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Lay Delegate Report from Annual Conference

Thank you, teachers!

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Prayer List/LUMC Passages

Office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th (Independence Day holiday)



LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

918 West Ave. J
Lancaster, CA 93534
www.lancasterunited.org

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THE LINK

THE LINK (USPS 370-870)

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LABEL

TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DELIVER BY JULY 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

Instagram — lancasterunitedmethodist

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

Footprints Pre-School
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 Women in Faith (formerly UMW)
- Youth Group
- Wellness Works

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



THE LINK — *THE CHURCH'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER*
Vol. 67 No. 7 **July 2023**

nourish

Reflections from Annual Conference 2023

The 39th session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference was held June 14-17 at the Sheraton LAX in Los Angeles. In addition to Pastor Greg (who attended virtually), three lay delegates were sent to worship, celebrate, and do the business of the church. Their reflections are included below. (Jean was gone at press time — hers will be published in August)

Shannon Mims — I have had the privilege of attending the UMC 39th Annual Cal-Pac Conference in Los Angeles, California. As a lay member and recent graduate from Fuller Theological Seminary, my first experience attending annual conference in-person has left me restored, recharged, and looking forward to fulfilling the mission and vision of the church. I was reminded of the need to trust in the Lord and in God's faithfulness. Conference attendees were introduced to the newly appointed bishop, Dottie Escobedo-Frank, who shared her personal testimony about her life of service as an elder in the UMC and as a wife and mother. Her message centered on the need for pastors and lay members to prioritize rest and restoration along with living out the work in Christian service. We also met Chica, the bishop's chihuahua, who nervously greeted the crowd. The biggest takeaways from the annual conference were the acknowledgements of the honorees of the Bishop's award. In attendance was the newly retired bishop, Grant Hagiya along with Bishop Escobar- Frank, recognizing both clergy and lay members for their faithful service in the UMC and in their communities. Their commitment, courage, and faithfulness through many years of service was a testament to God's faithfulness who sustains and strengthens us in our commitment to the Lord and the people of God. I was reminded of Matthew 25:23, " Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord."

Heather KinKennon — Annual Conference was a time to reconnect with friends, as well as meet people whom I've only known on *Zoom*. I attended the Deacon's Lunch and connected with my new Deacon mentor. Much of the church business may seem mundane, but budgets and vision statements are important — even if a statement (such as the resolution on women in ministry) served no other purpose than recording our sentiment at this time in history. Recognition of local indigenous tribes was also made, which was long overdue. But the moment I will take away and ponder further was made by a newly ordained Elder, the Reverend Dr. Christopher Carter. As our church seeks to dismantle racism within our denomination, Dr. Carter offered that those who identify as "white" (mainly European-Americans) have lost contact with their original lands and languages, and that is a trauma response. I was reminded of the poem "Home" by the Somali-British poet, Warsan Shire, that begins: "no one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark " — how many of our ancestors (including my mother's Irish ancestors) left their homes because of famine, economic desperation, or religious persecution? And how many people did not pass on their languages, so they could assimilate in America? This seems so simple, yet has so many implications.



I will be wrestling with this for a while. This time was certainly blessed, and I'm fortunate to have attended!

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Caring Ministry held a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on June 18th for five different categories of teachers. A total of 25 teachers were invited who work with Infants and Preschool, Elementary and Youth, Adult Ministry, Tech Booth, and Music. We tried to let them all know how appreciative our congregation was for sharing their God given talent of teaching to our children and adults alike. They were personally served a hot meal with a fluffy strawberry dessert. Lunch was followed by a program consisting of special prayers, poems or readings for each group. Some letters written by their students were also read. Each teacher was given a certificate and packet of readings and a fun "Thank You" for their involvement. Everyone had a great time!

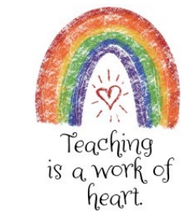
Special Thanks to our Volunteers!



Teachers Honored







<u>Infants and Preschool</u>
Heather Belvin
Sally Clounch
Syslee Evans
LaShay Love
Sabrina Walton

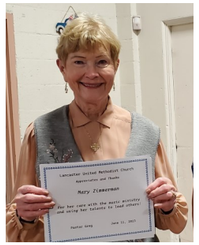
<u>Elementary and Youth</u>
Heather KinKennon
Shannon Mims
Aja Minters
Angela Pittman
Elaine Stanley

<u>Music</u>
Ralph Williams
Picker Woodroof
Mary Zimmerman

<u>Technology</u>
Rose Chandler
Steve McDougall
Keith Stanley
Craig Yanagidate



<u>Adult Ministry</u>
Cynthia Christiansen
Gary Helm
Iris Mears
Heather KinKennon
Pastor Greg Pittman
Bev Rueter





Financial News

With 5 months completed for the fiscal year 2023, LUMC continues to operate in a deficit, which is now $31,512. This amount is largely due to the extraordinary utility expenses in the first 3 months of the year. For those who contribute later in the year, any contributions that are made earlier rather than later, would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact LUMC treasurer *Dayna Rodriguez*.

Hello parents — Children's Church will continue through the summer! Remember to sign in your children in the Grand Foyer upon arrival; the same adult who signs in needs to be the one who signs out the child from Room 14. Here is our lesson schedule:
7/ 2 -- no Children's Church, children remain with parents in worship (activity bags available)
7/ 8 -- Parable of the Good Samaritan
7/16 -- Jesus Feeds Five Thousand
7/23 -- Disciples Argue as to Who is Greatest
7/30 -- Jesus Forgives a Woman

— Heather KinKennon, Children's Ministry



<u>MEMBERS</u>
Robert Banghart
Bob Barry
Ramona Beck
Randy Beckett
Cynthia Christensen
Jeri Coleman
Fae Currado
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Vicki & David Fisher
Don Gatlin
Bill & Alease Goesch
Melinda Hunter
Carmen Lane
Ruth Marr
Doreen Maynard
Aja Minters
Phillip Portugal
family of Gerry Saul
Marguarite Shirley
Phillip Trujillo
Augustina Waller
Kelsey Woodell
Al Zimmerman

<u>FAMILY AND FRIENDS</u>
Christa Arthur
Barry Bender
Teri Fletcher
Bob Hill
Andrea Lackvoic
Jennifer Lawrence
Michelle Medina
Jack Melano
Sharon Millen
Gaylin Schmitz
Nina Smith
Shari Urmanski
Pat Valdez

<u>PRAYER QUILTS</u>
Recipient (Requestor)
Desideria Anderson (Sally Clounch)
Kathy Austin (Marty Gatlin)
Paul Deardorff (Rita Vasquez)
Rhonda Hickman (Heather KinKennon)
LaJoy Primer (Connie Aimigean)
Shari Urmanski (Barabara Urmanski)

PRAYER list

<u>PRAYERS FOR THE MILITARY</u>
Jerry Wayne Davis III
Hallie (Day) Herrera
Felix Herrera
Michael Todd Kelly
Edinson Kinsey Sr.
Jacob Maldonaldo
Nathan Maldonaldo
Matthew McDougall
Heather McDougall
Branden O'Carroll
Joseph Perez



<u>LUMC PASSAGES</u>
Gerry Saul (June 23, 2023)
Funeral arrangements are incomplete at press time.