



First United Methodist Church of Lompoc

April 2026 Forecast

Eric Scott, Pastor

Remain True in the Midst of Chaos

I participated in a great discussion about staying grounded when everything around is chaos. We discussed Jesus' ability to remain true to himself when he was provoked, threatened and abused. He remained calm and empathetic. Even on the cross, he engaged others with compassion and forgiveness. That is a remarkable aspect of the passion story.

I confess that in times of stress, I am not always able to stay grounded. The emotions of anger, fear or embarrassment can overwhelm me to the point where I behave poorly. Why is this? Why can't I always be the person I intend to be?

We can look to Jesus for clues. He had a very strong sense of self. The stories of his baptism emphasize that he was claimed and affirmed as beloved. It is from that identity that he went out into the wilderness to refine his sense of call through unique temptations. Could Jesus have succeeded in overcoming if he had doubts as to his identity as beloved? It seems unlikely to me.

Jesus is a unique case, of course, and we cannot expect to identify with him in every respect. Yet the call and claim on our lives is much the same. We are beloved. That is made clear in our baptisms. The world comes along and attempts to tear us down and teach us that we have little value, but that message is false. We begin as beloved, and God continues to affirm that throughout our lives. If a person is convinced of this, it is so much easier to be true to who you are even when the river of your troubles reaches your door. Happy Easter, beloved!

Grace and peace,
Eric

To reach our Pastor, Eric Scott, you can email him at eric.saumc@gmail.com. Urgent messages are best by text message or his mobile phone. Please contact Barbara in the office if you need Eric's number. Thank You.



Worship is held on Sundays at 11am in-person and live stream (YouTube). Would you like to subscribe? For new videos, previous sermons and celebrations, please click the link below. Thank you.

<https://www.youtube.com/@lompocfirstunitedmethodist8922>.

Prayers

Jack Jones' great-granddaughter Sydney has a recurrence of cancer and will be having surgery in April. Please keep Sydney in your prayers; we pray for Tucker, his brother and the family; JoDee who has been in the hospital in Vallejo after suffering a fall. JoDee broke her hip and tailbone and goes through more additional health appointments during the week; Janet Shiers' sister, Anita, is home now and in hospice. Please pray for Anita and her family; Lynda Nuernberg-Smith requests prayers for her son, Derrick. Derrick's Pan Ulcerative Colitis has returned and he is back in treatment. Please pray his treatment is successful and that he fully recovers from this new episode; Desiree and Pastor Eric are in our prayers as they navigate upcoming schedules and procedures; please keep praying for Glenna and Arlis's nephew, Chance, who is home now and facing a long road to recovery. Chance had a second surgery and doctors are hopeful it will help him; we continue prayers for Colleen and her recovery; for the homeless and all those without food, medical treatment or shelter. We pray all find a strong belief in Jesus as their savior; John and Phyllis are requesting prayers for their dear friend, Susan, who is dealing with serious health issues. Please pray for healing and a full recovery.

To send a card to those we pray for or if you want to be removed from our prayers, please call our office. If you want to add a prayer or a joy, please write on the back of your Sunday I Am Here card (in the pews) or notify the office. Please let us know if you prefer your comments to be private. Thank you.

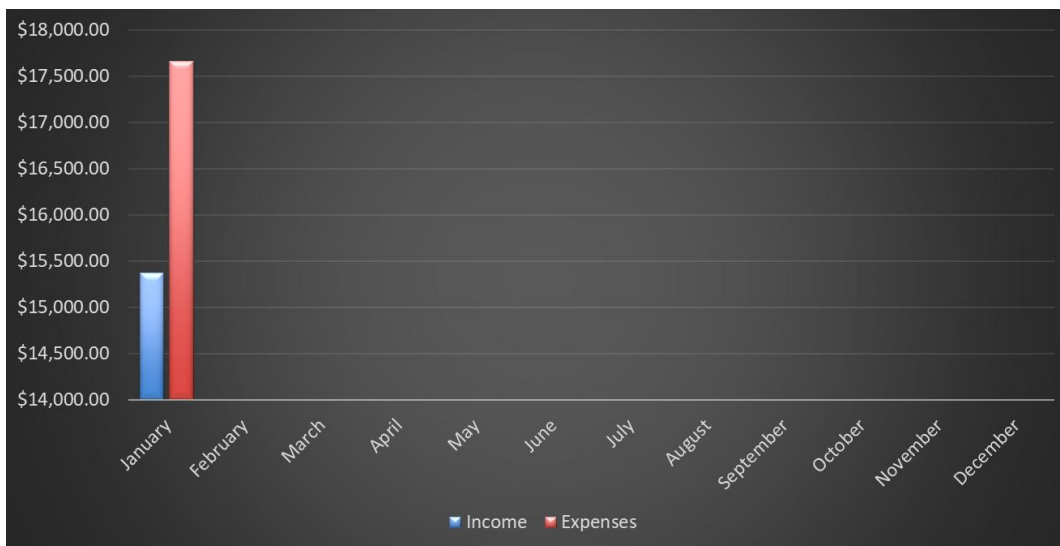
What's Going On?

Leadership Team. The next Leadership Team meeting is April 15th at 5:00pm.

2026 Expense Report

January Income: \$15,373.45
January Expenses: \$17,657.18

Year To Date Income: \$15,373.45
Year To Date Expenses: \$17,657.18



Attendance	In-Person	Online	Total
January 4	27	9	36
January 11	34	11	45
January 18	18	11	29
January 25	24	32	56

... and April Something to Think About from Barbara Dameron

"Sometimes Music is the Only Medicine the Heart and Soul Needs."

Hoda Kotb



Outreach to Care Facilities

Sundays at 10am is weekly worship at Skilled Nursing and Rehab.

2nd, 4th & 5th Tuesdays/11:30 hymn songs CCC

United Methodist Men: Saturday, April 4th at 9am / Tom's Restaurant. Please contact Myron Heavin at mgheavin@me.com

Connections and Gatherings

Women's Devotional - Thursdays at 11am. We are studying the March - April Upper Room. Meet in the Fireside Room. Please note we will not meet on April 9th nor April 16th.

Scribblers - Love to write? Scribblers meets every third Saturday at 11am with a new topic every month. Next meeting is April 18th. Meet us in the Fireside Room.

Paper Crafting with Cindy - Next Paper Crafting is Friday, April 24th at 2:00pm and Saturday, April 25th at 10:00am. Fireside Room.

Bible Studies:

(Zoom meeting Number 946 705 060)

In Person & Zoom: Thursdays, 7:30am / Dave's Place / (Village Inn/Vandenberg Village) ("Genesis")

In-Person & Zoom: Thursdays 7pm / Myron Heavin's home ("Revelation")

Zoom only: Sunday Morning Sunday School, 8:30am ("Ezekiel")

Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

We are meeting in the Fireside Room at 12:00 - 1:00 the week of March 30th - April 2nd for study and discussion on Holy Week. Then, on Good Friday, we will have a worship service at noon. On Easter Sunday, we will enjoy once again the beautiful flower cross and all the lilies that will adorn our church in honor of or in memory of friends, family and loved ones. Bring a friend or family this Sunday - and your special flower - to put on the flower cross and watch it become increasingly beautiful as it is filled with colors and fills the sanctuary with beautiful a fragrance. Everyone has a special story about their flower, and some bring bulbs to share as well. It will be beautiful and we hope you can join us. We hope you have a nice Easter.



Butterflies



In March, Em and Barbara sat down for a discussion on Em's passion for butterflies. Em is known for her love of butterflies. At her weekly Women's Devotional, it's a bit obvious with Em's butterfly socks and a bright and beautiful butterfly purse. It fits that a woman who brings sunshine and compassion to so many would also love and care for the fragile and lovely butterfly.

Em's favorite butterfly is the monarch. Her interest began in 1965-1970 when friends of the family had a daughter who became a Catholic nun, known as Sister Margaret. Sister Margaret made a macramé of the Ojo de Dios (Eye of God) in the colors of the monarch. Em was moved by it. Then in 2020, Covid hit. The world felt isolated and disconnected. Many felt deep loneliness. But at Em's house, new life was coming to her garden. For the first time, monarchs began appearing. It seemed like a miracle in such a time of uncertainty and fear. I asked Em what attracted the butterflies to her yard and especially, why then? Em said there was a plant under her kitchen window to which she had never given much thought. The butterflies were drawn to it. Come to find out, it's milkweed and butterflies depend on it for the three stages of metamorphosis before they become a butterfly. Em wondered if the former owners had encountered butterflies or perhaps planted milkweed just for this purpose. Unfortunately, there was no way to know so Em and Dick just accepted the gift that it was.

Em began to help. She bought two "habitats" (cages) and continuously provided milkweed. Her and Dick watched the complex process of eggs growing on the underside of the plant and then grow to the size of about two ants. She explained, as the caterpillar forms, it begins to eat the milkweed (and it eats a lot!). From here, the caterpillar is ready for the chrysalis phase (the chrysalis is about two inches long and about an inch in diameter). In just about 12 – 14 days, the new life of the butterfly can be seen through the green translucent chrysalis. It is now ready to emerge but will stay hanging one more day to dry its wings. Em then releases the butterfly. The butterflies stay in Em's garden about a day or two and they visit neighbors' gardens too - eating insects and sipping nectar from the flowers, all happy and fluttery. What beauty and joy the butterfly gives!



Em says regular monarchs live about six to eight weeks, but the super monarchs live longer and are the migrating type. Super monarchs prefer the Eucalyptus trees, with the downward bent leaves which have a sheltering effect. Here, they hang for the winter and lay their eggs. We know the local areas where we see the monarchs: Pismo, VSFB, Goleta, Nipomo (and Gaviota before the Eucalyptus trees were cut). We marvel at their beauty, but perhaps take them for granted. Maybe we did not know their amazing story, the environmental issues harming them and how they are struggling to stay healthy. Em said there is great concern. It's a dangerous and precarious time for monarchs. Just as with the bees, the numbers are alarming. Past numbers in Goleta were in the thousands. This year, there was a count of about 50. Past numbers in Pismo were at least 20,000 and this year the count is 402. Em anticipates that the monarchs will be placed on the endangered species list and said changes are thought to be due to pesticides, climate change, not enough flowers, trees being cut for development, lack of milkweed and a whole circle of reasons. She sees the change in her garden as well. This winter she had 11 caterpillars. Only one was able to move into chrysalis. This one then could not dry its wings.

Em likens the monarch process of death and rebirth as part of the Lenten journey; showing resurrection and what new life offers when one receives the LORD. It's a beautiful analogy. Considering this, one thinks of the countless times we have had to endure change, loss and hardship and be in acceptance and trust of the next phase and rebirth in our own lives too. The monarch gives us a lot to think about. Maybe we might think of adding some milkweed (native, not tropical) to our garden too!

For more information you can watch this documentary from Em: *Metamorphosis: The Beauty and Design of Butterflies Origin* (tubity): <https://tubity.com/movies/613495/metamorphosis-the-beauty-and-design-of-butterflies-origin>

And one of Barbara's favorite stories ever, *Hope for the Butterflies*. Read along here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsgX-xltd_g

Feed the Hungry St Patrick's Day March 17, 2026

Our third Tuesday fell on St Patrick's Day and guess what we served. You guessed it, Corned beef and cabbage with potatoes and carrots. Also provided was a dinner roll, hardboiled egg, red vine candy, a decorated St. Patrick's cookie, apple juice and a lunch bag to go with a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The lunch bag was prepared by Dr. Bob.



L-R: Lynda, Donna, Myron, Linda and Larry took the picture

I want to thank Kathleen for coming to help with preparing the cabbage, Donna and Myron, Lynda, and Linda (who provided the hardboiled eggs from her flock of laying hens) who also helped put this all together. We let the Corned beef cook slowly so it was tender and juicy, and then cooked the cabbage, potatoes and carrots in that hot tasty broth. We were able to feed 33 visitors at St. Timothy's and all that wanted it had seconds. Some of us were able to take some home ourselves or to share with others.

***"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done".
Proverbs 19:17 (NIV):***

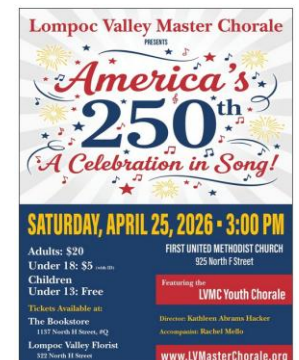
Thank You
Larry Huyck

Music, Music, Music! Concerts at our Church

Lompoc Concert Association, Friday, April 17th at 7pm. Lompoc Concert Association's last concert of the 2025-2026 season is coming our way and will feature the Mt. Lowe Chamber Players. The Mt. Lowe Chamber Players are a powerhouse musicians' collective whose members perform with the LA philharmonic, the LA Opera, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and more. Their Woodwind Quintet brings the rhythmic and energetic sounds of clarinet, flute, oboe, bassoon, and horn vibrantly to life in their wide ranging program from classical composers to Fats Waller. Tickets are \$25 at the door, Military \$15 and Students with ID are \$5.00. For more information, please call 805-588-5971. Also see: <https://www.lompocconcert.org>. And, about the Quintet here: <https://www.mtlowechamberplayers.com>.



Valley Master Chorale, Saturday, April 25th at 3pm, presents: America's 250th. A celebration in Song! and featuring the LVMC Youth Chorale. Adults \$20, Under 18 is \$5 and children under 13 are free. Tickets are available at The Bookstore and Lompoc Valley Florist or at the door.



April SHARING TREE – Mercy Ships

Mercy Ships is a Christian charity founded in 1979 by Don Stephens, dedicated to bringing badly needed surgeries and health care to thousands of children and adults who would otherwise suffer and die from treatable conditions. There is an overwhelming need in the world and there is hope for inspiration to lend a hand to make a difference



Mercy Ships founder, Don Stephens, is a Colorado farm boy and an unlikely hero. Turning a decrepit ocean liner into a floating hospital seems improbable at best. And yet that is exactly what happened twenty-five years ago. Because of the efforts of Stephens, his fleet of ships, and his "navy" of volunteers, thousands around the world have experienced healing of body and spirit. Specializing in fixing facial deformities, Mercy Ships International embodies the great commission and demonstrates what God can do with a few willing hands and determined spirits.



There are now two hospital ships, the Africa Mercy put into service in 2007, and the newest, Global Mercy, their first purpose-built hospital ship, capable of doubling their ability to save and transform lives around the world. Since over 50% of the world's population lives near a coast, the ships are the best way to reach people in need with safe, state-of-the-art medical care. The ships enable volunteer surgeons and medical professionals to provide a safe, sterile environment including clean water, reliable electricity and monitored care centers. Services include eye and dental care, corrective surgeries for cleft conditions and facial tumors, club feet, and twisted limbs. Also included is a holistic approach to women's health and treatment and mental health care. In addition, training and education for local healthcare people is provided so that care is continued after the ship departs.



Mercy Ships believes that everyone deserves a life full of promise and potential. That every parent deserves to see her child grow healthy and thrive and that being able to access the medical care needed should never depend on where one is born. Mercy Ships bring hope and healing to people in great need by mobilizing people and resources worldwide and serving all people without regard for race, gender, or religion. Their programs address urgent surgical needs and provide training and education to local healthcare workers. We emphasize too that



all this treatment and other needed work is provided *entirely* by volunteers that come from many different countries and faiths.

To help this life-changing Christian organization, make your check to FUMC and enter "Mercy Ships" on the memo line.

Thank you.

Donna Wood,
FUMC Outreach Committee

Looking Ahead - It's hard to believe we are talking about May already, but we certainly are! May will be a busy month for us. We hope you can join us for **Graduation Sunday**, the **60-year Church Anniversary Slideshow** and **New Baby Sunday** (dates TBD). *In fact, if you or a family member are a new mom, dad, grandparent, great-grandparent or a great-great-great grandparent (whew!), a new aunt or uncle, be sure and let us know. We would love to see some photos to show to all. We welcome new life into the world and into our church family. Thanks!*

April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 29 11:00 Worship, <i>In-Person and Live Stream</i> 4:00 Lompoc Pops Concert	March 30 Holy Week/Study 12:00 – 12:30 Fireside Room 4:00pm Youth Chorale Rehearsal 7:00pm Master Chorale Rehearsals	March 31 Holy Week/Study 12:00 – 12:30 Fireside Room	1 Holy Week/Study 12:00 – 12:30 Fireside Room	2 Holy Week/Study 12:00 – 12:30 Fireside Room 11:00 Women's Devotional Study (Fireside Room)	3 12:00 Good Friday Worship Service	4 9:00 United Methodist Men (Tom's Restaurant)
5 Easter Sunday 11:00 Worship, Holy Communion, <i>In- Person and Live Stream</i>	6 4:00pm Youth Chorale Rehearsal 7:00pm Master Chorale Rehearsals	7	8	9 (Cancelled) 11:00 Women's Devotional Study (Fireside Room)	10	11
12 11:00 Worship, <i>In-Person & Live Stream</i>	13 4:00pm Youth Chorale Rehearsals 7:00pm Master Chorale Rehearsals	14 3:00 - Feed The Hungry	15 5:00pm Leadership Team Meeting	16 (Cancelled) 11:00 Women's Devotional Study (Fireside Room)	17 7:00pm Lompoc Concert Association	18 11:00 Scribblers Fireside Room
19 11:00 Worship, <i>In-Person & Live Stream</i> Master Chorale Setup	20 4:00pm Youth Chorale Rehearsals 7:00pm Master Chorale Rehearsals	21	22	23 11:00 Women's Devotional Study (Fireside Room) Master & Youth Chorale Rehearsal	24 2:00pm Paper Crafting with Cindy (Fireside Room)	25 10:00am Paper Crafting with Cindy (Fireside Room) 3:00pm Master Chorale Concert
26 11:00 Worship, <i>In-Person & Live Stream</i>	27	28	29	30 11:00 Women's Devotional Study (Fireside Room)	May 1	May 2 9:00 United Methodist Men (Tom's Restaurant)

First United Methodist Church of Lompoc
925 North F Street
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 736-1271

April 2026
Newsletter

To:

Rollin Bailey
1300 E. Cypress Ave.
Lompoc, CA 93436

Email: office@lompocumc.org
Website: lompocumc.org
We Hope to See You at Church

Return Service Requested

Our Church Organization

*First United Methodist
Church of Lompoc*

Eric Scott, Pastor

escott@lompocumc.org

Lynda LaCombe, Bookkeeper

lynlacombe@outlook.com

Kathleen Hacker, Director of Music

kathleenhacker@gmail.com

Barbara Walsh, Administrative Assistant

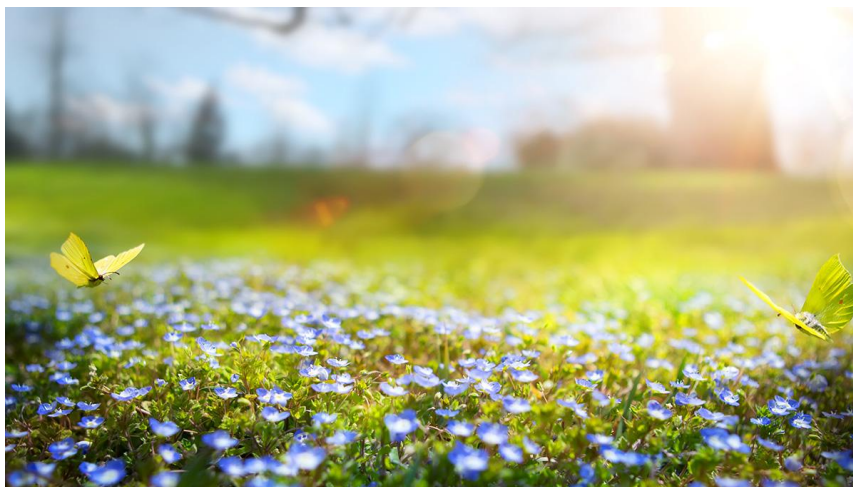
office@lompocumc.org

Connie & Enrique Aquilera

Buildings & Grounds

Larry Huyck & Lynn Clock,

Technical Team



Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am to 12pm and 12:30pm to 2:30pm