that true leaders must be willing to stand for what is right, even when it is unpopular or dangerous. I am not afraid of speaking truth. However, if that truth cannot be heard or accepted for whatever reason, then, it is not worth mentioning it. The wisdom I learned through the years of experience and from one of my favorite Kenny Roger’s songs, “The Gambler” is to know when to hold them and when to fold them, to know when to engage and when to walk away.

And I also know it is my role as a pastor to cook the spiritual messages in ways that are edible and



digestible, always keeping in mind how to preserve good nutrition I need to feed my congregation. Are you ready for 2026? I will try to feed you more honey than locust, and I will be sure to dress nicely than camel’s hair. But I will remind myself, it is my role to prepare the way that you may meet our Savior and Lord more intimately and live out our Call as La Habra UMC.

Pastor Soomee plans to be in the church office on these days in January:

Monday 5th , AM & PM || Thursday 8th , AM & PM

Monday 12th , PM || Wednesday 14th, AM & PM || Thursday 15th , AM

Tuesday 20th , AM & PM || Wednesday 21st, AM & PM

Monday 26th , PM || Tuesday 27th , AM || Wednesday 28th , AM & PM



**Rev. Dr. Soomee Kim**

Senior Pastor || La Habra United Methodist Church

**JANUARY MESSAGE**

# Church Campus Life



A "HUGE THANK YOU" to Dutch Bros. for providing us with Hot Chocolate for our Christmas "Eve" Eve Service!! Their generosity means everything to us and to the community we serve.

**Thank you to ALL of the volunteers** who helped make this Christmas "Eve" Eve service special for all that attended. "

You are a true gift to our community. Your passion and compassion shine, making impossible tasks possible and bringing hope to so many this Christmas season".



## January Birthdays

Jim Hill 2

Jonell Cadman 5

Pat Gaston 6

Bruce Thomas 8

Kim Deniz 8

Melody Deavers 25

Sharon Huggler 25

Barbara McIntosh 30

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

January: During the month of January the children will be learning about Winter. Monday, January 19th | Martin Luther King Day - School Closed

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

It's that time again! We are currently in the process of updating our annual membership directory to ensure everyone's information is accurate and up-to-date. A current directory makes it easier for all members to connect, collaborate, and network effectively within our church community.

We need your help to make this a success!

Simply send your information to [lahabraumc@frontier.com](mailto:lahabraumc@frontier.com) with any changes or new picture to add to your profile or contact Peggy Rubel or Pat Gaston. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important update!

## PLANNING A MEETING OR EVENT ON CHURCH CAMPUS???

If you would like to request a room or plan a meeting 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](mailto: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.

## 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*





## 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**

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, January 15th | 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 - noon or to church on Sunday mornings. Thank you for your help!



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

YouTube: La Habra United Methodist Church



## COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP

As of November 16, 2025 at the All Church Conference

**2026**

### Trustees

Sandy Cram  
Mike Cabardo

**2027**

Barbara McIntosh  
Vince Mark  
Roy Francis

**2028**

Rob Pocock (Chair)  
Nancy Tittle

### Committee on Lay Leadership

Jim Hill

Cathy Doub

Sally DeBerry

### Staff Parish Relations Committee

Gail Crabtree  
Nancy Tittle  
Nina Cabardo

Karen Hill  
Joan Estes  
Jim Ingram

Jonell Cadman (Chair)  
Sally DeBerry

### Lay Leaders

Jim Hill  
Cathy Doub

### Leadership Team

Cathy Doub - Chair  
Sharon Huggler - Finance  
Linda Deniz - Treasurer  
Rob Pocock - Trustees  
Jonell Cadman - SPRC  
Pastor Soomee Kim  
Pat Gaston - Membership  
Nancy Tittle - Member at Large  
Jim Hill - Lay Leader

### Preschool Board

Karen Hill - Chair  
Vaughna Lee Doyle - Treasurer  
Sandy Cram - Pre-School Director  
Pastor Soomee Kim  
Nancy Tittle - SPRC  
Treecia Mark - Parent\Grandparent

### Lay Member to Annual Conference - Izzy Izaguirre

### Finance Committee

Sharon Huggler - Chair  
Linda Deniz - Treasurer  
Vaughna Lee Doyle - Financial Secretary  
Rob Pocock - Trustees  
Linda Kreeger

### Mission Committee

Cathy Doub  
Pat Gaston  
Bonnie Heffner  
Susie Bush  
Treecia Mark