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Footprints Preschool

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Prayer List / LUMC Passages



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

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LABEL

TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DELIVER BY AUGUST 12TH

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

In-Person and Streaming Sunday Services at 10 a.m. from LUMC's Sanctuary

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!

Audio/Visual Team	Online classes
Bible Studies	Prayer Team
Caring and Hospitality	Prayers and Squares
Children's Church	Retired Renovators
Grief Group	United Methodist Men
LUMC Kitchen	Youth Group
Music Ministries	Wellness Works

First time visitor?
Please contact the church office for more information about the church, or to speak with the pastor.

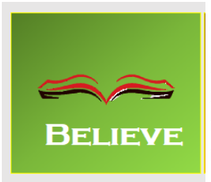
2023

BELIEVE – RECEIVE – CONCEDE

LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST, CALIFORNIA

THE LINK — *OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LUMC*
Vol. 67 Issue No. 8
August 2023

Do You Believe the Bible is True?

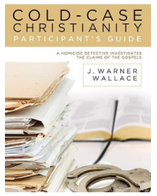


The Bible consists of 66 books written over 1,500 years ago by over 40 distinctive human authors in different places and situations. These authors were kings, fishermen, priests, government officials, farmers, shepherds, and doctors. From all this diversity, some intellectuals believe an incredible unity exists with common themes woven throughout. However, some people, including scholars, object to its reliability because of one or more of the following objections:

1) number of contradictions and discrepancies
2) descriptions of miraculous historical events that are at odds with science
3) violence, genocide, and prejudice — often commanded by God
4) disconnect of relevance to modern people
5) Christians don't agree with what it's saying

There is incredible evidence for the Bible's reliability in answering the previously listed obstacles to faith, but it requires in-depth study. Most, if not all, of us, will not have the time or interest in an academic examination of the Bible. So, our approach to scholarly "proofs" is to provide understandable information to common sense thinkers.

The goal of a thoughtful Christians is not to tell someone what to believe but to present resources to prove the Bible's account of what Jesus said and did is true. Since Jesus is the Bible's central character, our congregation will focus on the authenticity of His four biographies: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the upcoming months. Our church will make the case for the accuracy of the four Gospels, leaving the individuals to discern how to interpret them.



Our purpose is to develop humble objectivity in approaching the Holy Scriptures. A good example of this objectivity can be found in ***Cold-Case Christianity*** by Jim Wallace, a devout atheist for 37 years and a cold-case homicide detective for over a decade in Los Angeles. When Jim applied his skills as an expert detective to the New Testament, he realized the case for Christianity was as convincing as any case he'd ever worked on. Jim thoughtfully reminds us, "The first principle of detective work is to be objective. I.e., Don't be a 'KNOW-IT-ALL'. We all hold presuppositions that can impact how we see the world. The question is not whether or not we have ideas, opinions, or preexisting points of view; the question is whether or not we will allow these perspectives to prevent us from examining the evidence objectively. We pray that we can be open to following the evidence wherever it leads."

LUMC member Glenn Williams will lead this book study in September; the purpose of which is to prepare people to be credible witnesses to family and friends who struggle with legitimate barriers in believing the Bible is true and relevant. This study will equip everyone with thoughtful insights, a website, and a free app that answers the 25 most common objections to Christianity. They provide short conversational responses for you to offer, and references. These resources will especially benefit Millennials, Gen Z, and Gen Alpha (8 - 42 years old). ***Cold-Case Christianity for Kids*** recommended for ages 8-12 is available. It follows the same chapter sequence as the adult book, so parents and grand-parents can discuss the books with their children. Prayerfully consider joining us in equipping our-selves to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those around us who are hurting and bewildered. You can buy copies of these books on your own, or make a payment to LUMC with the note "Books" on the giving envelopes and notify the office which book to order on your behalf. (Adult $18 & Child $11)

~Pastor Greg

Reflections from Annual Conference 2023

Pastor Greg and three lay delegates attended the California-Pacific Annual Conference. This month we feature Jean Youngquist's reflection. Heather KinKennon and Shannon Mims were featured in July's LINK.

I last attended a Methodist annual conference over 60 years ago. My perspective has definitely changed. Instead of focusing on individual salvation as a teenager, I observed those around me and focused on how things function at a meeting full of well-intentioned, good folks from Guam, Hawaii, and Southern California.

Many at the Cal-Pac Conference were focusing on choosing, evaluating, or celebrating their paths within the church. When I was a teenager, I figured that my path to serve the church was to marry a minister. Now there is a wave of women ministers, and our bishop is an extremely capable woman. In place of the white patriarchy, there is diversity. Students from Hawaii and Japanese drummers opened the conference. The pastors in our conference noted the diversity of our conference. Pastor Terry was recently temporarily serving in a church in the San Gabriel Valley with a core Chinese congregation with a Japanese language pre-school.

As your church's representative, I was able to vote on the business of this conference. With sadness, representatives voted to sell Camp Colby which has been irreparably subjected to fire and isolation. The budget was passed after a report on the conference's solid financial standing. Disaffiliation of churches is being handled by the annual conference, so it was not on this conference's agenda.

I attended lunches and dinners with conference committees that were celebrating their work. I learned that our social justice committee meets immigrants who are being bused in and offers them food, shelter, and welcome.

Thank you for sending me to the Cal-Pac Annual Conference. You can be proud to share in the work of the Cal-Pac Conference.

Good News!!! We have applied for the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) which is a credit of payroll taxes paid to companies that continued to pay employees during COVID. We received notice form the IRS that our credits have been approved and refund checks are being processed. These refunds will provide a much-needed cash infusion to the church!!If you have any questions please contact LUMC treasurer *Dayna Rodriguez*.

Caring Ministries is looking for new members. We gather regularly to pray, write greeting cards, and notes of encouragement to the homebound and others. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, August 21st, at 1:30 p.m. in the Grand Foyer.** If you have any questions, contact Donna Horn at 661-802-1363, or by email: dhorn@lancasterunited.org.



We are excited to welcome new children to Children's Church! All children are welcome! Children of elementary school age engage with 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 for children during the service.

Watch this space for fun activities coming up, including a back-to-school kickoff party! We would also love to hear from parents as to activities you'd like to see in our ministry. Please visit [web URL] to fill out this brief survey.

Our August schedule is as follows:
August 13: Luke 10:38-42 — Jesus visits Mary and Martha
August 20: Luke 13:10-17 — Jesus heals a crippled woman
August 27: John 9:1-41 — Jesus heals a blind man — *Heather KinKennon, Children's Ministry*

MEMBERS
Robert Banghart
Bob Barry
Ramona Beck
Randy Beckett
Cynthia Christensen
Jeri Coleman
Fae Currado
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Vicki & David Fisher
Don Gatlin
Bill & Alease Goesch
Timra Heavin
Melinda Hunter
Carmen Lane
Ruth Marr
Doreen Maynard
Nicole Medina
Phillip Portugal
Mako Roberts
family of Gerry Saul
Marguarite Shirley
Phillip Trujillo
Augustina Waller
Kelsey Woodell
Jean Youngquist
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
Susie Stockman
Shari Urmanski
Evelyn Valdez
Pat Valdez
Yocum

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)
Marietta Monarch (Linda Yaw)
Christine Mocha (Heather KinKennon)
Malachi Phillips (Steve & Connie McDougall)
Mako Roberts (Yoshi Burton)
TJ Rombouts (Terry Day)
Evelyn Valdez (Cindy Farrand)
Don Gatlin (Marty Gatlin)



LUMC PASSAGES
Gerry Saul's memorial is August 12, at 10:30 in the LUMC sanctuary.