In this month's LINK:

Pastor Greg's September Letter

All Church Notices

Footprints & Financial Blog



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

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA 93534

THE LINK (USPS 370-870)

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY:
LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE LINK

LABEL

TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DELIVER BY SEPTEMBER 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 — 10:45 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
Grief Group
LUMKitchen
Music Ministries
Office Volunteers
Online classes
Prayer Team
Prayers and Squares
United Methodist Women
Youth Group
Wellness Works



LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

The Link

The Church's Official Newsletter
Vol. 65 No. 9
September 2021

"God's House"

by Pastor Greg

The four gospels reveal Jesus' passion for prayer in His church. At the beginning and end of His earthly ministry, Jesus dramatically cleansed the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and proclaimed, "My Father's house shall be called a house of prayer."



On the first day of my vacation, I began reading *The Prayer Saturated Church* by Cheryl Sacks. Halfway through the first chapter, my mind was taken back to my years as a businessperson at my home church at First UMC of Columbia, MS. I was the chair of the evangelism team, and I knew prayer needed to be first and foremost. I wish I had this book at the time. While I implemented many things discussed in *The Prayer Saturated Church*, I did not have a systematic plan or process of awakening prayer in the congregation. This book does all that and much more. However, *The Prayer Saturated Church* is NOT the book I am recommending for our congregation to read. Instead, this book is the roadmap for our Prayer Action Team to lead our congregation to becoming a prayer-saturated church. The first key strategy begins by igniting everyone's personal prayer life. Therefore, we will start by reading *Beginning a Prayer Life* by Paul E. Miller as a congregation. It is a hand-size booklet designed to refresh everyone's personal prayer life. Throughout September, everyone will be given the *Beginning a Prayer Life* booklet. You can pick one up any Sunday after church or drop by the church office from 10 am-2 pm Monday through Friday.

Once you have read the short booklet *Beginning a Prayer Life*, you will know if you desire to purchase and read Mr. Miller's book, *A Prayer Life*. This book is designed to make us want to pray. It exposes our core doubts and desperation for God. Paul Miller beautifully captures the promise of prayer as a gift that connects us to the heart of the Father. Paul shares his life and biblical wisdom to instill in us a "heart that becomes a factory of prayer" by stirring a passion for speaking to God honestly and completely, which will change our lives and the lives of others, for whom we pray.

The following summarizes our church's next steps in obeying Jesus' yearning and call to become a house of prayer:

1) Pick up and read the free booklet *Beginning a Praying Life* after worship or at the church office.
2) After reading the introductory booklet *Beginning a Praying Life*, consider purchasing the book *A Praying Life*. You can either order it yourself or call the church office to get assistance to order it. (Scholarships are available.)
3) Think about becoming a part of a Wednesday night Bible Study beginning on September 15 at 7:00 pm, by purchasing the discussion guide to the same book, *A Praying Life.*
4) If you are a good administrator with great communicating skills and your adept with technology, you might be interested in joining the Prayer Action Team. If so, please contact me.

This is an exciting time to enter a lifestyle of prayer with our Divine Partner and His church. There is no better time to grow in our relationship with God and with each other than now. By God's amazing grace, may we take the next step to incorporate our prayer life together in God's House.

~ Pastor Greg

From the Office: New Church Security Schedule

Hello LUMC members and friends! We are all excited to start meeting people in person again at the Lancaster United Methodist Church. As we do so, we here at the office wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone to reach out to the office beforehand to book a room at the church. If you have reoccurring events that are weekly or monthly, please reach out to the office to confirm these meetings as well. This will avoid double booking rooms, overlapping events, and overcrowding the church campus. It will also allow us the time to communicate with our security team to make them aware of the activities at the church.

As you may know, the church recently changed our security service, and with that came a new schedule of when security is available on campus. Due to this, all events that are Monday through Friday can begin their setup at 7:00 a.m. at the earliest and finished and cleaned up before 9:30 p.m. On Sunday security is on campus from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. to support the service and 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. for the support our Youth Group. Any Saturday events or events outside the typical Sunday security hours need to be coordinated with the office to meet your security needs. If you want to book a meeting on the church grounds outside our regular security times, that is fine, but we will need to know ahead of time to ensure that arrangements are made with the appropriate parties to disable alarms, etc.

Also, when you are on the church campus, you are requested to have your masks on while inside the buildings, regardless of your vaccination status,

If you're getting ready to hold an event at the church, you can call the church office between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday at (661) 942-0419 or email the office at lumc@lancasterunited.org

Thanks! — *Samantha O'Mara-Mezzano*



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 Van Pool is back! If you need a ride to church, please contact the office to get on the list.

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

PRAYER QUILT RECIPIENTS
Lori Barnett
Rosie Flores
Adam Lankford

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Bob Barry
Ramona Beck
Edith Crockett
Carmen Lane
Marguerite Shirley
Kathryn Barry
John Wilk
Glen Williams

FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Andrea Lovit
Nancy Shaffer
Zach Tucker
Ray Wolleman
Trina (niece of Ann Thomas)
Jack Melano
Jesus Salcedo
Adam Lankford
Steve Ingram

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



All Church Notices

Youth Group—Our youth are doing a terrific job helping our Children's church on Sunday mornings. They are leading the songs, the puppet ministry, running the audio and visuals, reading the Bible verses of the day, and assisting the children with crafts. A big thanks goes out to Dot Williams, Iris Mears, Elaine Stanley, and Angela Pittman for managing this dynamic hour, enabling our youth to live out their confirmation vows of making disciples for Christ. Youth group will resume in-person on Sunday, September 12, from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Shannon Mimms and Chris Lee will lead them on a practical and Biblical view of dating. They will take a candid look at breaking up, making up, and dating well. *Define the Relationship* was written in light of the complexities of dating today. Real life dating circumstances will be studied, and resources applied to shine light on subtle pitfalls that lead to painful and confusing dating dilemmas. The goal is to discover the freedom of well-defined and spiritually grounded relationships.. Please bring a friend and be encourage to live and love.



Children's Church is in full swing! Our children begin their Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary, then are invited to join Children's Church after the Children's Sermon. All children are welcome! Here is an on-the-ground report from teacher Angela Pittman:

"The youth are helping lead Children's Church. This opportunity is providing chances for teens to mentor younger kids, giving them a stronger sense of responsibility. The Youth are assisting in many ways. For example, helping the children navigate their Bibles. We also have the Youth helping with Theo the puppet, leading music, reading from the Bible, and the audio-visual booth. Our youth may not know it but our children look up to them. This has been a wonderful

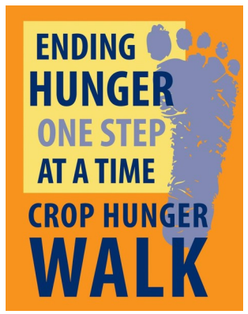
FOOT PRINTS
Christian Children's Center

Our long-delayed Kindergarten class is scheduled to start September 7th, so if you're looking for a quality kindergarten program, please give us a call, as space is limited!

This month we will be not only meeting our new teachers and friends, but we will explore our senses and emotions, and talk about parts of the body, like hands, feet, fingers and toes.

Plans are also underway for the Harvest Festival on October 29th! Because of LA County restrictions, this event will be limited to the children of LUMC and Footprints. But we'll still need plenty of candy, as well as volunteers to run games! Stay tuned for updates!

2021 CROP HUNGER WALK



This year's walk will be both in person and virtual! On October 9th, the sign-in will begin at 9 a.m. and the walk will begin at 9:30 a.m. Signups will begin on September 10 and continue through the morning of October 9th, We need both walkers and sponsors to support those who walk for solving the problems with hunger and water throughout the world. The money raised goes to Church World Service who spread it everywhere! This year they are working hard in the Dominican Republic to help people with raising vegetables, fish, pigs and obtaining clean water to stay healthy. Our church is hosting our local walk both physically and virtually so we can all stay safe! *Please contact Sharon McDougall and sign up to help*!

Thanks to all who participated in the UMW fundraiser at Panda Express. We raised $100.14 for missions around the world!

United Methodist Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



The September Stewardship and Finance Committee meeting we will begin the process of setting the 2022 Budget. Those of you that are responsible for a ministry or line item in the budget, please provide the treasurer with your anticipated financial needs so that can be considered in the budget process. If anyone has any questions regarding the budget process, please feel free to contact the treasurer, Dayna Rodriguez by calling the church office, 661-942-0419 or email at treasurer@lancasterunited.org. Thanks - ***Dayna J. Rodriguez***