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

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LUMC Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 10 a.m. ~ 2 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays

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

facebook lancasterunited
(no FB membership needed)

YouTube lancasterunitedmc

LUMC Kitchen (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
LUMC Kitchen
Music Ministries
Office Volunteers
Online classes
Prayer Team
Prayers and Squares
United Women in Faith (formerly UMW)
Youth Group
Wellness Works

1NE
1 Word 1 Book 1 Church 1 People
Lancaster United Methodist Church, CA

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

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

The Link

The Church's Official Newsletter
Vol. 66 No. 10
October 2022

"So Here's the Thing" — for October

This article is about 85% of Bishop Hagiya's letter on unity of our annual conference considering the disaffiliation (leaving) movement within the United Methodist Church. You can find his complete article at calpacumc.org/bishop (unity reflection). — Pastor Greg



All of us have faced moments in our lives when we have contemplated leaving or exiting a difficult situation. This could be a relationship, job, institution, or life circumstance. We know the emotional impact and consequences for our lives and those affected by such actions. It is never simple or easy, and the more central such a decision is in our lives, the more it impacts ourselves and others.

Our United Methodist Church is now faced with the possibility that those we call "family members" are now contemplating leaving. It is a small number in our California-Pacific Annual Conference, yet that does not lessen the emotional impact it has on our whole body. As a Bishop of the church, my commitment is to the unity of the entire church, and it deeply hurts to realize that a few feel that theological differences make it imperative for them to leave.

My commitment has always been to live in "the Big Tent" of our denomination and that there is a place for everyone to thrive and grow. This "Big Tent" idea is that everyone can "live and let live," and no one is forced to believe and behave in a judgmentally right or wrong way. However, you cannot force people to do something they do not want to, and although I believe you can't be kicked out of our annual conference, we cannot force people to stay. So, unequivocally, no one is being forced to remain in the California-Pacific Annual Conference or our United Methodist Church. People are free to leave, which is a fundamental right of our faith.

I hope churches will consider some fundamental values of our annual conference. Sociologists often describe the movement of Protestant Churches with the model of "Believing, Behaving and Belonging," and let me use this paradigm.

1) "Believing:" no one is required to believe anything contrary to their theological position. We will not enforce a specific belief system and theological values on our churches. However, we also emphasize that individual churches and members of our churches do not impose their theology and values on others or the entire annual conference.

2) "Behaving:" no one will be forced to a proscribed action that goes against their theological values. Individual churches will not be mandated to hold same-gender weddings, nor should churches or individuals demand that other churches not do this. We know that some churches worry that the Cabinet will send them a gay clergy member, but we carefully observe the theological position of each of our churches. We do not impose a different value system on each one. There are profound consequences to making a wrong appointment, and the Cabinet works very hard to make each appointment with the right balance.

3) "Belonging," is the most important to me regarding the point of disaffiliation. We must remember that most of us did not choose to be a member of the United Methodist Church and our California-Pacific Annual Conference. Unless you are a charter member of your church, this decision was made by the founders of our church, and we have inherited this legacy. Most of us belong to the generations following our founding members, and we do not own our present church. (*cont'd on p. 2*)

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1 WORD 1 BOOK 1 CHURCH 1 PEOPLE
Lancaster United Methodist Church, CA - 2022

All-Church Notices

(*Bishop Hagiya's letter, cont'd from p. 1*)

Theologically, the church is the "ecclesia" ("gathered") or body of Christ and, as such, belongs solely to God, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Triune God is so vast that everyone belongs, and no one is turned away. I believe this in the depths of my very soul, which is why I openly lament for anyone who feels they do not belong.

Like our secular world, so much disinformation is circulating, and I pray you will contact your District Superintendent for the most accurate information. Please join me as I pray for our entire United Methodist Church and ask God for the spirit of unity and peace.

Be the Hope—**Bishop Grant J. Hagiya,** Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop

Homosexuality and the United Methodist Church

Our visioning leadership team recommends one or two books to better inform every sincere Christian's struggle over ordination and marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. Both authors maintain a high view of scripture. We acknowledge we all bring assumptions and presupposition as we read the Bible. Therefore, we ask everyone to read a book expressing another viewpoint.

If you are progressive-leaning, we encourage you to read the conservative-leaning book ***A People to be Loved*** by Preston Sprinkle. If you are conservative-leaning, we hope you will read the progressive view of what it means to be a faithful gay Christian in ***God and the Gay Christian*** by Matthew Vines. Our goal is not to change beliefs but to soften hearts towards others. Thank you for your humble and prayerful participation in this controversial subject that defies simple answers in our church and society. — Pastor Greg

LUMC Passages

Rachel Cash	**Betty Etter**	**Ronald Darnold**
Services were held on September 10 in the LUMC Sanctuary.	Services were held on September 14 at Joshua Memorial Park.	Services were held on September 24 in the LUMC Sanctuary.

ONGOING PRAYERS
Christa Arthur
Bob Barry
Ramona Beck
Randy Beckett
Barry Bender
Cynthia Christensen
Jeri Coleman
Edith Crockett
Fae Currado
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Vicki & David Fisher
Bill & Alease Goesch
Andrea Lackvoic
Carmen Lane
Jennifer Lawrence
Ruth Marr
Doreen Maynard
Jack Melano
Gerry Saul
Gaylin Schmitz
Marguarite Shirley
Janet Talbert
Phillip Trujillo
Augustina Waller
Ray Wolleman

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Suzanne Dearborn
Phillip Portugal

PRAYERS FOR THE MILITARY
Jerry Wayne Davis III
Rayden Finifrock
Hallie (Day) Herrera &
Felix Herrera
M. Todd Kelly
Edinson Kinsey Sr.
Nathan Maldonaldo
Matthew McDougall
Heather McDougall
Branden O'Carroll
Joseph Perez

FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Jill Brodshaw
Chiujung Hsing
Michelle Medina

PRAYER QUILT RECIPIENTS (sponsors in parentheses)
Elvira Lopez (*Nicole Medina)*



All Church Notices



Our 17th annual CROP HUNGER WALK will take place here at LUMC on **Saturday, October 8, 2022 at 9 a.m**. We raise funds for Church World Service to combat hunger, education, water, and agriculture support all over the world. One quarter of our funds raised locally stay here with Grace Resources and SAVES. We would like to sign up anyone who would like to participate and they can do it that day or on their own and just contribute any funds raised. For more information, contact Sharon MacDougall.



We are accepting children, infants through TK! Please call us at 661-942-0812.

October at Footprints is BUSY! The first week will be all about our five senses. During the second week, we'll learn about our community, including the helpers (police, fire department, doctors, dentists, etc.). Weeks three and four will be spooky, with Jack-O-Lanterns, Haunted Houses, and special food! We will hold our Halloween Carnival in the morning on October 31st, so be sure to have your costume!

Parents: please join us for Back to School Night on **Thursday, October 27, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**



Handbell Music Training!
Have you ever wanted to learn how to ring handbells and make music with the bells? I have the answer. If you are high school age and above, handbell training is being offered. You will learn how to ring and make music with the bells as well as learning to read music. Training sessions will take place Thursday afternoons between 4:00 and 5:30 in the church music room. For information contact the Church Office or call/text Mary Zimmerman at 661-317-0770.



The church continues to operate, but the building mortgage is in a deficit. If you normally wait until the end of the year to make your donations, please consider contributing earlier in the year. Thank you so much for your loyal and continued support of LUMC. If you have any questions, you can contact me. — *Dayna Rodriguez, Treasurer*



Children's Church new curriculum, DigIn, is in full swing! For the 2nd, 3rd, 4th (and 5th, if applicable) Sundays, we'll meet in Room 14. (our alternate location is the dining room, if needed) 1st Sunday of the month is Family Sunday, and the children will stay in the sanctuary and help lead worship.

Also, if your child will be in 3rd grade or over, and has not been given a Bible, please be sure to speak to one of our Children's Church volunteers, so we can include them in a ceremonial distribution of Bibles this fall. — *Elaine Stanley, Children's Ministry*



The church van is back in business! Call the church office if you need a ride to church. But we are also in need of backup drivers! Men and women who are interested should call the church office. Eligible drivers will be between 25-75 years of age, and must have a clean driving record and carry car insurance on their own vehicle. (Drivers will be scheduled on a rotating basis) For a list of duties, and to apply, please contact 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 661-860-8588, or email: quiltingnana@msn.com.