In this month's LINK:

Pastor Greg's June Letter

Congratulations Graduates, and our scholarship winner!

Youth Confirmation Class continues!

Footprints & Financial Blog

LUMC Passings



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 JUNE 8TH

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

Sunday Services in John Wesley Hall: 9 a.m.
(With masks and social distancing)
Streaming Service Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

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

CREATIVE BE 2021
CAREFUL & CARING
LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

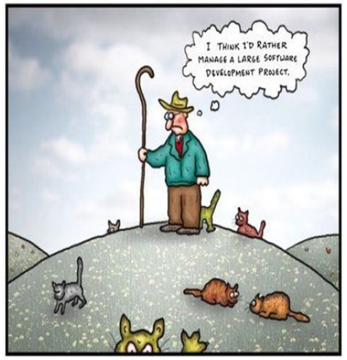
LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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The Link

The Church's Official Newsletter
Vol. 65 No. 6
June 2021

"Herding Cats Back to Church"

by Pastor Greg



The shepherd to sheep metaphor is often used to describe a pastor's role in leading a congregation. I would have to disagree. For me, the past 14 months, I have felt more like a shepherd herding cats, not sheep. Sheep are notoriously simple-minded, helpless, and prone to wander away from the flock. I have not found our congregation to be simple-minded, defenseless, and wandering off like sheep during the pandemic. Instead, I have seen our folks be more like cats who are curious, loving, smart to learn from their mistakes, and therefore adventuresome, resourceful, and playful.

I would like to thank you cats for being so careful, caring, and creative. You have been faithful and determined to overcome this pandemic through sickness and death amidst personal and national tensions. We all have grown to trust and obey our Great Shepherd in adjusting to new ways to worship. Our path forward still calls us to follow our 3Cs: Be Careful. Be Caring. Be Creative.

Over the past 14 months, being Careful meant we had to sift through three layers of safety protocols: CDC's standards for L.A. County's, the City of Lancaster's, and the United Methodist church's strategies. Good news! Bishop Hagiya has lifted all UMC protocols, so now we only have to follow the L.A. County and the City of Lancaster's health standards.

Being Caring requires deep listening. Deep listening is a process of listening to learn. It requires the temporary suspension of judgment and a willingness to receive new information – whether pleasant, unpleasant, or neutral. Being Caring is the most challenging process of the 3Cs. This joke reveals the need for deep listening.

Teacher: "If I gave you two cats and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"
Johnny: "Seven."
Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"
Johnny: "Seven."
Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"
Johnny: "Six."
Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"
Johnny: "Seven!"
Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"
Johnny: "Because I've already got a cat!"

On **Saturday, June 5, at 10:00 a.m.**, we will have our deep listening Church Conference meeting to determine how and when we will return to in-person church in the sanctuary for worship, funerals, weddings, children's Sunday school, and small group meetings. You have already received an email notification and will receive a Zoom invitation a couple of days before this important meeting. After doing the hard work of deep listening during most of the Church Conference, we will then move to the creative part of the meeting where God's wisdom and cat humility are necessary. I hope you can join us then.

Your Grateful Cat Shepherd — *Pastor Greg*

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



High School

Cameron Tyler Valdez — Lancaster HS (Carlos & Bette Jo Valdez)
Achievements: 4.2 GPA, Jr. ROTC (Captain); recipient of JrROTC Adademic Medal, Tuskegee Airman Ward, Kitty Hawk Award
Future plans: studies at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Air Force Reserves

Lincoln Suttner — Clearfield HS, Clearfield UT (Keith and Cathy Swords)
Future Plans: Santa Barbara City College

College

Lauren Swords Alonso (Keith and Cathy Swords)
Masters of Science, Nursing
University of North Carolina School of Nursing
Chapel Hill, NC
Future Plans: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Natalie Beasley (Fred Behringer)
Bachelor of Arts, Business— USC

Mark Behringer (Fred Behringer)
Bachelor of Science, Engineering
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Abigail Coy (Ed and Karen Coy)
Bachelor of Science, Chemistry — UC, Santa Barbara
Future Plans: Master's program in Education at UCSB

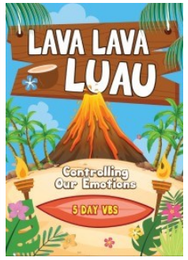
Heather KinKennon
Master of Arts, Theology — Fuller Theological Seminary
Pasadena, CA
Future plans: Board of Ordained Ministry

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, only one scholarship was awarded to a graduating high school senior this year.

Cole Vargas is the recipient of this year's Centennial Scholarship. He graduated from Quartz Hill High School with a 4.3 GPA. He was a member of the CA Scholarship Federation for 4 years and has been a youth baseball coach and umpire. He has been a varsity baseball player ALL four years and will attend Antelope Valley College in the fall for electrical engineering. He then plans to attain his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

We thank all of our church members for supporting this scholarship. Cole was given his award by Pastor Greg during worship on May 30th. Congratulations to Cole for his outstanding performance at school and in our community and we pray for the best for him!

I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,…
Plans for a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29.11



Footprints Childcare Center: VBS IS BACK!
We will be having in person VBS the last week of June , 8:30-11:30 a.m. each day. The theme is "Lava Lava Luau HawaiianParty," where we'll be exploring emotions. **Due to COVID restrictions, it will be open only to the church members and the school, not the public.** Space will be limited we will have a registration form soon. Also, we will need volunteers to help with all areas, including food, registration, and games. Sign ups and schedule will be coming soon. Donations of food and materials would be appreciated.

Our preschool graduation program is June 18. We're getting ready for a fun filled summer, including a visit from the marine life puppets and a magician. *We continue to screen children each day to insure the health and safety of everyone at the school. If you know someone who needs child care, please have them call us at 661-942-0812.*

LUMC Passages

Barbara Healy (mother of Deborah Shelton) — May 25, 2021 — Arrangements are pending.
David Robinson (son of Sonia Robinson)— *May 13, 2021* — Arrangements are pending.
Harriet Storm (former member) — May 27, 2021, in Georgia

Upcoming memorials:
Jim Edwards — June 11th, 11 a.m. at LUMC; Howard Crusan — June 12th, at LUMC

Youth Group *by Shannon Mims*

Confirmation CLASSES

The Lancaster United Methodist Youth Group continue their confirmation classes in John Wesley Hall on Sunday afternoons, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm. Our youth leaders are exploring a 15-week course of study covering topics such as Methodist history and doctrine, grace, prayer, perfection, and much more. We welcome all youth to attend on Sunday afternoons.

JUST ANNOUNCED: Cal-Pac Summer groups are BACK! Register for camps for Younger Elementary (grades 1-3), Older Elementary (grades 3-6), Junior High (grades 6-9), and Senior High School Students (grade 9 – graduating) from June 28 to August 1 now! Early bird registration extended to June 20th! For more information, visit **http://www.calpacumc.org/summercamp**



"Journey to Our New Normal": This Spring's Grief Group is meeting on Zoom, Thursday's nights from 6:30-8:00PM. Dey Yusef is the E & E Love Foundation Executive Director, specializing in wellness which includes dealing with the loss for seniors, adult foster children and others. Cynthia Christensen will be co-leading a Bible study to process the six stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance, and hope. Please contact the church office if you would like to join this group. For further questions contact Donna Horn or Cynthia Christensen.

Vaccinations: If you would like to get vaccinated and have not been able to find a location or need a ride, please contact the church office or Donna Horn, to see if we might be able to help.



The April 2021 Unified Fund ended the month with a deficit however over all for the year we continue to operate with a surplus of $6,000. The Building Fund (Mortgage) contributions continue to be shy of the mortgage payment. If you have any questions or concerns or would like more information regarding the LUMC finances, please feel free to contact the Treasurer, Dayna Rodriguez at treasurer@lancasterunited.org or call the church office.

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.

ONGOING PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS
Cynthia Christensen
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Dorothy Finifrock
Vicki & David Fisher
Bill & Alease Goesch
Sheila Gonzales
Family of Barbara Healy
Wilma Howe
Jennifer Lawrence
Doreen Maynard
Velta Mann
Addie Stokes

FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Lorena Mackie
Jack Melano
Family of David Robinson
Bob Stickney
Trina (niece of Ann Thomas)
Zach Tucker
Craig Van Howling
Ray Wolleman

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Bob Barry
Ramona Beck
Mary Blackwell
Rachel Cash
Edith Crockett
Jim Houser
John Johnson
Carmen Lane
John Lee
Joanne Marshall
Audrey Miller
Skyla Moore
Marianne Rose
Claud Seal
Marguerite Shirley
Carlos Valdez
Jane Van Howling
Marilyn Waggoner

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

PRAYER QUILT RECIPIENTS

Jen Murad
(requested by Connie MacDougall)

Wendy Stigge
(requested by Debbie Blankenship)

