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

PLEASE DELIVER BY AUGUST 8TH

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

In-Person Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:45AM. (masking required)
Streaming the Live Service -- 10:45 a.m.

facebook lancasterunited
(no FB membership needed)
YouTube lancasterunitedmc

LUMKitchen (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
Grief Group
LUMKitchen
Music Ministries
Office Volunteers
Online classes
Prayer Team
Prayers and Squares
United Methodist Women
Youth Group
Wellness Works



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The Link

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"Jesus Did What?"

by Pastor Greg



Since I was a child, I have always wondered about Jesus' forceful way of clearing the temple in John 2:15, "So Jesus made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables." Understandably, Jesus was upset. But why so violent? How did this fit with his message of peace and love?

Jesus ransacked the corrupt religious trade, and it shut down completely. He did not just throw a hissy fit and storm off into the crowd. Jesus disrupted the space and took over. In other words, he "occupied Wall Street" for days. Mark 11:16 adds, "and Jesus would not let anyone carry merchandise through the temple courts." This commerce was essential for proper worship and the giving of tithes and offerings.

Let's consider Jesus' process of "occupying" the temple's marketplace:

Step one is Jesus' violent invasion with a whip in hand and blazing eyes as he broadcast, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers." (Matthew 21:13)
Step two follows in the next verse, where Jesus' healings begin. "Then the blind and lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them." (Matthew 21:14)
Step three is found in Luke 19:47-48, "Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him. Yet they could do find a way to do it, because all the people hung on his words. Note how severe attempts to silence Jesus never cease, yet God releases healing amid dangerous conflict.

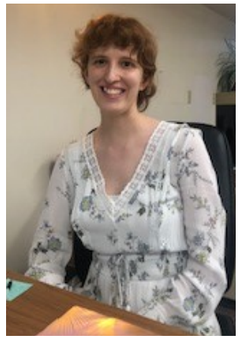
All four gospels tell of Jesus' cleansing of the temple, but I have not referenced John's account yet, and it reveals something shocking. John places Jesus' temple seizure at the launch of his three-year ministry. That means Jesus invaded the temple twice. Once at the beginning of his earthly ministry and again at the end, four days before being crucified. We all know the importance of first and last impressions. So, what can we learn from Jesus losing his cool in the face of corruption and lack of prayer in the temple as his first and last actions? The answer seems clear. Unintentional hypocrisy begins as personal and corporate prayer is replaced by well-meaning religious activity. The religious leaders' vision was not dishonorable, but due to their lack of humble and intentional prayer life, they unknowingly cracked the door for unwise practices to slip in.

Jesus still wants his house to be a house of prayer. Thanks to Joanne and Terry Van Hook, an excellent foundation has been laid, and our prayer team's faithfulness continues today. However, Jesus' two temple tantrums remind us to remain vigilant in prayer from the beginning to the end. God always desires people to be ministered to in a variety of ways. Our church has a long list of ways to be ministered to and to serve, but we must be careful that these good things don't become a distraction or substitute for prayer. That would be irresponsible.

Over the next several months, I will share and preach about a practical, encouraging, challenging, and comprehensive approach to prayer. I think *The Prayer-Saturated Church*: *A Comprehensive Handbook for Prayer Leaders*, by Chery Sacks, is the right book to direct Lancaster U.M.C. in "keeping the main thing the main thing" as we continue our exciting journey to the heart of God.

~ Pastor Greg

All Church Notices



Meet Our New Church Secretary!

Samantha O'Mara-Mezzano joined the LUMC staff on July 19. A native of Arkansas with SoCal ties, she grew up "all over the place" in a family that's in the construction business. She graduated from CSU Long Beach with her Bachelor of Arts in French, and taught English to grade school students in France for two years.

Samantha currently resides with her parents in Acton, as well as her dogs, Mab and Athena. Her hobbies including playing piano, sewing, and cross-stitch. Her future plans include applying to graduate schools in psychology that offer online degree programs.

Please stop by the office and welcome Samantha to LUMC!

Footprints Childcare Center



While August is quiet around here, we are busy getting ready for the new school year. Our long-delayed Kindergarten class is scheduled to start September 7th, so if you're looking for a quality kindergarten program, please give us a call, as space is limited!

Plans are also underway for the Harvest Festival on October 29th! Because of LA County restrictions, this event will be limited to the children of LUMC and Footprints. But we'll still need plenty of candy, as well as volunteers to run games! Stay tuned for updates!

We are also hiring teachers, so if you know someone with a minimum of 12 ECE units, please encourage them to apply! For more information, please contact Tammy at 942-0812.

ONGOING PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS
Cynthia Christensen
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Dorothy Finifrock
Vicki & David Fisher
Bill & Alease Goesch
Sheila Gonzales
Family of Barbara Healy
Wilma Howe
Jennifer Lawrence
Doreen Maynard
Velta Mann
Addie Stokes

PRAYER QUILT RECIPIENTS
Jan Murad
Jan Pedder
William Plummber
Wendy Stigge
Michelle Suhr

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Bob Barry
Carmen Lane
Gerry Saul
Claud Seal
Marguerite Shirley
Carlos Valdez
Jane Van Howling
Marilyn Waggoner
John & Lois Wilk
Glenn Williams

FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Steven Gonzales
Ian Hererra
Andrea Lovit
Lorena Mackie
Jack Melano
Family of David Robinson
Nancy Shaffer
Trina (niece of Ann Thomas)

PRAYERS FOR THE MILITARY
Edinson Kinsey Sr.
Hallie (Day) Herrera &
Felix Herrera
Rayden Finifrock
Max Houser
M. Todd Kelly
Matthew McDougall
Heather McDougall
Joseph Perez



All Church Notices

Confirmation CLASSES

The Lancaster United Methodist Youth Group will resume Sunday meetings on August 8th. We welcome all parents both returning and new, to join us for a meeting during the first week of August.

Our youth are also working with Children's Church as part of their confirmation preparation.

Children's Church

As the summer goes on the Children's Church continues to grow. The involvement of the children in these worship services continues to inspire hope as future generations begin to uncover the stories that we adults continue to explore and valuable life lessons wherein.

Children's Church of LUMC is located in room #16. Walk onto the courtyard. Go to the right and proceed to the closest corner of the courtyard. If your children remain in worship with you. We have children's bulletins for ages 3-6 and 7-12 located at the ushers' table at the entrance to the sanctuary. Please feel free to leave the worship service at any time to escort your child to the Changing/Cry room or Children's Church.

The Power of Listening



"The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen," says Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen, author and integrative medicine professor. "Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention."

Twice in Mark 4, while teaching, Jesus urges, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen" (verses 9 & 23, NRSV). One way we show what Jesus means to us is by truly listening to his word — not just hearing sounds but being attentive and intentional. Likewise, one way we love and serve others is by respectfully listening to them: not assuming we know what they feel or mean or will say; not planning what to say even as they're still speaking, but listening deeply to learn about them and their experience.



Summer session for our **Grief Group, "Journey to OUR New Normal,"** Zoom meetings will resume for eight Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. through September 2nd. Dey Yusef is the E&E Love Foundation Executive Director specializing in wellness, which includes dealing with loss for seniors, adult foster children, and others. Cyndi Christensen will be co-leading with the Serendipity Bible study series covering the six stages of grief: Denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance, and hope. Please contact the church office to join. For further questions contact Cyndi Christensen at (661) 406-1518 or cdalepaco@aol.com.

The **Bereavement Committee** is seeking volunteers to help with church member funerals. If you are interested in volunteering , please contact Bette Jo Valdez at quiltingnana@msn.com or 661-860-8588.

FINANCIAL NEWS

With your continued support LUMC ended the first six months of the fiscal year with a positive net income of $14,335.88. The Building Fund has a $3.00 net income at the end of the first half of the fiscal year. If you have any questions or would like copies of the LUMC Financial Statements, please feel free to contact the Treasurer, Dayna Rodriguez at treasurer@lancasterunited.org or call the church office at 661-942-0419.