



**PLACENTIA
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**
2050 Valencia Avenue
Placentia, CA 92870
(714) 528-1483

Church office hours:
Monday/Friday-Closed
Tuesday/Thursday 10am to 2pm
Wednesday 1pm to 4pm

Senior Pastor
Eric Schmidt
(714) 271.3698
umepastorschmidt@gmail.com

Pastor Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday
10am to 1pm or by appointment
Please call or email to
schedule an appointment.

Music Director
Laurie Cobb
(714) 425.5705
88keymagic@gmail.com

Office Administrator
Izzy Izaguirre
pumcsecr@gmail.com

Visit us:
website: placentiaumc.org/
facebook.com/placentiaumc/

The Messenger

Placentia United Methodist Church

January | February Issue 2026

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?" Matthew 5:13a (CEB)

Let's start the new year well! We begin 2026 encountering the glory of God, revealed in so many ways. We'll renew our commitment to generous living through our "Add a Brick in 2026" campaign, as we seek to build our church. And we'll make a covenant offering of our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness as we renew our baptism.

As we resolve to walk more closely with the Lord, we'll find ourselves led into the mission field. You know what I mean: it's what we encounter when we walk out of the door of the church.

That's why I offer a "sending blessing" each Sunday, not a benediction. The latter implies an ending, while the former implies a beginning. We come together, give thanks to God, are refreshed and inspired to go out and share the love and grace we've received with our family, friends and neighbors. The Holy Spirit goes with us, showing us where God is already at work so we may join in.

I think it's a great way to begin the year. We'll then move into Lent, the season of preparation for Easter. This year, we're going to reclaim the grace-filled, boundary-breaking movement first sending Methodists to the fields, the margins, and those often excluded.

Rev. Dr. Ashley Boggan coined a term, "vile-tality." This describes holy rule-bending, which is part of our Wesleyan DNA. I invite you to join our hope-filled small group reflection during Lent. We'll look at Rev. John Wesley's story. And we'll encounter Wesley's provocative, practical missiology: field preaching, grassroots community, social engagement, and leadership activation.

This isn't nostalgia. It's renewal. It's about mission. Our movement has always been bold, Spirit-led and unapologetically focused on reaching those left out and left behind. Together, let's reclaim our Wesleyan identity and roots. I hope you will join us as we explore how bending the rules for the sake of love can spark resurrection in forgotten places.

Let our light shine,
Pastor Eric

Pastor Eric Schmidt
Senior Pastor || Placentia United Methodist Church

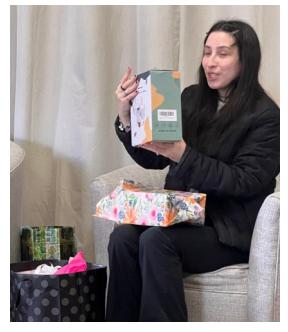
A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Church Campus Life

Samantha Sanchez Bridal Shower!

About twenty women gathered to celebrate Samantha and Elvis at a beautiful wedding shower. The afternoon was filled with gratitude and joy as Samantha and her mother shared their appreciation for the outpouring of love from the group.

Among many thoughtful gifts to help the couple begin their new life, Samantha received a special monogrammed cake cutter and knife set. Guests enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the PUMC women, and a true highlight of the day was the opportunity for everyone to meet Samantha's lovely mother.



Church Campus Life

Congratulations to Samantha Sanchez & Elvis Iniguez on their marriage!

The couple wed on Tuesday December 23, 2025, our own Samantha Sanchez married Elvis Iniguez at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles. It was a beautiful, intimate ceremony with family and friends present. The happy couple said their own heartfelt vows and lit the unity candle as a couple.

Following the wedding was a resplendent and elegant reception held at Maggiano's Little Italy in Costa Mesa. And our own Gisela caught the bouquet!!

The couple enjoyed a honeymoon driving up the coast to Solvang and Santa Barbara.

Please join us in wishing Mr. & Mrs. Iniguez a lifetime of happiness.



Church Campus Life

ADVENT 2025

Each week, our worship was truly blessed by the members of our congregation who stepped forward to light the Advent candles. We are deeply grateful for your service, which brought the light of Christ to life and made our Advent season so meaningful.

1st Sunday Leisa & Gene Luke and Diane Cooper



2nd Sunday Karen Richards & Joanie Lees



3rd Sunday Leon Cheney and Kay Ressler



4th Sunday Sara & Derrick Floyd



Gerry Adams - Christmas Eve



Dianne & Evan Adams - Christmas Eve





Church Campus Life

Placentia UMC's Christmas Sing-A-Long

It was great fun to once again gathered on a Sunday evening for a delicious soup supper, thanks to Sue Lacko, and then joyful Christmas Carol singing. Laurie Cobb provided the songbooks and played the keyboard. Mel Palmer led the singing. We sang many of the old favorites, like "Silent Night", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", and "Joy to the World", ending in a fun rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas", complete with hand motions! Thanks to all who attended and made the evening special.



A "Garden Club Christmas Celebration"



A heart-felt "Thanks" from the Del Norte Garden Club (DNGC) goes out to PUMC for once again allowing us to hold our annual Holiday meeting and party on Thursday December 11. Pastor Eric led us in singing Christmas Carols and then gave the blessing for the meal. Then he and Izzy joined us for lunch. We are forever grateful that DNGC has been able to meet at PUMC for over 20 years. If you have an interest in Gardening, have a garden or just enjoy flowers and other plants, you can visit any time we meet which is the 2nd Thursday at 10a from September thru June. Visitors and guests are always welcome.

Each meeting includes fellowship time at 9:30am and an informative gardening-related program. We offer Horticulture Scholarships each year to students at Fullerton College and will be presenting our 2025 scholarships to 2 Fullerton College students at our January meeting.

Mel Bond, DNGC President

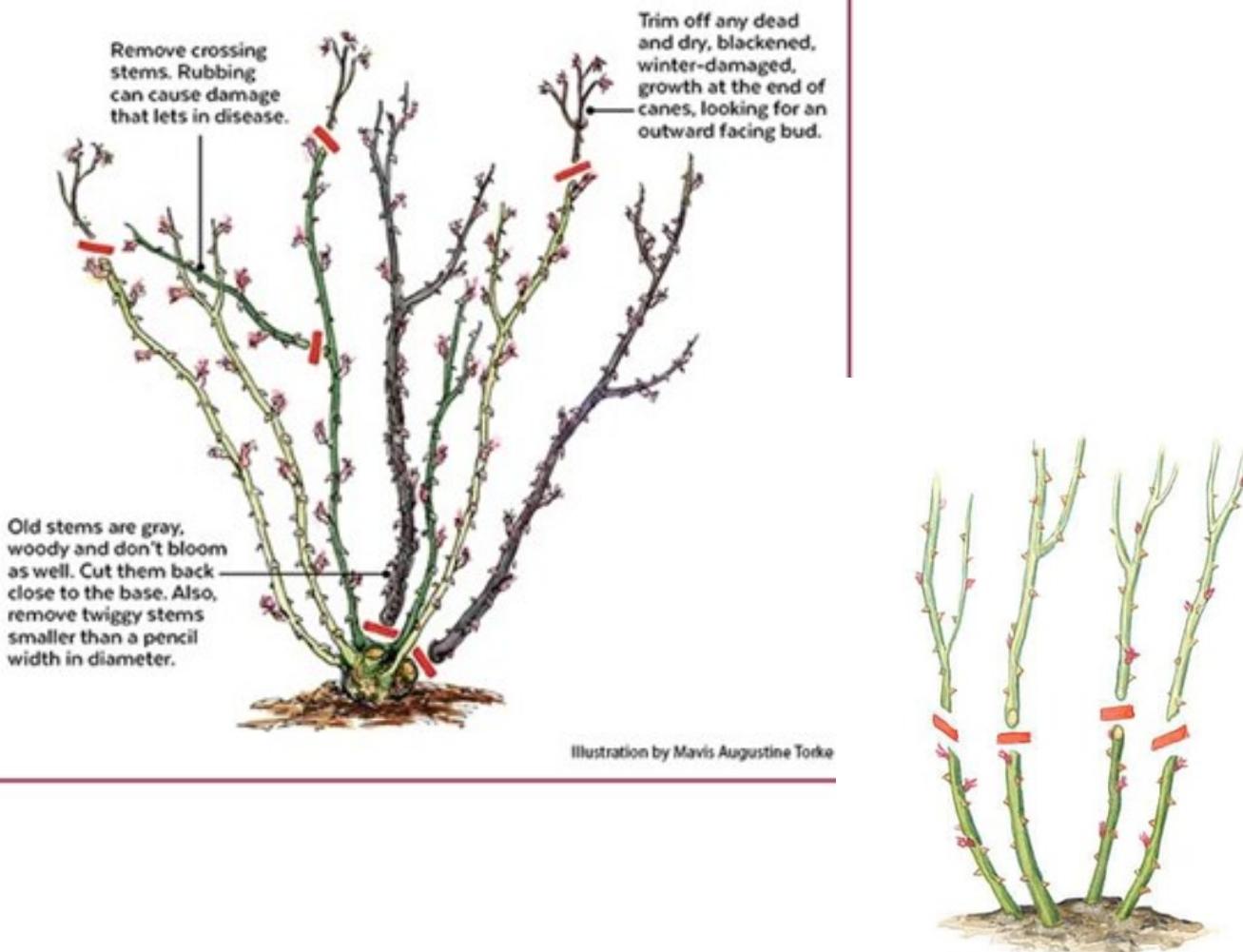


Readyng the Church Roses for Spring

It will soon be time for the annual pruning and cutting back of the roses at church. If you are interested in helping, please let Izzy know and she will pass on your name. We will be setting a date in mid to late January or early February. Watch the Sunday bulletin for both the selected date and backup dates in case of rainy weather. All you will need is your willingness to help. We will provide the tools, gloves, and instructions. In the meantime, be sure to check out the gorgeous blooms after the rain.

How to prune roses: To prune roses, first remove dead, diseased, or damaged wood (the 4 Ds) and any crossing or inward-growing canes to create an open, vase-shape for air circulation, making cuts at a 45-degree angle about 1/4 inch above an outward-facing bud. Trim remaining strong canes by about one-third, or harder for smaller bushes, ensuring the final cut slopes away from the bud to promote outward growth, and always use sharp bypass pruners for clean cuts.

Rose Pruning Tips



HAVE A Prayer Request

Visit us at our website:
placentiaumc.org/prayer
Or contact: Pastor Eric Schmidt
umcpastorschmidt@gmail.com
Or call the church office
(714) 528-1483



If you would like an update
about One Life to Love in Baja,
here is the website address:
<https://www.onelifeinbaja.org/>



PLACENTIA UMC SERVICES ON YOUTUBE

Go to YouTube at
www.youtube.com
Search for Placentia United
Methodist Church
Click on the picture of the
church sign.
This will take you to the
home page.
Click on "Live" to find the
most recent video (s). Enjoy!



Church Campus Life

As I write this, PUMC has celebrated its last Sunday of 2025, Sunday December 28, 2025. Our Treasurer Bob McKinnell is working on the December and Year End Financial reports and Summary. Although we will likely end the year with total expenditures exceeding our income, the amount is something we can work with.

We enter into 2026 with a spirit of thankfulness for your generosity and faithful giving, not just financially but through your prayers for our Church and leaders, your presence in worship, both on-line and in person and at gatherings like the Sing-A-Long, your service and your faithful witness to family and friends and our community.

Your giving through missions and other ministries such as the Blessing Boxes will have touched people who you may never meet but who are grateful for your giving. As we enter 2026 and our annual Stewardship, may you let God lead your heart in ever increasing ways of your prayers, your worship, your service, your witness and your giving.

Blessings to you in 2026. Mel Bond, Finance Chair



CORNERSTONE UMC - CORNER

New Life Fellowship

for Seniors and Retirees | 10am at church for fun and fellowship.
Lunch afterwards. Contact Betty Loh-Chen for more information.

Lean on Me || Wednesday, || 7pm on Zoom, our Monthly Caregiver Support Group to support one another in joys and concerns of caring for loved ones and those who have lost loved ones. RSVP to:
cumc.secretary@gmail.com

Tuesday Women's Study (TWS) resumes at 10am in the Purple Room and on Zoom, January 6th



PICKLEBALL IS ON || Come play the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month in the Parish Park after our lunch fellowship.

Volunteer Opportunities



Photos Needed

Please send in photos: Fun photos/selfies/fellowship pics to share for our newsletter and website.

Send to
pumcsecr@gmail.com

Are you looking for ways to volunteer?

Volunteering is both exciting and rewarding, especially when utilizing your knowledge, skills and expertise to make a positive difference in the lives of others . The reward is a mutual benefit that transcends to generations to follow. Please contact the church or Pastor Eric for information.

Liturgist for Sunday Service:

Please contact Leon Cheney if you would like to sign up to volunteer.

01/04 Bob McKinnell

02/22 Leon Cheney

01/11 Bruce Beck

01/18 Sue Lacko

Alternates:

01/25 Leon Cheney

Gerry Adams

02/01 Bob McKinnell

Margaret Johnson

02/08 Bruce Beck

02/15 Sue Lacko

Greeters for Sunday

Service schedule:

Please contact Leon Cheney if you would like to sign up to volunteer.

1st Sunday Shirley Cheney

2nd Sunday Margie Simmermacher

3rd Sunday Wendy Elliott

4th Sunday Karen Richards

5th Sunday Mel Bond

Tellers schedule:

Please contact Mel Bond if you would like to sign up to volunteer.

1st Sunday Bob McKinnell /Craig Green

2nd Sunday Kay Ressler/Sarah Floyd

3rd Sunday Leon Cheney/Bruce Beck

4th Sunday Leisa Luke/Kathy McKinnell

5th Sunday Leisa Luke/Sarah Floyd

Substitute Bob McKinnell

Clean Up in Social Hall

schedule:

Please contact the office if you would like to sign up to volunteer.

1st Sunday Sue Lacko

2nd Sunday Leon Cheney

3rd Sunday Craig Green

4th Sunday TBD

5th Sunday TBD

Communion Assistants needed, first Sunday each month.

4 people needed, Please contact Pastor Eric, if you would like to sign up to volunteer.

