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LUMC Volunteers Needed!

Children's Church & Youth Ministries



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

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LABEL

TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DELIVER BY JULY 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

LUMC Kitchen (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
LUMC Kitchen
Music Ministries
Office Volunteers
Online classes
Prayer Team
Prayers and Squares
United Methodist Women
Youth Group
Wellness Works

1NE
1 Word 1 Book 1 Church 1 People
Lancaster United Methodist Church, CA

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. 66 No. 7
July 2022

Ending Spiritual and Physical Hunger

Three weeks ago, Heather KinKennon, Gary Fulton, Shannon Mims, and I attended the California Pacific Annual Conference in Costa Mesa. Ending Spiritual and Physical Hunger is the vision for the Cal-Pac Annual Conference. Lancaster UMC is taking strides to accomplish this lofty goal. LUMC remained connected in ministry and worship throughout these past two years and continues to answer the call to love one another as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. A true vision is larger than life, something we cannot achieve on our own or in our lifetime. Yet, we commit and do not delay because the grace and truth of God change our communities along the way.

Who are we? Where is God calling us? The things that bind us together are being **Careful** with one another and **Caring** enough to remain connected through deep listening, so we can discover **Creative** ways of ministry to End Spiritual and Physical Hunger.

This year's Cal-Pac Annual Conference passed the Safe Harbor resolution for full inclusion and safety of LGBTQIA+ people. Over the centuries, the church has harmed the LGBTQIA+ families just as the church has harmed people over women's roles in the church, race, divorce, and addiction, to mention a few. Faithful Christians may disagree over what the Bible says about homosexuality, but God's Holy Word must never be taken as a weapon to wound others. I believe in the traditional view of marriage between one woman and one man, but I also believe in a God of unbounding grace, love, and truth for LGBTQIA+ people and their families in ways that I do not understand. We must be respectful and kind to all. Everyone is made in the image and likeness of God.

LUMC Reading and Speaking Program
The most recent action LUMC's Church Conference took to End Spiritual Hunger was on June 26. It unanimously approved the following reading and speaking plans for the summer and fall of this year.
Part 1: Summer Reading Program
Throughout the months of June to November members are encouraged to read one or both of the books: *God and the Gay Christian*, by Matthew Vines (the progressive view) and/or *A People to be Loved,* by Preston Sprinkle (the conservative view).

To reap the full benefits of the *Summer Reading Program* members are encouraged to practice deep listening and speaking the truth in love by reading the book opposing your view on homosexuality with one or more like-minded people. It would be the most beneficial to read both books.
Part 2: Fall Speaking Program
Through the months of September and November there will be opportunities on the **first Sunday** of every month for LUMC members to share their *Personal Testimonies* about their journey to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior or their rededication in returning to Christ. These Personal Testimonies are to be limited to 10 – 25 minutes.
On the **second and fifth Sundays** of the month members who participated in *Summer Reading Program* will share what they have learned from the pulpit. These speakers will follow a questionnaire on how to model deep listening and how to disagree in love with the opposing view. These shares will be limited to 6 – 8 minutes.

Final Thoughts
I know this will be an uncomfortable task. At times it may seem messy, insensitive, and discouraging. However, our humble dependence on the Holy Spirit to lead and enable us to forgive and be forgiven will manifest the love of Christ in our midst. This will be to God's great pleasure at such a time as this.

Keeping the Faith in Love,
Pastor Greg

All-Church Notices

Homosexuality and the United Methodist Church

Our visioning leadership team recommends one or two books to better inform every sincere Christian's struggle over ordination and marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. Both authors maintain a high view of scripture. We acknowledge we all bring assumptions and presupposition as we read the Bible. Therefore, we ask everyone to read a book expressing another viewpoint.

If you are progressive-leaning, we encourage you to read the conservative-leaning book ***A People to be Loved*** by Preston Sprinkle. If you are conservative-leaning, we hope you will read the progressive view of what it means to be a faithful gay Christian in ***God and the Gay Christian*** by Matthew Vines.

If you only want to read one book, we suggest you read ***A People to be Loved*** by Preston Sprinkle because it challenges all sides to what the Bible says and models how we should approach this topic in love. Our goal is not to change beliefs but to soften hearts towards others. Thank you for your humble and prayerful participation in this controversial subject that defies simple answers in our church and society. — Pastor Greg

LUMC Passages

Rachel Cash (May 4, 2022)
Services are pending

Erma Fulton (May 23, 2022)
Services will be held on July 9th at 1 p.m. in the LUMC Sanctuary.

Sheila Gonzales (June 23, 2022) and Robert (Bob) Gonzalez (June 24, 2022)
Services to be held on July 8th, 2022 10 a.m. at Joshua Memorial

Lois Wilk (May 12 or 13, 2022)
Services will be held on July 16th at 10 a.m. in the LUMC Sanctuary .

ONGOING PRAYERS
Bob Barry
Ramona Beck
Randy Beckett
Cynthia Christensen
Edith Crockett
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Vicki & David Fisher
Bill & Alease Goesch
Sheila Gonzales
Andrea Lackvoic
Carmen Lane
Jennifer Lawrence
Ruth Marr
Doreen Maynard
Jack Melano
Gerry Saul
Gaylin Schmitz
Marguarite Shirley
Phillip Trujillo
Augustina Waller
Ray Wolleman

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Family of Rachel Cash
Suzanne Dearborn
Roger Finifrock
Melinda Hunter
Phillip Portugal
Jason Woodell and family

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

FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Christa Arthur
Barry Bender
Linda Cousin
Jesus Salcedo
Family of Tamara (Mark Gross' sister)
Family of Lois Wilk

PRAYER QUILT RECIPIENTS (sponsors in parentheses)
Merely Mendoza (*Laxamana Family*)
Rom Darnold (*John Beard & Mark Darnold*)



All Church Notices



Handbell Music Training!
Have you ever wanted to learn how to ring handbells and make music with the bells? I have the answer. If you are high school age and above, handbell training is being offered. You will learn how to ring and make music with the bells as well as learning to read music. Training sessions will take place Thursday afternoons between 4:00 and 5:30 in the church music room. For information contact the Church Office or call/text Mary Zimmerman at 661-317-0770.



The Lancaster United Women in Faith (previously known as United Methodist Women) will have an information table in the Grand Foyer during the month of August. We will have information about our organization and our local activities. We invite all women to join. For more information, contact Doreen Maynard at 661-609-9639.



Children's Church will not be meeting during the month of July. We invite children to sit with their parents during the service. Worship bulletins and crayons will be available in the Grand Foyer. Watch for the beginning of Children's Church this fall! We will have new and exciting activities, including a new curriculum!
— *Elaine Stanley, Children's Ministry*



At Footprints, we will spend the month of July UNDER (and in) THE SEA! We'll explore the ocean, underwater adventures, and riding the waves. During the last week, we'll learn about the state of Hawaii, and some of the celebrations that make our 50th state unique! We'll pay a visit to the Barber Family Farm on July 13th. Special guests include Franklin Haynes' Marionettes on July 19th, and Captain Carl and his Tide Pools on July 27th.
Footprints will be closed July 4th in observance of the Independence Day federal holiday.



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 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)

Duties:
Must pick up the van from the LUMC parking lot in time for the first pick up, at 9 a.m.
Must inspect the van for damage before pickups begin and after drop-offs have concluded
After service concludes, drop off takes about an hour.
Wipe down the van when returned to LUMC parking lot.
Log miles on the sheet in the van.

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.

Sunday Worship Flowers are once again available to purchase for $65 per arrangement. Flowers may be purchased to honor or memorialize, as well as to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or other special dedications. The 2022 Flower Notebook is on the Book table in Grand Foyer to sign up. Contact the church office with questions at 661-942-0419.





The church as a deficit of $13,000 as of the end of May 2022. A contributing factor is that revenue has decreased by $20,000 when compared to the end of May 2021. In addition, the contribution towards the building fund has been short by approximately $1,000 per month with this deficit being made up by the mortgage reserve fund. If you normally wait until the end of the year to make your donations, please consider contributing earlier in the year. Thank you so much for your continued support of LUMC. — *Dayna Rodriguez, Treasurer*