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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 (USPS 370-870)

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY:
LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LABEL

TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DELIVER BY MAY 12TH

LUMC Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 10 a.m. ~ 2 p.m.
Mask policies subject to restrictions in place at time of visit.
Closed Saturday & Sunday (661) 942-0419

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

facebook — lancasterunited *(no FB membership needed)*

YouTube — lancasterunitedmc

Instagram — lancasterunitedmethodist

LUMC Kitchen (Food Ministry):
Mondays & Thursdays, 12-1 p.m.

Footprints Pre-School
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

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

2023



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

The Link

The Church's Official Newsletter
Vol. 67 No. 5
May 2023

"So Here's the Thing" — for May: ***by Pastor Greg***

Have You Been Baptized?



I will preside over several baptisms on Sunday, May 21, at 10 am. This Confirmation Sunday will include youth and adult baptisms using the various methods of sprinkling, pouring, and immersion (dunking). Yes, we will have a large baptistry and completely submerge at least two people under the water.

If you are a Christian and have not been baptized, consider having a **"Baptism Brunch"** with me and others contemplating being baptized for the first time. Call the church office to sign up for one of the following times:

Sunday, April 30, at the AM Café
Sunday, May 5, in the Dining Room with the confirmation class
Sunday, May 14, at the AM Café (Yes, I know it is Mother's Day!)

If these Sundays at noon are not suitable for you, call the office to make an appointment with me between May 30 – April 20 for any Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 2 pm – 5 pm.

There are many legitimate questions surrounding baptism in the United Methodist Church due to three factors: We perform infant through adult baptisms; we use all three methods of baptisms as previously mentioned; and we discourage re-baptism. Please consider the following questions about baptism you might like to discuss with me:

1) Do I have to be baptized, for all my sins to be forgiven?
2) Do I have to be baptized to go to heaven?
3) If I am baptized, do I have to join Lancaster UMC?
4) Why does the UMC discourage re-baptism?
5) Why shouldn't I be re-baptized if I do not remember my infant baptism?
6) Can I be re-baptized if I was not sincere during my first baptism?
7) May I be re-baptized now that I understand it more fully?
8) Should I be re-baptized if I have been born again after my first baptism?
9) Can I be re-baptized if I have had a spiritual renewal and want to rededicate/recommit my life to Christ?



These are great questions, and I love talking about them. Have you been baptized? If not, let me know. If you meet with me to discuss baptism, it does not mean you have to get baptized. I look forward to speaking with you about this central Christian sacrament of water and the Spirit.

~ Pastor Greg

All-Church Notices

in loving memory of

Danny Gutierrez

Memorial service will be held Friday, May 5, at 11 a.m. in the LUMC Sanctuary, with a graveside service at Lancaster Cemetery at 12:30 p.m. Reception will be in John Wesley Hall at 1:15 p.m.

— LUMC Passages

FINANCIAL NEWS

The LUMC relies on faith giving from our congregation to generate our General Fund income in order to meet our general operational expenses.

This past quarter has seen a drop in income with an increase in operational expenses. The increase in expenses is largely due to the substantial increase in our utilities.

At the end of the 1st quarter of 2023 we have an operating deficit of $26,107. Any increase in our monthly faith giving would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact our Treasurer, Dayna Rodriguez via mail at treasurer@lancasterunited.org or call the church office (661) 942-0419.

PRAYER list

ONGOING PRAYERS (Members)
Bob Barry
Ramona Beck
Randy Beckett
Cynthia Christensen
Jeri Coleman
Edith Crockett
Fae Currado
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Vicki & David Fisher
Bill & Alease Goesch
Melinda Hunter
Carmen Lane
Ruth Marr
Doreen Maynard
Phillip Portugal
Gerry Saul
Marguarite Shirley
Phillip Trujillo
Augustina Waller

ONGOING PRAYERS (family and friends)
Christa Arthur
Barry Bender
Bob Hill
Andrea Lackvoic
Jennifer Lawrence
Jack Melano
Sharon Millen
Gaylin Schmitz
Janet Talbert

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Don Gatlin
Philip Roberts
Kelsey Woodell
Al Zimmerman

PRAYER QUILT (Recipient/Requestor)
Elizabeth Fewtrell (*Heather KinKennon*)
Betsy Horn (*Donna & Howard Horn*)
Janice White (*Barb Urmanski*)

FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Rick Bass
Teri Fletcher
family of Jack Garcia
Michelle Medina
Dick Urmanski

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

All Church Notices

Dear Church Family, it's so exciting to see new families join us each week! All children are welcome in Children's Church, which is held in Room 14. For safety reasons, please be sure to check your children in at the Children's Table in the Grand Foyer, and that the same person signs them out after church.

Here is our May schedule:
May 7: Family Worship —children worship with their family.
May 14: Mother's Day; children will go to Children's Church after the Children's Sermon
May 21: Confirmation Sunday — children worship with their family and help celebrate those who are being baptized and confirmed.
May 28: children will go to Children's Church after the Children's Sermon

Children's CHURCH

Recently it was decided that Children's Church will continue over the summer. In the event that there are no teachers on a Sunday, children will stay in the Sanctuary. Activity bags will be made available.



ALSO: We are excited to announce that on June 20-22, we will hold a three-day Vacation Bible School, 8:30-11:30 a.m. each day! (*please note the time change*) Tammy Damon will be directing the program, which is built on the "Lava Lava Luau" curriculum (about emotions) Registration will begin in mid-May; the cost will be $30/child, which will cover the cost of all materials and food. We will be celebrating our VBS in worship the following Sunday, June 25th.

— Heather KinKennon, Children's Ministry

May themes:
Asian Heritage Month, Mother's Day, Insects & Dinosaurs

FOOT PRINTS
Christian Children's Center

Memory Verses:
This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. ~Psalm 118:24
When I am afraid I put my trust in you. ~Psalm 56:3

Letters: S & T Numbers: 18, 19, 28 Colors: Pink & Purple Shapes: Review all Shapes

Teacher APPRECIATION Week

Teachers Appreciation Week is May 1st - May 5th



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 quiltingnana@msn.com.

Caring Ministry is looking for new volunteers who would enjoy meeting new people and serving the Lord in various ways. We welcome you! For more information, please contact Donna Horn at 661 802-1363.