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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

LABEL

TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DELIVER BY MARCH 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!

Audio/Visual Team	Online classes
Caring and Hospitality	Prayer Team
Children's Church	Prayers and Squares
Grief Group	United Women in Faith
LUMC Kitchen	(formerly UMW)
Music Ministries	Youth Group
Office Volunteers	Wellness Works

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

2023

BELIEVE – RECEIVE – CONCEDE

LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST, CALIFORNIA

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

The Link

The Church's Official Newsletter
Vol. 67 No. 3
March 2023

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

'Turning to the Son for Lent'



Imagine standing with your back to a bright morning sunrise, and you begin a slow turn at one inch per minute until you face the sun. This type of turning is our goal for the 40 days of Lent. Lent reminds us to take extra time for prayer, Bible study, and repentance, which guides us to face The Son.

Ash Wednesday kicked off Lent's central theme of our human limitations and weaknesses, faults and flaws, our bad habits and hang-ups that are in full view of our loving heavenly Father. This notion does not condemn us but reminds us of our need to trust and depend on God's amazing grace and truth to set us free.

You have heard the expression, "Confession is good for your soul." Confession means 'to agree with God' about specific dark places of fear, doubt, hurt, hate, lust, worry, or pride in our lives that we hide from The Son's Face, who frees us from gloomy thoughts and emotions controlling our lives.

Repentance carries similar meanings in Hebrew, Greek, and English, respectfully:
1) To turn back to something when you have strayed.
2) A change of mind about the will of God.
3) A change in direction.

"For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6)

Don't forget that repentance is a gift from God. We simply ask for the gift of repentance as a lifestyle that bends our hearts and mind with God's. I pray that God's light shines in a particularly dark area so we can confess it and begin to turn our eyes upon The Son and, by Easter, look fully into his wonderful face. — Pastor Greg



Our next Visioning Church Conference Retreat will meet on **Saturday, March 25, from 10 am -12 pm to** discuss and vote on several important ministry and administrative issues. It will be a hybrid meeting to include in-person and Zoom participants.

March committee meetings should consider proposing any recommendations that require approval from the Church Conference. — *Pastor Greg*



All-Church Notices



SCHOLARSHIP FOR ANTELOPE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Lancaster United Methodist Church is offering two scholarships for **high school seniors** transferring to Antelope Valley College, a four-year university or trade school. Each award is $600. The **Second Century Award** is for a high school senior who is a member of a local United Methodist church, and the **Centennial Scholarship** is available to any high school senior in the Antelope Valley.

Please apply soon! The deadline is April 1st. If you are interested, send an email request to suznsez@gmail.com. Be sure to include your full name and phone number in your email. I will send a return email with the application attached. I look forward to receiving your applications.

— *Sue Knapp, Scholarship Committee*



Holy Week Schedule

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



Thank you for your continued support of LUMC. Every month financial statements are made reviewing the finances of the church. These statements are available to any church member who asks for them. Please contact the church office if you would like a copy of the financial statements for the month. — *Dayna Rodriguez, LUMC Treasurer*

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
Melinda Hunter
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
Bob Hill
Andrea Lackvoic
Jennifer Lawrence
Jack Melano
Sharon Millen
Gaylin Schmitz
Janet Talbert

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Mary Ann Blackwell
Don Gatlin
Philip Roberts
Barb Urmanski
Kelsey Woodell
Pete Yablonski
Al Zimmerman

PRAYER QUILT (Recipient/Requestor)
Robert Hartz (*Craig and Sandy Yanagidate*)

FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Rick Bass
Kenyona
Teri Fletcher
Michelle Medina
Curtis and Rosalind Pearson

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

Greetings, church family! We've had some big changes recently. Elaine Stanley stepped back as Children's Church lead, and I was asked to move into this position. Elaine will still be involved when she is not traveling. We thank God for all she has done to revive our program, and that she will still be part of our ministry team.



Our elementary group is expanding, as well as our preschool group. The DigIn Sunday School curriculum gives us common activities to use with both groups, such as songs and puppet shows, as well as specialized activities for different age groups. We recently formed a confirmation class for middle school and high school students, which meets in the "Youth Booth" upstairs near the tech area. Those who are already confirmed are taking on duties such as Audio/Visual with adult supervision.

We are excited for this growth, as well as what is to come! All children are invited to join us on Sunday mornings!— *Heather KinKennon, Children's Ministry*

FOOT PRINTS
Christian Children's Center

The themes for this month are Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick's, and Welcome Spring. The classrooms will be going over the letters K, O, P, W, U and covering the numbers 14, 15, 20, and 21. The children will be learning about all the colors of the rainbow and the circle shape.



The verses we will be memorizing this week are:

— Your word is truth (John 17:17)
— We love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19)





The Board of the United Women in Faith (formerly known as United Methodist Women) is inviting all the women of the church, both those already in the UWF and those interested in attending, to please come to our short informative meeting about the future of UWF immediately after the service on March 26th in John Wesley Hall. A light lunch will be served. Please sign up at the table in the Grand foyer.

The United Women in Faith is a community of women committed to mission support for women and children, through month circle meetings of creative fellowship that includes devotionals, Bible studies, and prayers.



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 quiltingnana@msn.com.

Caring Ministry is looking for new volunteers who would enjoy meeting new people and serving the Lord in various ways. We welcome you! For more information, please contact Donna Horn at 661 802-1363.