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(Office closed 11/ 25 & 11/26)

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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

LABEL

TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DELIVER BY November 8TH

LUMC Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 10 a.m. ~ 2 p.m.
PLEASE MASK UP BEFORE COMING!
Closed Saturday & Sunday (661) 942-0419

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

facebook lancasterunited
(no FB membership needed)

YouTube lancasterunitedmc

LUMKitchen (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
LUMKitchen
Music Ministries
Office Volunteers
Online classes
Prayer Team
Prayers and Squares
United Methodist Women
Youth Group
Wellness Works



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The Link

The Church's Official Newsletter
Vol. 65 No. 11
November 2021

"Christmas, Through the eyes of a Child "

by Pastor

When I was a little boy, I could expect three toys from Santa. By September, I already had several items on my Christmas gift list. When the Sears Roebuck catalog arrived, my mother would open it to the toy section and place it in my lap to broaden my interest. Of course, there was a price limit, but the pages caused me to dream big about being a firefighter, soldier, scientist, football and baseball player, a builder of houses, cars, and spaceships. My initial wish list exploded to over a dozen playthings. This big-book-of-things led me to make some hard choices. It took about a month for me to narrow down my selection. It was a weird kind of fun to open my mind to these new play adventures, then cut them back to three.

This year's Christmas theme at LUMC is "Through the Eyes of a Child." This topic should be no surprise since I have been encouraging everyone to read *A Praying Life*, by Paul E. Miller. The book's main point is to become and remain like a 2 to 4-year-old child in our relationship with God. On more than one occasion, Jesus references a childlike way of relating to God in prayer and life. For example in Matthew 18:3 is reads: "Unless you change and become like a little child, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Then in Mark 10:14-15 it says: "Let the little children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

Mr. Miller explains how adults struggle relating to God as a small child, "The difficulty for adults coming to God just as we are, is that we are messy. And praying seems to make things seem worse. When we slow down to pray, we are immediately confronted with how unspiritual we are, with how difficult it is to concentrate on God. We have so many problems we don't know where to start. In contrast, little children never get frozen. They come rushing to their parent and seldom do things just right. As loving parents or friends, we know all that. In fact, we are delighted (Most of the time!) to find out what is on their little hearts. We don't scold them for being self-absorbed, fearful, silly, needy, or confused. That is just who they are."

Jesus came to reveal this welcoming heart of God to all his children. Reading *A Praying Life* reminds me of when I turned the pages of the Sears Roebuck catalog. I love discovering how I can freely come to God with my new and old toys or throw a fit because I broke one. This childlikeness is the foundation of Mr. Miller's book. He covers many issues about prayer "for those struggling to do life, who pray badly yet long to connect with their Heavenly Father."

Consider giving this book to yourself and a friend as an early Christmas gift and invite them to join us Sundays during Advent. Another option is to pick up one of the little summary booklets at the church, present it to a friend, and invite then to our Advent Sundays from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Our Advent theme will be "Christmas, Through the Eyes of a Child."

Now is a perfect time to ask God for a Christmas gift: to relate to Him every day as His child.

Through the eyes of a child,

— Little Pastor Greg



All-Church Notices



Our community Thanksgiving Dinner will be on Thursday, November 25th, from 12-1 p.m. This year's feast will be a sit-down affair (subject to COVID restrictions). Although our donation needs are largely the same (mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, rolls, green beans, and pies), we *prefer* that **all donated turkeys be pre-cooked.** (but we will accept raw turkeys) We are also accepting cash donations. If you have any questions, please contact Merica Edwards (942-0130), Austine Perry (942-3208) or Glennie Wilburn (718-2765)



The Church Office is throwing a painting party on November 11th and 12th. It begins at 8:30 am on the 11th and lunch will be provided. Our goal is to paint all the walls in the Church Office before the new carpeting is installed. The more participants, the quicker it will be done and the more the merrier!



Our "Hanging of the Greens" celebration is BACK! Join us on Saturday morning, **November 27th**, as we decorate the church campus for Christmas! Our teams will not only decorate the sanctuary, but the office and John Wesley Hall! Also, orders for sanctuary poinsettias must be placed by **November 15th,** with a suggested minimum donation of $10. (please write account #4147 in the memo space) Watch for the flyer in the Sunday bulletin, or call Sam in the office to place your order.



November is a busy time at Footprints! We'll study how animals prepare for winter, then celebrate National Children's Book week starting on November 7th. We'll learn about Thanksgiving as we prepare for our feast on November 24th, then celebrate the Teddy Bears' Picnic the last week of the month — bring your favorite teddy bear! ***(Footprints will be closed November 25th and 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday)***

LUMC Passages



Addie Stokes

Entered the Church Triumphant: September 20, 2021

A local memorial service will be held in the LUMC Sanctuary on November 6th at 10 a.m.

ONGOING PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS
Bob Barry
Cynthia Christensen
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Dorothy Finifrock
Vicki & David Fisher
Bill & Alease Goesch
Sheila Gonzales
Carmen Lane
Jennifer Lawrence
Doreen Maynard
Velta Mann
Gerry Saul

PRAYER QUILT RECIPIENTS
Susan Dean
Andrea Lacovic

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Ramona Beck
Melinda Hunter
Destiny McCaslin
Philip Portugal
Marguerite Shirley
Phillip Trujillo

FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Steven Gonzales
Steven Ingram
Family of Adam Lankford
Andrea Lovit
family of Joann Marshall
family of Derek Martin
Jesus Salcedo
Nancy Shaffer
Family of Addie Stokes
Trina (niece of Ann Thomas)
Zach Tucker
family of Carlos and Bette Jo Valdez
family of John & Lois Wilk
Ray Wolleman

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



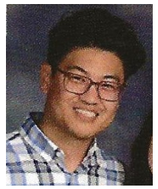
All Church Notices



The Lancaster United Methodist Church Youth Group will meet on Sunday nights (beginning on November 7th) from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Our youth leaders, Shannon Mims and Chris Lee, plan on facilitating a variety of faith-based activities, from youth-led Bible study and prayer, team-building activities, and community service projects. We are looking forward toa new beginning and leading our youth towards a life-long practice of prayer and contemplation, worship, and community service.



Our youth also assist with Children's Church on Sunday mornings starting at 10:00 a.m. in the dining room. We invite all youth from ages 13-17 to join our youth group where they will experience Christian fellowship, youth-led activities, contemporary worship, Bible study, and an overall connection to the power of God working through our youth and leaders. Let us grow in grace, faith, and fellowship together. If you have any questions about our youth program and are interested in attending and inviting others, please call 661-942-0419.





Children's Church is in full swing!



Our children begin their Sunday mornings 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. Please join us!



Fall session for the Grief Group, "Journey to OUR New Normal," will resume as an in-person discussion group, led by Dey Yusef, every other Monday (7 meetings) in the church conference room from **4:00-5:30PM, beginning October 4th.** Cyndi Christensen will lead a Grief Serendipity Bible Study via Zoom every other Monday (6 meetings) from **6:30 --8:00PM.** To find out more or join one or both classes, please contact Cyndi Christensen at (661) 406-1518.



LUMC raised $1,592 and the total Crop Walk raised $3,264.21 this year. While dwe idn't get to our goal of making a total of $75,000 for the 14 years, we rejoice that we made as much as we did. There were 18 walkers and we walked from 9:30 am to 10:40 am. This was our fastest ever! — *Sharon MacDougall*



We are three fourths through the year and thanks to your generous giving we continue to have a surplus of approximately $20,000. The 2022 Budget was approved by the All-Church Conference on 23 October 2021.

If you would like a copy of the budget or have any questions regarding any of the financial statements, please feel free to contact the Treasurer, Dayna Rodriguez at Treasuer@lancasterunited.org or call the church office at 661-942-0419.



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

The church van is being repaired, so Van Pool service is suspended until further notice.