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Financial blog



LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

918 West Ave. J
Lancaster, CA 93534
www.lancasterunited.org

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LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA 93534

THE LINK (USPS 370-870)

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY:
LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LABEL

Time sensitive

Please Deliver by March 8th

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

Sunday Worship Services Online: 9:30 a.m.
Live meditative service Sundays at 11 a.m. (restrictions apply)

facebook www.facebook.com/lancasterunited (no FB membership needed)

YouTube www.youtube.com/lancasterunitedmc (not live; uploaded same day)

Tales of 2020 (chat with the Pastor): Thursday evening; call office for Zoom codes

LUMKitchen (Food Ministry):
Mondays & Thursdays, 12-1 p.m., John Wesley Hall

Footprints Pre-School — Open for business, and accepting new students!
Hours (during the Pandemic) Mon-Fri 7 a.m.—- 5 p.m.

The Link

The monthly newsletter of
LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Vol. 65 Number 3
March 2021

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 2021



Palm Sunday — March 28: Regularly scheduled services (9:30 a.m. streaming, 11 a.m. courtyard)

Maundy Thursday — April 1: 7 p.m.

Good Friday — April 2: TBA
Joint online service with Mission District churches

Easter Sunday — April 4: Regularly scheduled services (9:30 a.m. streaming, 11 a.m. courtyard)



We have received several order forms for stones for the Commemorative Brick Garden which is being constructed in our church courtyard between the Grand Foyer and the Administration Building.



The Commemorative Brick Garden will be the perfect place to not only visually remember those Saints in our lives who have passed on, but to also honor those persons who continue to bless our lives and the lives of many. Those persons that have passed could include loved ones, church volunteers and leaders, and persons who have meant so much in your life. This venue is also the perfect opportunity to say "Thank You" to those folks that are still with us. You might consider honoring your children, your marriage or a special minister. The opportunities are endless.

There's still time to place your order! These bricks are laser inscribed and will honor loved ones for years to come. Place your order now using the enclosed order form or go online to www.4everbricks.com/donors/LUMC/ and order by credit card.

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Daylight Savings Begins March 14!

"So Here's the Thing —" for March

—- by Pastor Greg

Fasting Benefits of Body, Mind, and Spirit

The 40 days of Lent are from Ash Wednesday (February 17) till Easter. These 40 days reflect Jesus' fast of 40 days in the wilderness. It has become a Christian tradition for many to fast or abstain from something (food, vices, or other daily enjoyments).

Scientific studies have proven many physical and mental benefits of fasting. Currently, intermittent fasting is a popular eating pattern. It doesn't specify which foods you should eat but rather when you should eat them.

The two most common intermittent fasting methods involve daily 16-hour fasts or fasting 24 hours, twice per week.

(1) Sixteen Hour Fast: involves skipping breakfast and only eating from 1 pm to 9 pm.
(2) Twenty-four Hour Fast: This involves fasting for 24 hours, once or twice a week, for example, by not eating from dinner one day until dinner the next day. During the fasting periods, we eat either very little or nothing at all.

Lent is also healthy for our spirits. We seek to understand how Christ grew in God's will and blessings while simultaneously gave up parts of His life each day. God blesses us and urges us to give up our stubborn choices, unbridled cravings, relational resentments, and daily fears so we can enjoy His blessings.

Jesus spoke sternly to his disciples in Mark 8:34 by stating, "If anyone would come after me, they must deny themselves and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and the gospel will save it."

Lent reminds us to ask God to help us carve out more time for Him. Biblical fasting leads us to turn our attention from our natural desire for food, vice, pride, or distracting pleasures to concentrate on God through prayer, Bible meditation, and helping those in need.

We all can admit we need to pray more, read the Bible more, and give more to those less fortunate. This time of the Christian year is not to condemn us but encourage us to discover God's wisdom in drawing near to him daily.

"Humble yourselves before God. Come close to God, and he will come close to you." (James 4:6,8 NLT)



I invite you to join me as we ask God to reveal how we can dedicate more time to him. He wants our attention. God wants to be the first place in our thought the day and night, so that we can be filtered life through his divine presence.

Does this sound impossible or unrealistic? Then now is the perfect time to talk with God and others about the meaning of the Lenten season. Feel free to contact me for additional ways of experiencing the real purpose of Lent.

Pastor Greg



LUMC Passages

Nancy Killian

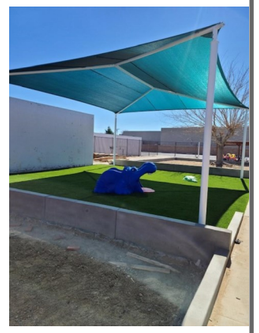
Entered the Church Triumphant:
February 25, 2021

Memorial Service information is pending.

Footprints CCC

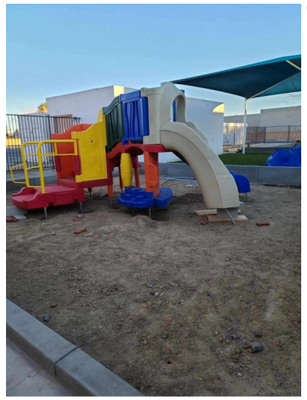
by Tammy Damon

Happy New Year! Our enrollment is keeping steady, with average of 90 children attending each week.



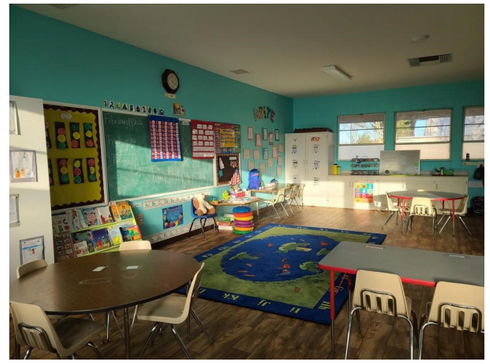
Work has begun on our new playground! The ground has been leveled, new turf is being installed, and our brand new climbing structures are being put in place! Plus we continue to enhance our classrooms!

Our increase in infants and toddlers has led to a need for three new rocking chairs; while they can be either rockers or gliders, they need to be sturdy. We also need equipment that help our teachers save time on tasks and allow them to focus on working with students. A machine for laminating educational materials costs $1300, and an Ellison die-cut machine (for cutting out large multiples of paper projects) runs around $1500. Please contact Tammy if you are interested in donating either equipment or funds.



Thank you all for your support! — *Tammy*

We continue to screen children each day to insure the health and safety of everyone at the school. If you know someone who needs child care, please have them call us at 661-942-0812. We can arrange fora tour (masked, of course) and we are working on the production of a virtual tour as well!



LUMC Financial Blog

— Dayna Rodriguez, treasurer

Lancaster United Methodist Church, despite of — and because of — the COVID-19 pandemic, finished 2020 in the black for the first time in several years. This positive financial condition is attributed to your continued generous giving, as well as our ability to obtain (and then have forgiven) the Small Business Administration (SBA) PPP (Payroll Protection Program) Loan. The funds from this loan as well as your continued giving allowed us to continue paying the church staff their full salaries through June 2020 as well as provide the necessary funds to have new roofs installed on the Education Building, John Wesley Hall (JWH) and the Office Building.

We were also able to achieve our goal of making our apportionment contribution to the California-Pacific Annual Conference at the 75% level. The Conference advised that contributions of 75% or above the requested apportionment will received credit for 100% contribution in 2020. We will receive 100% credit for 2020! These two achievements are amazing and we thank each and everyone one of you for your contributions!!!

The January 2021 Unified Fund has started the year on a positive note with a small surplus, however the Building Fund (Mortgage) contributions for January were short of the mortgage payment by approximately $1,500. We pray that this will improve in the coming months.

We hope that you find this information useful and enlightening. If you have any questions or concerns and would like more information regarding the finances here at LUMC, please feel free to reach out to our Treasurer, Dayna Rodriguez, at treasurer@lancasterunited.org or call the church office.

YOUTH MINISTRIES — *by Shannon Mims*

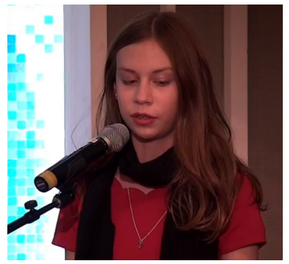




LUMC Youth are *active*! The video presentations that the youth recorded for Sunday services during the Advent season were well received by the congregation. Two of our youth, Illyana and Sierra, participated in the afternoon service on Christmas Eve (which moved inside due to weather) Our youth also led the service on February 28th, and continued our worshipful exploration of Black History Month, as well as our discussions on racial reconciliation.

For the immediate future, Pastor Greg and Chris Lee will be meeting with the group in the courtyard. Shannon will be joining remotely until the summer.

The Lancaster youth come together weekly for fun, fellowship, and Bible study. Our goal is to develop the whole child by teaching Biblical principles and building relationships. Our meeting includes outdoor team building activities and scripture lessons taught through in-depth discussions and small group activities that promote faith and understanding. We adhere to the mandated safety protocols by requiring everyone to wear masks and practice social distancing



For more information regarding the youth group, please contact the coordinator, Shannon Mims, or Pastor Greg Pittman through the church office.







Submit Prayer Requests ONLINE!
bit.ly/quR8TE

During this pandemic members of the **Prayer Team** are staying busy praying for our community and the broken world. We are also looking for new ways we can be of service to you. If you are in need of prayer or prayers for a loved one, please continue to contact the church office as you have been (661) 942-0419 or by email (lumc@lancasteruntied.org)and your request will be handled accordingly. If you would like someone from the prayer team to call you, again let the office know that and one of us will be more than happy to call you and pray with you. Thank you and God bless.

Three Recovery Groups

1) Caregivers Support Group: We just started a weekly Caregivers Support Group on Mondays at 5:30 pm. They meet in-person with safety protocols in the Dining Room of JWH. Deric Placker is leading the group while he is working on his doctorate in Christian Psychology. The group will deal with burnout, anxiety, guilt, grief, and anger. Enrollment is still open with a limit of ten. Contact the church office for more information.

2) Grief Group: We will begin our spring Grief Group after Easter. Dey Yuef is the E & E Love Foundation executive director, specializing in grief with orphans and others dealing with loss. Cyndi Christensen will be co-leading a Bible study to process the six stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance, and hope. Please contact the church office or Donna Horn for more information.

3) Wellness Works: We will begin our spring Wellness Works Support group soon. Melinda Hunter has been leading this group for several years. This group is for those who are struggling with depression, loneliness, and other emotional and relational challenges. Melinda will be using *Sacred Space*, an Irish Jesuit devotion guide, for spiritual direction. Please contact the church office or Melinda Hunter for more information.

Fellowship and Ministry Updates



Caring and Hospitality Ministry would like to ask for donations of Greeting Cards. All kinds of cards will be accepted. Get Well, Birthday, Sympathy, Thinking of You, or other holidays. If anyone has extra greeting cards please bring to the church office and drop off between 10:00am to 2:00pm. Thank you!

The Connections Coordinator, Donna Horn is looking for additional volunteers to help set-up and clean-up for the 11:00am outdoor Courtyard Sunday Services. Come be apart of a great team. Give Donna a call or email or let the church office know you are interested. (661 802-1363, or dhorn@lancasterunited.org)



During the COVID-19 pandemic, **Prayers and Squares** leader Pat Stauning wants to remind everyone that the ministry is active, and they are taking orders for quilts. However, due to lockdown restrictions, church members are not able to tie the knots — that will need to be done by the requestor. ***Our online request form is now live at lancasterunited.org, as well as linked through Facebook. Or call the church office , 661-942-0419.***

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

MEMBERS
(remain on list for 2 months)
Mary Blackwell
Edith Crockett
Family of Bobby Fromer
Family of Glenna Fulton
Family of Nancy Killian
John Lee
Audrey Miller
Marilyn Waggoner
Mary Zimmerman.

FAMILY & FRIENDS
Lionel Maddox
Betty Donnelly
Raymond Dorch
Rein Mutso
David Robinson
John & Dwayne.

PRAYERS FOR THE MILITARY
(Please let us know if no longer in the military)
Edinson Kinsey Sr
Hallie (Day) & Felix Herrera
Rayden Finifrock
Max House
M. Todd Kelly
Matthew McDougall
Heather McDougall
Joseph Perez



"I HAVE NOT STOPPED GIVING THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS."
EPHESIANS 1:16, NIV

NORTH DISTRICT WEEKLY COVENANT PRAYER LIST

March 7	Palmdale First UMC	Pastor Jim White & Pastor Jon Gentry
	Granada Hills: Knollwood UMC	Pastor Kalesita Tu'ifua
March 14	Montrose: Crescenta Valley UMC	Pastor Paul Tangonan
	Eastern Sierra Cooperative Parish: Bishop First UMC, Big Pine: Community UMC, Independence: Pioneer Memorial UMC	Pastor Anna Crews Camphouse & Pastor David Camphouse
March 21	South Pasadena: Chinese Mission	Pastor Timothy Ting
	North District Office	Pastor Jim Powell, Pastor Mary Dennis, staff & leaders
March 28	Cal-Pac Conference	Bishop Hagiya, staff and conference leaders
	Camarillo UMC	Pastor Elbert Kim