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"So Here's the Thing" for June

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Footprints & Financial Blog

Children's Church & Youth Ministries

Volunteers Needed



LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
918 West Ave. J
Lancaster, CA 93534
www.lancasterunited.org

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES

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THE LINK (USPS 370-870)

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THE LINK

LABEL

TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DELIVER BY JUNE 12TH

LUMC Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 10 a.m. ~ 2 p.m.
Mask policies subject to restrictions in place at time of visit.
Closed Saturday & Sunday (661) 942-0419

In-Person Streaming Service Sundays — 10 a.m. in Sanctuary
(*masking is optional*)

facebook lancasterunited
(no FB membership needed)

YouTube lancasterunitedmc

LUMC Kitchen (Food Ministry):
Mondays & Thursdays, 12-1 p.m.

Footprints Pre-School — Open for business, and accepting new students!
Hours: Mon-Fri 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Check www.lancasterunited.org for more information on our active groups and ministries — the list is growing!

Audio/Visual Team
Caring and Hospitality
Children's Church
Grief Group
LUMC Kitchen
Music Ministries
Office Volunteers
Online classes
Prayer Team
Prayers and Squares
United Methodist Women
Youth Group
Wellness Works

1NE
1 Word 1 Book 1 Church 1 People
Lancaster United Methodist Church, CA

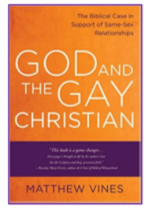
First time visitor?
Please contact the church office
for more information, or to speak with the pastor.

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The Link

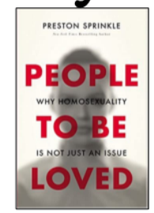
The Church's Official Newsletter
Vol. 66 No. 6
June 2022

Homosexuality and the Church



What it means to be a faithful gay Christian?
Progressive Leaning





Models how all views should approach this topic in love.
Conservative Leaning

Tensions over same-sex marriage and pastor ordination of practicing homosexuals reached a breaking point with the 2019 special UM General Conference. The conference voted 438-384 to continue the UM policy to not endorse same-sex weddings and "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy. The relatively narrow vote did not settle the debate but instead sparked widespread resistance and accelerated discussions of a denominational divorce.

Over the past two years, UM General Conference postponed meetings because of the pandemic; ergo, much of our denomination has been in a holding pattern, waiting for their action. Meanwhile, at Lancaster UMC, we are beginning a summer reading program to enhance our quest to love one another as Christ loved the world. Our main goal is not to change minds but to inform our current thoughts, allow God to soften hearts, and heal our damaged emotions.

Question: Can we humbly kneel at the Holy Communion table together when we are uncomfortable and even hurt and mad with each other, or will we eject and leave The Table?

Answer: While the UMC is running its course in dealing with declining membership and human sexuality, we will stay at The Table seeking the Mind of Christ as we examine various Biblical interpretations of this difficult subject. We will ask God to continue to increase our hearts level of compassion towards those who disagree and have or will offend us. "May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer." (Psalm 19:14)

Our goal is *not* to become 100% comfortable with our view of homosexuality and have everyone around us like-minded. Instead, our goal is to humble ourselves before God and one another, listen and learn, and follow the way of Christ's amazing grace and truth.

Our first step towards receiving God's transforming power in our hearts and minds is to read the book listed above which we disagree. If you are progressive-leaning, read ***People to be Loved***. If you are conservative-leaning, read ***God and the Gay Christian***. Unfortunately, there is no perfect book. These authors were chosen because both take the biblical text seriously as the authoritative Word of God; therefore, reading both books would be most profitable.

As part of this first step, find a friend or two you agree with on this issue and meet each week to review the portions you have read. In September, those who have completed step one will have an opportunity to speak from the pulpit about things they have learned from reading the book with the opposing view and share their personal and denominational concerns over homosexuality.

Nothing seems to be dividing churches and Christian communities more deeply than the issue of homosexuality. Angela and I would rather be nowhere else other than LUMC in such challenging times as these. Thank you for your prayerful participation in wrestling with the complexity of same-sex attraction.

- Pastor Greg

All-Church Notices

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CANCELLED

Due to a lack of advanced signups, this year's VBS has been cancelled. If you are interested in your children attending an evening VBS, please contact Palmdale UMC at (661) 947-3103.

LUMC Passages

Rachel Cash (May 4, 2022)
Services are pending.

Erma Fulton (May 23, 2022)
Graveside service is Friday, July 8 at 1 PM at Joshua Memorial Park.
Funeral to be held Saturday, July 9 at 1 PM at LUMC.

Phyllis Holmes (May 26, 2022)
A memorial service is Thursday, June 9th at 1:30 PM at LUMC.

Lois Wilk (May 12 or 13, 2022)
Services tentatively planned for Saturday, July16th at LUMC.

LUMC Prayer List

ONGOING PRAYERS
Bob Barry
Ramona Beck
Randy Beckett
Cynthia Christensen
Edith Crockett
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Vicki & David Fisher
Bill & Alease Goesch
Sheila Gonzales
Andrea Lackvoic
Carmen Lane
Jennifer Lawrence
Jesus Salcedo
Ruth Marr
Doreen Maynard
Jack Melano
Gerry Saul
Gaylin Schmitz
Marguarite Shirley
Phillip Trujillo
Augustina Waller
Ray Wolleman

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Family of Rachel Cash
Suzanne Dearborn
Roger Finifrock
Phyllis Holmes and family
Melinda Hunter
Philip Portugal
Barb & Dick Urmanski
Jane Van Howling
Jason Woodell and family

PRAYERS FOR THE MILITARY
Rayden Finifrock
Edwin Henao
Hallie (Day) Herrera & Felix Herrera
M. Todd Kelly
Edinson Kinsey Sr.
Nathan Maldonaldo
Matthew & Heather McDougall
Branden O'Carroll
Joseph Perez

FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Christa Arthur
Barry Bender
Becky and Pat Sivilingam
Family of Lois Wilk
Tamara, sister of Mark Gross

PRAYER QUILT RECIPIENTS
(*all submitted by Tammy Damon*)
Diana Noelle Diaz
Dominic Isaiah Diaz
Grayson Abel Oliver Ballesteros



All Church Notices

Children's Church



Children begin their Sundays in the Sanctuary, then are invited to join Children's Church in the Dining Room after the Children's Sermon. All children are welcome! Our youth are assisting as part of their Confirmation studies, helping with crafts, singing, audio-visual, puppetry, and Bible navigation. Starting in July, the children will be presenting prayers and songs during worship on the 1st Sunday of the month (this is a change from last month's announcement) Exciting things are happening — please join us!

FOOT PRINTS
Christian Children's Center

At Footprints, June is (almost) all about dinosaurs! We'll learn about how the dinosaurs lived, as well as the different species of dinosaurs, as well as what we can learn from fossils. The last week of June will be spent learning about America, in celebration of July 4th.
Footprints will be closed June 20th in observance of the Juneteenth federal holiday.

Save the Date: Our pre-kindergarten graduation celebration will be held on **Friday, June 17th, at 6 p.m.** in the LUMC Sanctuary!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The church van is back in business! Call the church office if you need a ride to church. But we are also in need of drivers! Men and women who are interested should call the church office. Eligible drivers will be between 25-75 years of age, and must have a clean driving record and carry car insurance on their own vehicle. (Drivers will be scheduled on a rotating basis)

Duties:
Must pick up the van from the LUMC parking lot in time for the first pick up, at 9 a.m.
Must inspect the van for damage before pickups begin and after drop-offs have concluded
After service concludes, drop offs takes about an hour.
Wipe down the van when returned to LUMC parking lot.
Log miles on the sheet in the van.





The **Bereavement Committee** is seeking volunteers to help with church member funerals. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bette Jo Valdez at 661-860-8588, or quiltingnana@msn.com.

Sunday Worship Flowers are available to purchase for $65 per arrangement. Flowers may be purchased to honor or memorialize, as well as to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or other special dedications. The 2022 Flower Notebook is on the Book table in Grand Foyer to sign up. Contact the church office with questions at 661-942-0419.





The counting team is always looking for volunteers. If you like counting money, are available on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM and would like to join the counting team, please contact the church office.
— Dayna Rodriguez, Treasurer