In this month's LINK:

Pastor's October Letter

Heritage Month

Letter from Bishop Dottie

Footprints Preschool

Church Talent Show

Children's Church & Youth Booth

Harvest Festival

LUMC Prayer List & Passages



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 OCTOBER 12TH

LUMC Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 10 a.m. ~ 2 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday (661) 942-0419

In-Person & Streaming Service Sundays — 10 a.m. in Sanctuary
Mask policies subject to restrictions in place at time of visit.

facebook lancasterunited

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.

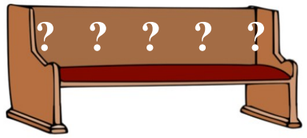
Check www.lancasterunited.org for more information on our active groups and ministries — the list is growing!

Audio/Visual Team	Music Ministries
Bell Choir	Office Volunteers
Caring and Hospitality	Online classes
Children's Church	Prayer Team
Choir	Prayers and Squares
Grief Group	Youth Group
LUMC Kitchen	Wellness Works

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



THE LINK — *THE CHURCH'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER*
Vol. 67 No. 10 **October 2023**



10 Reasons Why Committed Christians Attend Church Less Often

In the 1980s & 90s. Lancaster UMC had almost 1,000 members, and the children/youth's Sunday school averaged 100 Today, LUMC membership is 250, with children/youth's Sunday school average of five.

Reasons behind church attendance decline are varied and multi-layered, but a few main culprits include shifting cultural values, busier schedules, and scandal-plagued institutions.

This isn't about why people are leaving the church (that's a different subject). This is about church attenders who love God, appreciate the local church, and are even involved in the local church but who simply attend less often.

It impacts almost every church regardless of size, denomination, or location. So, why are even committed attendees attending less often? There are at least 10 reasons. I will list only five here. The link is listed at the end.

1. **Higher Focus on Kids' Sports:** A growing number of kids are playing sports on the weekend and often require travel.

2. **Travel is on the Rise:** More families of various ages travel for leisure, even if it's just out of town to go camping or to a friend's place for the weekend or a weekend at the lake.

3. **Online Options:** The rise of online church, social media, and other technologies have people accessing church without being present on Sunday.

4. **Self-Directed Spirituality:** People are looking less to churches and leaders to help them grow spiritually because they have access to many online resources and diverse options for small groups.

5. **Failure to See a Direct Benefit:** Even among people who say they love the church and who say they love your church, they don't see the value in being there week after week.

Our dwindling membership and attendance, along with a significant increase in overhead expenses, have us behind in our General Operating Budget by $42,500 (exclusive of the Building Fund Deficit). If these giving trends continue, we will end our year with an overall operating deficit of $63,750. This marks a significant shift in how the church will do ministry in the future. We will be unfolding the vision for the future of our church. Thank you for your prayerful generosity and faithfulness.

See the other five reasons at CareyNieuwhof.com/10-Reasons-Even-Committed-Church-Attenders-Attending-Less-Often.

Grace and Peace ~Pastor Greg



OCTOBER IS WORLD HERITAGE MONTH! We encourage everyone to dress in attire celebrating heritage all month! Sunday October 1 is World Communion Sunday. For the last four Sundays our celebrations will focus on different regions of the world:

Oct 8 — Africa & Middle East
Oct 15 — Asia & Australia
Oct 22 — Latin America & Caribbean
Oct 29 — Europe, N. America, Native American

Week 1: "We all have feelings"
Week 2: "Our community"
Week 3: "Halloween sights"
Weeks 4-5: "Haunted Nights & Halloween Fun"

Open House — October 20th, 6-7 p.m.
Looking for childcare?
Give us a call!
661-942-0812

FOOT PRINTS
Christian Children's Center

Next year's budget is being written right now! Those who head up ministries and groups should submit their needs to Dayna ASAP.

CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

August 30, 2023

Lancaster UMC
918 W AVE J
LANCASTER, CA 93534

Dear Lancaster UMC,

Thank you for your generous donation to the Lahaina Relief Fund.

Your gift will provide immediate physical and spiritual support to our church and the Lahaina community. Every dollar will go towards the rebuilding of this historic part of Maui from the heartbreaking devastation of the fires. It will take all of us coming together to pray and work for their healing.

Our connectional system shows the best of us, and my heart is warmed by your gift and your heart of giving.

"Thank you" only begins to express our gratefulness. And so, I will say in a deeper way, Mahalo, and Aloha!

Grace y paz,

Bishop Dottie Escobedo Frank
Resident Bishop of the Los Angeles Area
President, Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops

Thank you! Dottie

P.O. Box 6006, Pasadena, California 91102-6006
bishop@calpacumc.org

Caring Ministries is looking for new members. We gather regularly to pray, write greeting cards, and encouraging notes to the homebound and others. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, October 23, at 1:30 p.m. in the Grand Foyer.** If you have any questions, contact Donna Horn, 661-802-1363, or by email; dhorn@lancasterunited.org.

SAVE THE DATE! Once again we are pleased to announce we will again be hosting the **2023 Holiday Luncheon and Talent Show** on **November 12, 2023 from 11:30-1 PM**. We moved the date up to let this event begin the holiday season. Last year we had a variety of acts with fun, laughter, jokes, and song to again remind us of family, friendships, church fellowship and the blessings of God in our daily lives. Scheduled to appear in this year's show will be: David and Anne Wright, Bill Armstrong, The Woodell Family, The Boogie-Woogie Mamas, and more. Unfortunately, the giant elf will not be in attendance but I am told that someone else will be our guest MC. Who will that be? I guess you will just have to attend and see! — *Kathy Yablonski*

Children's CHURCH

We are excited to welcome new children to Children's Church! All children are welcome! Children of elementary school age engage Bible stories through crafts, singing, and group activities. Preschool age children are lovingly cared for as they are guided through age-appropriate activities. On the first Sunday of every month, children remain with their parents for worship; activity bags are available. — *Heather KinKennon, Children's Ministry*

The youth Sunday school class (6th – 12th graders) meets Sunday at 10-11 a.m. They go directly to the Youth Booth by the balcony. Angela Pittman will lead the class about faith, commitment, and God's call. Youths 9th – 12th may also choose to help lead Children's Church or the Audio Visual team.—*Pastor Greg*

UP TO THE YOUTH BOOTH+

Our Harvest Festival will be held on October 29th, 5-7 p.m. in John Wesley Hall!
There will be Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot for trick or treaters, as well as a spooky car contest and dinner! Please join us!

MEMBERS
Robert Banghart
Bob Barry
Ramona Beck
Randy Beckett
Cynthia Christensen
Jeri Coleman
Fae Currado
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Vicki & David Fisher
family of Don Gatlin
Bill & Alease Goesch
Timra Heavin
family of Melinda Hunter
Carmen Lane
Kathy Ledgerwood
Ruth Marr
Doreen Maynard
Phillip Portugal
family of Gerry Saul
Marguarite Shirley
Phillip Trujillo
Augustina Waller
Kelsey Woodell
Al Zimmerman

FAMILY AND FRIENDS
Christa Arthur
Barry Bender
Bob Hill
Andrea Lackvoic
Jennifer Lawrence
Michelle Medina
Jack Melano
Sharon Millen
Gaylin Schmitz
Nina Smith
Shari Urmanski
Amita Zomora

PRAYER list

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

PRAYER QUILTS
Recipient (Requestor)
Alli Jenney (Tammy Damon)

LUMC Passages

Donald Gatlin
(September 11, 2023)
Services were held in the LUMC Sanctuary on September 30th.

Irene Greene
(mother of David Wright; September 13, 2023)
Services were pending at publication time.

Melinda Hunter
(September 22, 2023)
Services were pending at time of publication.

In Loving Memory