In this month's LINK:

"So Here's the Thing"

Footprints & Financial Blog

Children's Church & Youth Ministries

Angel Tree & St. Nick Room

Office Closures:
12/10/21 (office being carpeted; calls & emails only)

12/24/21 through 1/2/22 (*LUMKitchen will be open for their regular hours*)



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

THE LINK (USPS 370-870)

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY:
LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LABEL

TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DELIVER BY December 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 Streaming Service Sundays — 10 a.m. in Sanctuary (*masking required*)

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
Children's Church
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

The Church's Official Newsletter
Vol. 65 No. 12
December 2021

"So Here's the Thing — " for December : Through the Eyes of a Child ***by Pastor Greg***



If your three-year-old child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or cousin walked to your favorite chair and began to climb into your lap, what would you say and do?

If your three-year-old child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or cousin's arms suddenly wrapped around your leg upset and crying, what would you say and do?

If your three-year-old child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or cousin sat still among their toys starring at the carpet, what would you say and do?

"If you, then, though you are not perfect, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." (Luke 11:13)

Christ's Spirit is God's gift to all. The Spirit of God comes to us with gentle hugs and speaks the truth to us in love. Jesus explains how to experience these supernatural hugs and loving words of wisdom from in Matthew 18:3-4:

"Jesus said to his disciples, 'Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of God. Therefore, whoever humbles themselves like this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of God.'"

A two- or three-year-old rushes to a loving parent with daily fears, demands, silliness, and hurts. In their parent's embrace, the child instinctively "tries" to listen. To teach us how to remain in our Heavenly Father's arms, Jesus speaks in the present active voice, which means "to continue" asking, seeking, and knocking.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be open to you. For everyone who asks receives; they who seeks finds; and to those who knock the door will be opened." (Luke 11:9)



Try to imagine yourself gazing through the eyes of a small child before your Christmas tree while asking God one or more of these questions:

(1) How can I **carefully** listen to (name)?
(2) How can I **caringly** speak to (name)?
(3) How can I **creatively** serve (name)?

Like us, God loves hugs from His children.

Merry Christmas —
Pastor Greg

All-Church Notices



Donations for the Angel Tree and the St. Nick Room are now being accepted!

The **Angel Tree** is a chance to anonymously assist families who are nominated by members of our congregation. Every year, the Christmas tree in the [lobby] is adorned with gift tags that include the information for a child. All nominations need to be submitted by December 12th. Take a tag, buy the specified gift, and bring to the church by December 19th.

The **St. Nick Room** allows our LUMKitchen guests to "shop" for Christmas gifts to give to their loved ones. If you have new/lightly used household appliances, jewelry, personal items, toys and games, etc., please bring them to [the office] by December 19th. (The items will be set up for "shopping" on December 23rd)

December 19th is also the deadline to bring items for our kitchen guests, including new/lightly used blankets, coats, jackets, socks, towels, and gloves.



Sunday Worship Flowers will once again be available to purchase beginning in January 2022. Flowers may be purchased to honor or memorialize, as well as celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or other special dedications.

The Blue Flower Notebook will be on the Book table in Grand Foyer to sign up. Contact Donna Horn with questions at 661-802-1363.



ONGOING PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS
Bob Barry
Cynthia Christensen
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Dorothy Finifrock
Vicki & David Fisher
Bill & Alease Goesch
Sheila Gonzales
Carmen Lane
Jennifer Lawrence
Doreen Maynard
Velta Mann
Gerry Saul

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Ramona Beck
Melinda Hunter
Destiny McCaslin
Philip Portugal
Marguerite Shirley
Phillip Trujillo

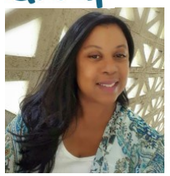
FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Steven Gonzales
Steven Ingram
Family of Adam Lankford
Andrea Lovit
family of Joann Marshall
family of Derek Martin
Jesus Salcedo
Nancy Shaffer
Family of Addie Stokes
Trina (niece of Ann Thomas)
Zach Tucker
family of Carlos and Bette Jo Valdez
family of John & Lois Wilk
Ray Wolleman

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

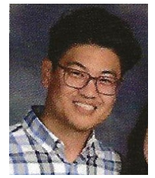


All Church Notices

The Lancaster United Methodist Church Youth Group meets on Sunday nights from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Our youth leaders, Shannon Mims and Chris Lee, facilitate a variety of faith-based activities, from youth-led Bible study and prayer, team-building activities, and community service projects. We commit to leading our youth towards a life-long practice of prayer and contemplation, worship, and community service.



Our youth also assist with Children's Church on Sunday mornings starting at 10:00 a.m. in the dining room. We invite all youth from ages 13-17 to join our youth group where they will experience Christian fellowship, youth-led activities, contemporary worship, Bible study, and an overall connection to the power of God working through our youth and leaders. Let us grow in grace, faith, and fellowship together. If you have any questions about our youth program and are interested in attending and inviting others, please call 661-942-0419.





On December 12, Children's Church will be live in the Sanctuary! Continuing Pastor Greg's Christmas emphasis of "Through the Eyes of a Child," children of all ages will sing songs, learn the Bible story, and have a special visit with Theo! A fun and meaningful morning is guaranteed!

Children's Church will not meet on December 26th.



Winter session for the Grief Group, "Journey to OUR New Normal," will continue as an in-person discussion group, led by Dey Yusef, every other Monday (7 meetings) in the church conference room from **4:00-5:30PM.** Cyndi Christensen will lead a Grief Serendipity Bible Study via Zoom every other Monday (6 meetings) from **6:30 --8:00PM.** To find out more or join one or both classes, please contact Cyndi Christensen at (661) 406-1518.

December at Footprints will be merry and bright! After finishing our Teddy Bear activities, we will focus on colors and sounds of the holiday season, including Bible stories, crafts, and activities focused on caring and sharing. Our Christmas Holiday Magic family event will be held on Wednesday, December 15, 6 p.m. in the LUMC Sanctuary. Please join us as we celebrate!

(Footprints will be closed December 24-December 31, and will reopen January 3, 2022)

Donation envelopes have arrived! If you ordered envelopes for the coming year, please pick them up at the check-in tables on Sunday, or in the office during the week (10 am-2 pm).

— Dayna Rodriguez, Treasurer

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.

The church van is back in business! Call the church office if you need a ride to church.

LUMC Passages
Jim Gonzalez
Entered the Church Triumphant:
November 18, 2021
Services were pending at press time.