

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



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

Office Email:
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
Cell/Text: (818) 913-3343

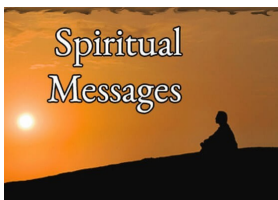
A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

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 Rogers’ 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

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".

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 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
- 2) Include your name, email, phone number, date and room needed.
- 3) Izzy will call or email to confirm the date/room is available.



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

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



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

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.lahabraumc.org

Facebook: LahabraUMC

YouTube: La Habra United Methodist Church

facebook

YouTube

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP

As of November 16, 2025 at the All Church Conference

2026

Trustees

Sandy Cram
Mike Cabardo

Committee on Lay Leadership

Jim Hill

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Gail Crabtree
Nancy Tittle
Nina Cabardo

Lay Leaders

Jim Hill
Cathy Doub

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

2027

Barbara McIntosh
Vince Mark
Roy Francis

Cathy Doub

Karen Hill
Joan Estes
Jim Ingram

2028

Rob Pocock (Chair)
Nancy Tittle

Sally DeBerry

Jonell Cadman (Chair)
Sally DeBerry

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

Mission Committee

Cathy Doub
Pat Gaston
Bonnie Heffner
Susie Bush
Treecia Mark