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**"So Here's the Thing —" for February**

**Black History Month: Special Events**

**Footprints & Financial Blog**

**Children's Church & Youth Ministries**

**Church office will be closed February 20th (President's Day)**





**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 FEBRUARY 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!**

- Caring and Hospitality
- Children's Church
- Grief Group
- LUMC Kitchen
- Music Ministries
- Office Volunteers
- Online classes
- Prayer Team
- Prayers and Squares
- Tech Team
- 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.







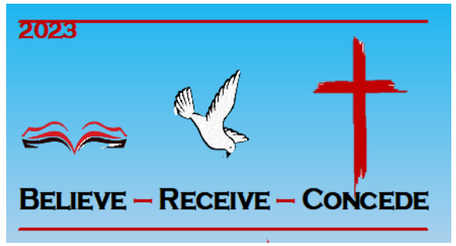
**LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
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# The Link

**The Church's Official Newsletter**
*Vol. 67 No. 2*
**February 2023**


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

## Dancing with God




Dancing with God is probably a new or undeveloped idea for most of us. If we accept God's offer to 'two-step' on the ball-room floor, we can relax a bit, knowing it will be unlike the extreme competition of Dancing with the Stars. We sigh in relief, realizing we will not perform for others or God but simply follow His lead.

Many know the 'two-step' as a country/western dance with the basic step-close-step rhythm pattern. It requires a part-ner; one to lead and the other to follow. The goal is to find a pace together. According to the 2022 American Country Dance Association rules, if the couple is not in rhythm together, it is not the leader's fault. The burden to harmonize the couple's steps lies with the follower. Even if the leader has little or no predictable timing, the follower must synchronize their movements with the leader.

Likewise, the Almighty's rhythm is different than ours. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord." (Isaiah 53:8). God lovingly invites each Christian to the dance floor for the two -step where He leads, and we are to follow.

LUMC's vision for 2023 takes the 'two step' one step further. This year we will be learning to **three-step** with God:

Step #1- **God GIVES us faith to believe** what the Bible says about Jesus doing things for us we can never do for ourselves.

Step #2- **Jesus LEADS us to receive** His gift of the Holy Spirit, so we can experience God's cleansing, forgiveness, and love for us.

Step #3- **The Holy Spirit GROWS our trust to concede** to God's ways, so we can follow the plans He has prepared for us to do.

There is much more to learn about this **three-step** dance with God. John Wesley referred to these movements with the Lord as prevenient grace, saving grace, and sanctifying grace. We will learn the **three-step** our Lord teaches daily if we listen. Join me in praying throughout 2023 that we will be attentive to God's leading us in the dance of our lives. ~ *Pastor Greg*




In February, 2023, Lancaster United Methodist Church will host a series of special Sunday services to Commemorate Black History Month.

On February 5, a church member will offer a personal testimony.





On February 12, LUMC member Shannon Mims, who is an English teacher at Lit-tlerock HS and student at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, will offer the spoken word.

On February 19, special words will be offered by Mr. Leo Stallworth, who is a reporter for KABC Channel 7. African-American spirituals will be shared by The Sunday Night Singers, directed by Michael McCullough.

# All-Church Notices

**Holy Week Schedule**




February 22 — Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m.

Taizé prayer service TBD

April 2 — Palm Sunday 10 a.m.

April 6 — Maundy Thursday 7 p.m.

April 7 — Good Friday combined mission area service at Palmdale UMC, time tbd

April 9 — Easter Sunday events: Sunrise service 8 a.m. — 9 a.m. pancake breakfast — 10 a.m. traditional service

**WE DID IT!!** Thanks to your generous year-end giving, LUMC ended the year with a surplus of $4,236 and exceed our apportionment goal of 75%. LUMC will receive 100% credit for apportionment contribution from the Cal-Pac Conference. LUMC also exceed the Building Fund goal and have added to the Mortgage Reserve Fund. There goals were only made possible by your generosity which is greatly appreciated. Looking forward to a prosperous 2023!! — *Dayna Rodriguez, Treasurer*

***P.S.*** LUMC always appreciates your contributions. Please do not give donations to Pastor Greg, as there may be a delay in the credit to your account.




**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
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
Andrea Lackvoic
Jennifer Lawrence
Jack Melano
Sharon Millen
Gaylin Schmitz
Janet Talbert

**MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)**
Mary Ann Blackwell
Suzanne Dearborn
Steve McDougall
Philip Roberts
Barbara Urmanski
family of Jane Van Howling
Kelsey Woodell
Al Zimmerman

**PRAYER QUILT (Recipient/Requestor)**
Connie Nimigean (*Barbara Urmanski*)
Kelsey Woodell (*Ray & Doreen Maynard*)

**FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)**
Rick Bass
Kenyona
Teri Fletcher
Martha Gibson
Bob Hill
Chiujung Hsing
Michelle Medina
Curtis and Rosalind Pearson
family of Ray Wolleman

**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




In Children's Church we continue our study of the Life of Jesus. We began that study last September and it will continue through most of 2023. So you might ask: what happens in room 14 during Children's Church? Each Sunday we sing some songs, have a lesson video, dig deeper into each lesson and usually have a craft, game or object lesson related to the lesson. We have had some new faces in Children's Church which is encouraging as we continue to grow this ministry. — *Elaine Stanley, Children's Ministry*

Here is our February schedule:

| | |
|---|---|
| February 5 | Family Worship (children sit with their parents; some volunteer to read scripture, call to worship, and offertory prayer) |
| February 12 | "A Miraculous Catch of Fish" Luke 5:1-11 |
| February 19 | "Wise and Foolish Builder" Matthew 7:24-27 |
| February 26 | "Jesus Eats with Sinners at Matthew's House" Matthew 9:9-13 |




**Footprints Christian Children's Center** is making this **February** extra special..
The Theme? **Valentine's Day** and **Black History Month**
Alphabet letters that will be focused are **Q R S T** (Pre-K &3's)
The numbers studied are the numbers: **17**, **18**, **19**, **20** (Pre-k) **7**, **8**, **9**, **10** (3's)
The colors of focus are: Red / Pink (for all ages)
What's on the special menu: Milkshakes, Valentine's trail mix, Sweet Potato Pie (for all ages)
Shapes to share: Hearts/Squares ❤ (for all ages)




Sunday Altar Flowers are available to purchase at $65 per arrangement. Flowers may be purchased to honor or memorialize, to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or other special dedications. The flower order slips are in 2023 Flower Notebook on the table in the Grand Foyer. Both order slips and payment and order slips are due simultaneously, otherwise the office will be unable to process your flower request.

**LUMC Passage**



**Jane Van Howling**
**(January 15, 2023)**

*Services will take place at Joshua Memorial Park. Times and Dates are TBD.*




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 quilting-nana@msn.com.

**Caring Ministry** is looking for new volunteers who would enjoy meeting new people and serving the Lord in various ways. Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 16th at 1:30pm in the Grand Foyer. We welcome you! If you have any questions, please contact Donna Horn at 661 802-1363.