In this month's LINK:

"So here's the thing — " Pastor Greg's February letter

Children and youth

Ministries and fellowship updates

Footprints



Please Deliver by February 8th

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

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LABEL

Time sensitive

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

Sunday Worship Services Online: 9:30 a.m.
Live meditative service Sundays at 11 a.m. (restrictions apply)

facebook www.facebook.com/lancasterunited (no FB membership needed)

YouTube www.youtube.com/lancasterunitedmc (not live; uploaded same day)

Tales of 2020 (chat with the Pastor): Thursday evening; call office for Zoom codes

Heather's Hymn Sing: (on hiatus until further notice)

LUMKitchen (Food Ministry):
Mondays & Thursdays, 12-1 p.m., John Wesley Hall

Footprints Pre-School — Open for business, and accepting new students!

The Link

The monthly newsletter of
LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Vol. 65 Number 2
February 2021

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 2021



Ash Wednesday — February 17: 6:30 p.m. on Facebook

Palm Sunday — March 28: Regularly scheduled services (9:30 a.m. streaming, 11 a.m. courtyard)

Maundy Thursday — April 1: TBA

Good Friday — April 2: TBA
Joint online service with Mission District churches

Easter Sunday — April 4: Regularly scheduled services (9:30 a.m. streaming, 11 a.m. courtyard)



Included in this copy of the LINK is an order form for the Commemorative Brick Garden which is being constructed in our church courtyard between the Grand Foyer and the Administration Building.

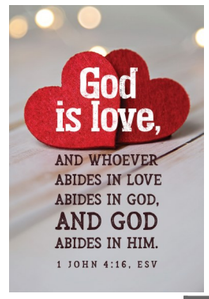


The Commemorative Brick Garden will be the perfect place to not only visually remember those Saints in our lives who have passed on, but to also honor those persons who continue to bless our lives and the lives of many. Those persons that have passed could include loved ones, church volunteers and leaders, and persons who have meant so much in your life. This venue is also the perfect opportunity to say "Thank You" to those folks that are still with us. You might consider honoring your children, your marriage or a special minister. The opportunities are endless.

These bricks are lazar inscribed and will honor loved ones for years to come. Place your order now using the enclosed order form or go online to www.4everbricks.com/donors/LUMC/ and order by credit card.

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"So Here's the Thing — " February

By Pastor Greg



As we celebrate Black History Month in February, we will have opportunities to read and view various media forms covering this tribute. We will be inspired by those who have paid a high price of living for justice through our nation's very dark past of racial abuse, inequality and its many complexities.

Without a doubt, there is still a long way to go on racial reconciliation, although Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream is being realized more and more with each passing year. We still need to continue our ongoing, humble study of our nation's history as it brings us to lament, confess, and have hope in discovering new steps to bring about unity in our divided nation.

We may not feel like we were a part of our nation's abusive past of black history. We may take very seriously Martin Luther King's speech to "Don't judge a person by the color of their sin, but by the content of their character." However, there is a Biblical principal of corporate repentance we need to consider and put right the consequences of our ancestor's transgressions that still affect us today.

Both Old Testament leaders, Ezra (priest and scribe) and Daniel (prophet) identified with the guilt and shame of their fellow Israelites who had been unfaithful to the Lord. These two leaders were personally innocent of the sins committed by the people, but they felt the weight of the guilt and shame and prayed the following:

"O my God, I am too ashamed and disgraced to lift up my face to you, my God, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens." *(Ezra 9:6 NIV)*

"O Lord, we and our kings, princes, and our fathers (ancestors) are covered with shame because we have sinned against you." *(Daniel 9:8 NIV, parenthesis mine)*

"Ezra and Daniel had been personally innocent of personal sin yet identified with the guilt and shame of their people's unfaithfulness. They did not try to distance themselves from the collective sin of their people…but they came under guilt and shame nonetheless…and in their lament, they asked God to spare his people. As members of a group, they assumed the responsibility to confess and seek reconciliation on behalf of the group."

The previous paragraph was taken from *Be the Bridge*, by Latasha Morrison on page 69. I strongly recommend this book. It is full of truth and grace, Biblical references, well written individual and corporate prayers, humility, forgiveness, and practical steps for racial reconciliation.

Families across the United States, of all colors, would do well to get back to the spiritual heritage and love and respect for all God's people that has made us a unique nation. Christ perfects our prayers for America and world as we humble ourselves before God and each other.

As a church, each Sunday during February, some of our members who have participated in our Racial Reconciliation journey since July of 2020 will share a few key pieces of what they have learned through their readings and small group experiences. Plus, we will be sharing some very practical steps of how each of us can be a part of healing our nation's soul.

Each Sunday, we will have an opportunity to listen and learn, humble ourselves to heal, open ourselves to opportunities to prayer in union with Christ and walk in God's grace and truth. The Psalmist said these words in Psalm 122:11, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."



I trust you will enjoy our time together in February as we lift up the name of Jesus Christ together in unity.

Pastor Greg

February fun for the kids!

Loving embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.

Bible Quiz

What was the name of Moses' wife?

A. Miriam
B. Jochebed
C. Zipporah
D. Leah



Answer: C (See Exodus 2:21.)

Puzzle!

Discover the identity of a biblical person. First, assign a number value to each letter, starting with M=1, N=2, O=3,... A=15, etc. Then use the code to complete the clues.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
15 1 2 3

FIRST CLUE: 15 7 15 13 3 9 2 21 1 15 2

22 19 25 23 26 26 19 18 7 3 1 19 3 2 19.

SECOND CLUE: 22 19 11 15 7 8 19 2 18 23 2 21

7 22 19 19 4 23 2 8 22 19 18 19 7 19 6 8

11 22 19 2 21 3 18 17 15 26 26 19 18 22 23 1.

THIRD CLUE: 15 7 15 16 15 16 13 22 19 11 15 7

20 3 9 2 18 20 26 3 15 8 23 2 21 23 2 15

16 15 7 25 19 8 23 2 8 22 19 2 23 26 19 6 23 10 19 6.

Who is this person? _____

Answer: Moses

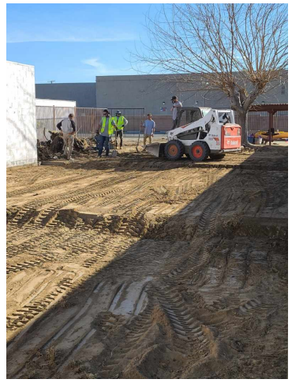
Footprints CCC

by Tammy Damon

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. We can arrange for a tour (masked, of course) and we are working on the production of a virtual tour as well!

Happy New Year! Our enrollment is keeping steady, with average of 90 children attending each week.





Our new playground is underway! The ground has been leveled, and the installation of brand new and safe playground structures and ground material is imminent! Many thanks to all who have made this happen.

February will bring several exciting focus weeks for our students, including programs on transportation, birds, Chinese New Year, and of course Valentine's Day.

With all of this continued growth, our needs for supplies and equipment also shift and change. Our increase in infants and toddlers has led to a need for three new rocking chairs; while they can be either rockers or gliders, they need to be sturdy.

We also need equipment that help our teachers save time on tasks and allow them to focus on working with students. A machine for laminating educational materials costs $1300, and an Ellison die-cut machine (for cutting out large multiples of paper projects) runs around $1500. Please contact Tammy if you are interested in donating either equipment or funds.

Thank you all for your support! — *Tammy*



YOUTH MINISTRIES— *by Shannon Mims*



The Lancaster United Methodist Youth group meets on Sundays from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the church courtyard. The Lancaster youth come together weekly for fun, fellowship, and Bible study. Our goal is to develop the whole child by teaching Biblical principles and building relationships. Our meeting includes outdoor team building activities and scripture lessons taught through in-depth discussions and small group activities that promote faith and understanding. We adhere to the mandated safety protocols by requiring everyone to wear masks and practice social distancing.



For more information regarding the youth group, please contact the coordinator, Shannon Mims, or Pastor Greg Pittman through the church office.





LUMC Passages

Robert "Bobby" Fromer

Entered the Church Triumphant on December 27, 2020

A Zoom memorial service was held on January 30th.

Glenna Fulton

Entered the Church Triumphant on January 20, 2021

Service information was pending at press time.



Fellowship and Ministry Updates



We try to keep an approximate count of the number of meals we serve and provide each Monday and Thursday. Though the Covid pandemic has beena challenge, we have had a wonderful "kitchen family" who have kept working so diligently, hard and faithfully.

According to our numbers we served approximately 21, 482 meals this past year. Since we have started counting in 2010, we have served 283,203 meals. Quite a record. — *Merica and Glennie*



The 2021 offering envelopes are in and available for pick at the church office between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM and also at the Sunday Outdoor Service which starts at 11:00 AM. Please contact the office if you would like for us to arrange for the envelopes to be delivered to you. Also, please note that this year there are no giving unit numbers printed on the envelopes. Please make sure your name is on the envelope in order to receive proper credit for your donations.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, **Prayers and Squares** leader Pat Stauning wants to reamind everyone that the ministry is active, and they are taking orders for quilts. However, due to lockdown restrictions, church members are not able to tie the knots — that will need to be done by the requestor. ***Our online request form is now live at lancasterunited.org, as well as linked through***

United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The UMW is planning a zoom meeting for the annual Pledge Service on Saturday, February 20,2021. It will be at 10 am and hosted by Karen Coy and Angela Williams. Please let us know if you are interested and able and willing to join us. Also let either Karen Coy, Angela Williams,or Sharon McDougall know if you are willing to take a part in the service itself. You may talk with Karen Coy, Susan Reyes, or Vicki Fisher also. We hope as many as can will join us in this virtual service. We are hoping that maybe by September we will be able to meet in person. We will be using a program from our UMW calendar for this service.

This service is where we submit what our pledges will be for the year. You can send checks to UMW, 918 W. Avenue J, Lancaster, CA 93534 for your monthly, quarterly,or yearly pledge. We are all praying that everyone stays safe (though frustrated from lack of contact). Thank you all for your prayers for all in our church and friends.



Caring and Hospitality Ministry would like to ask for donations of Greeting Cards. All kinds of cards will be accepted. Get Well, Birthday, Sympathy, Thinking of You, or other holidays. If anyone has extra greeting cards please bring to the church office and drop off between 10:00am to 2:00pm. Thank you!

The Connections Coordinator, Donna Horn is looking for additional volunteers to help set-up and clean-up for the 11:00am outdoor Courtyard Sunday Services. Come be apart of a great team. Give Donna a call or email or let the church office know you are interested. (661 802-1363, or dhorn@lancasterunited.org)

…Prayers for healing, comfort, and health…

ONGOING PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS:
Randy Beckett, Cynthia Christensen, Jim Edwards, Steve & Cindy Farrand, Dorothy Jean and Roger Finifrock, Vicki & David Fisher, Fornier Family, family of Robert Fromer, Don Gatlin, Bill and Alease Goesch, Teresa Gutierrez, Wilma Howe, Melinda Hunter, Marian Kohler, Carmen Lane, Danny Larson, Jennifer Lawrence, Doreen Maynard, Velta Mann, Bette Urbina, Tom Williams, Francis Woodland.

MEMBERS (remain on list for 2 months)
Mary Blackwell, Judy Cerruti, Edith Crockett, family of Dave Cleland, Fae Currado, Vickie Farranto, Gary Fulton, Alison Gatlin, Sheila Gonzales, Nancy Killian, Luis Laxamana, family of Chuck Luker, Barbara Press, Michele Rios, Gerry Saul, Tina Waller, Georgia Woodland.

FAMILY & FRIENDS
(remain on list for one month)
Family of Rolly Bitterman, family of Esther Burdine, Jacob Brewer, Joanna DeBorse, Al Dortch, Lisa Gall, Arimitta and Robert Granicy, Family of Marie Patricia Grier, Barbara Healy, George Jackson, Brett Lawrence, Jack Melano, Patricia Murray, David Robinson, Duane Shunssey, family of Robin and Norma Stuart, Craig Urmanski, Travis Verhagen, family of Doris Villeme, family of Henry Waller (Tina's husband), family of Keith Williams (Pat Alexander's son-in-law).

PRAYERS FOR THE MILITARY
(*Please* let us know if no longer in the military.) Steven Bowling, Alex Boyles, Michael Boyles, Sean Brosseau, Ryan Burwell, Daniel Cabrera, Jahalani Campbell, James Canady, Monique Lyda Carswell, Roberto Cervantes, Allen Conard, Penelope L. Conard, Don Cordell, De Andrew Cordwell, Hallie (Day) Herrera, Michael Doyle, John Doyle, Adam Duncan, Baylor Eslick, Rayden Finifrock, Matt Fishler, Kelly Fishler, Jessie Garcia, Paul Gillum, Michael P. Greene, Max Houser, Porsha Girard-Harris, Trevor Humphries, Tim Jorris, M. Todd Kelly, John Lara, Gilbert Linton, Marlynn Lomax, Matthew McDougall, Heather McDougall, Kevin McGalliard, Brian Meyer, William Michelson, Joshua Nardi, Branden D. O'Carroll, Hugh Oney, Joseph Perez, Kevin Raczon, Hannah Richard, Sgt. Abraham Ridgeway, Ruben Salgado, Naithan Sischo, Anthony Trujillo, Zonka Watson, Bryan Wuest, Ricki Yates, and Monique Young.

NORTH DISTRICT WEEKLY COVENANT PRAYER LIST

February 7	Venturay: First UMC	Pastor Erin McPhee and Pastor Matt McPhee
	Fillmore: Bardsdale UMC	Pastor Bethany Carpenter
February 14	Simi Valley UMC	Paster Andy Mattick and Pastor Camille Mattick
	Newbury Park: St. Matthew's UMC	Pastor Stan Ferguson
February 21	Thousand Oaks UMC	Pastor Anna Mulford
	Chatsworth West UMC	Pastor Karen Murata
February 28	South Pasadena: ReNew Mission	Pastor Sam Park
	Burbank First UMC	Pastor Sam B. Kim



Submit Prayer Requests ONLINE!
bit.ly/quR8TE

During this pandemic members of the **Prayer Team** are staying busy praying for our community and the broken world. We are also looking for new ways we can be of service to you. If you are in need of prayer or prayers for a loved one, please continue to contact the church office as you have been (661) 942-0419 or by email (lumc@lancasterunited.org)and your request will be handled accordingly. If you would like someone from the prayer team to call you, again let the office know that and one of us will be more than happy to call you and pray with you. Thank you and God bless.

Our **Centering Prayer group** now meets every other Monday on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. We have a brief discussion and then prayer. Please contact Angela Williams at (661) 492-0232 or by email, angelakwilliams@verizon.net, for more information.