**In this month's LINK:**


**Guest columnist for August**

**Upcoming book study**

**LUMC Passages**

**Oliver Handbell Choir: Now Recruiting!**

**Footprints & Financial Blog**

**Children's Church & Youth Ministries**


AUGUST 2022


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


**POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES**

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LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA 93534

**THE LINK**

**THE LINK (USPS 370-870)**

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY:
LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**LABEL**

**TIME SENSITIVE**

**PLEASE DELIVER BY AUGUST 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

**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 Methodist Women
Youth Group
Wellness Works

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. 8*
**August 2022**


## "So Here's the Thing — " for August

***by Heather KinKennon, Deacon Candidate***

Dear beloveds,



It's my honor to be the guest writer as Pastor Greg and Angela enjoy some well-deserved time off. So much has been happening that it's a good time to update my church family on what is going on with me and my candidacy for the order of Deacon.

As many of you know, last summer I completed my Master of Arts in Theology from Fuller Seminary in Pasadena. At that time, I participated in a video commencement, and thought that would be it. But then this spring, I received an email directed at all graduates: would I be interested in participating in the 2022 commencement ceremony?

Naturally, I jumped at the chance – because I realized that I needed closure. Six years of study had come to an end, but in many ways, I still felt like a student. I am currently enrolled in Clinical Pastoral Education because a unit is now required for deacon candidates. But that is different because CPE is offered through the UMC's Global Board for Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM). Still, it led to confusion for many folks. The symbolism of completion for my seminary experience was important, so that I felt like I was finished.



The commencement ceremony was held at Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena on June 11th. In addition to the class of 2022, over 100 graduates from the classes of 2020 and 2021 joined in the festivities. It was a beautiful and overwhelming experience to walk the stage – finally I could say that I was a seminary alumna!

I am so grateful to my family of faith at Lancaster UMC. You encouraged me to find my gifts and supported me in my seminary journey. I don't know what the future will bring.
I recently submitted my papers to the District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM), who will determine if I move forward to write for the Board of Ordained Ministry (BoOM). But I know that the Holy Spirit is with me in this process, and I feel your love and prayers!






# All-Church Notices

**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.

If you only want to read one book, we suggest you read ***A People to be Loved*** by Preston Sprinkle because it challenges all sides to what the Bible says and models how we should approach this topic in love. 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

**Building Mortgage**




As many of you know, LUMC still has a mortgage on our church facility, but do you know why? In 2005 the church was faced with a decision to either expand our facility or to relocate. At that time, it was decided to expand the current facility by adding the Grand Foyer, Music Room and Prayer Chapel in order to continue to serve the members of the community rather that relocate. This expansion was funded by taking out a mortgage on the facility. The loan balance as of the end of 7/15/2022 is $667,716.89. Our monthly mortgage payment is $6,650.00. If you don't already contribute toward the mortgage and would like to in addition to your regular contribution, please note on your contribution "Building Fund Account 3111".

*— Dayna Rodriguez, Treasurer*

**ONGOING PRAYERS**
Bob Barry
Ramona Beck
Randy Beckett
Cynthia Christensen
Edith Crockett
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Vicki & David Fisher
Bill & Alease Goesch
Sheila Gonzales
Andrea Lackvoic
Carmen Lane
Jennifer Lawrence
Ruth Marr
Doreen Maynard
Jack Melano
Gerry Saul
Gaylin Schmitz
Marguarite Shirley
Phillip Trujillo
Augustina Waller
Ray Wolleman

**MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)**
Robert Banghart
Suzanne Dearborn
Roger Finifrock
Family of Bob and Sheila Gonzalez
Melinda Hunter & family
Phillip Portugal

**PRAYERS FOR THE MILITARY**
Jerry Wayne Davis III
Rayden Finifrock
Hallie (Day) Herrera &
Felix Herrera
Col. Michael T. Kelly
Edinson Kinsey Sr.
Nathan Maldonaldo
Matthew McDougall
Heather McDougall
Branden O'Carroll
Joseph Perez

**FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)**
Christa Arthur
Barry Bender
Tammy Bender
Family of Lois Wilk

**PRAYER QUILT RECIPIENTS (sponsors in parentheses)**
Eva Eveland *Debbie Blankenship)*
Stan Kindig (*The Birthday Club*)
Molin Tang (*Leena Yin Tang*)
Juanita Wood (*Debbie Blankenship)*






# All Church Notices




**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 Lancaster United Women in Faith (previously known as United Methodist Women) will have an information table in the Grand Foyer during the month of August. We will have information about our organization and our local activities. We invite all women to join. For more information, contact Doreen Maynard at 661-609-9639.




Children's Church will begin our new curriculum, DigIn, in September! In the meantime, we invite children to sit with their parents during the service. Worship bulletins and crayons will be available in the Grand Foyer. This will also be the default this fall for Family Sunday (1st Sunday of the month) when the children 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*




August at Footprints is full of adventures! We'll go "camping" the first week as we make s'mores around the "campfire," and have a visit from Franklin Haynes and his Marionettes. The second week is all about Western fun as our cowboys and cowgirls learn about cactus, horses, and covered wagons. We'll explore the stars and planets in our third week, and the circus in our fourth week.

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




The church van is currently in the shop for repairs. In the meantime if you would like to sign up and become a backup driver, please signup! 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)

*Duties:*
Must pick up the van from the LUMC parking lot in time for the first pick up, at 9 a.m.
Must inspect the van for damage before pickups begin and after drop-offs have concluded
After service concludes, drop off takes about an hour.
Wipe down the van when returned to LUMC parking lot.
Log miles on the sheet in the van.

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.

Sunday Worship Flowers are available to purchase for $65 per arrangement. Flowers may be purchased to honor or memorialize, as well as to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or other special dedications. The 2022 Flower Notebook is on the Book table in Grand Foyer to sign up. Contact the church office with questions at 661-942-0419.

