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Church office will be closed January 2nd (New Year's observance) and January 16th (Martin Luther King Jr Birthday Holiday)



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

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PLEASE DELIVER BY JANUARY 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
Caring and Hospitality
Children's Church
Grief Group
LUMC Kitchen
Music Ministries
Office Volunteers
Online classes
Prayer Team
Prayers and Squares
United Women in Faith (formerly UMW)
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
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

The Link

The Church's Official Newsletter
Vol. 67 No. 1
January 2023

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



Balancing into the New Year

We close another year and open a new one. I want to take this opportunity first to say "thank you" for your faithful service and giving in 2022 to LUMC. We are experiencing a post-Covid comeback. You can see the surge in Sunday morning attendance, event assemblies, the restarting and newly forming small groups, and most importantly, a sense of God's presence directing our worship and service with one another. Your generous financial giving to our general budget and missions in 2022 makes this possible.

In November and December, the finance committee members (Terry Day & Keith Swords) shared our deficit of about $5,000 in the General Budget for local ministry expenses. They also informed you that we were behind around $3,000 on paying our fair share of our denomination's mission strategy covering California, the states west of the Rockies, and global missions. These vital funds support missionary salaries, migration, and border communities, combat sex trafficking, assist the homeless, provide disaster relief and training to clergy, and lay for church revitalization and new church openings, etc. Your generous response has enabled us to bring into balance 2022 and has given us the stability to walk into 2023.

We stand committed to the new year's budget and vision to be Careful, Caring, and Creative in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In moving into 2023, we will restart our youth Sunday school class in the balcony room (old choir room); the kitchen in John Wesley Hall will be remodeled in January – March; and stay tuned for new small groups and Bible studies to kick off in February for Lent.

Angela and I are proud to be a part of such a compassionate and service-minded congregation that balances people with God, themselves, and their neighbors. May God bless us with his healing wisdom of balance and blessings this new year. Happy New Year! — *Pastor Greg*



Welcome Bishop Dottie Escebedo-Frank! (from calpacumc.org)

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank will start her term as bishop of the California-Pacific Conference on Jan. 1, 2023. She has served as both a rural and big-city church pastor in the Desert Southwest Conference, supervised churches as a district superintendent and helped advance immigration initiatives throughout her ministry. "I've always worked from the ground," said Escobedo-Frank. "I won't be a bishop who sits in Zoom meetings all the time – I hope."

Escobedo-Frank's family has a rich history in the Methodist tradition, with her mother's grandfather serving as a circuit rider in the early church in Oklahoma and Kansas. Her grandmother crossed the Rio Grande while in labor with her father to find religious freedom. She was raised along the border in Nogales, both on the U.S. and Mexican sides. She believes The United Methodist Church, especially in the Western Jurisdiction, is poised to be an example of what it means to be the church right now in the world – through relationships, community engagement and what she described as John Wesley's "perfecting love" by including those who live on the margins of society and don't have a seat at the table.

"I think growing in love is what can change us," she said. "Those are the places we need to grow. We're working on it. We've made some steps. But we have a way to go still."

All-Church Notices

Footprints is starting 2023 with a big party — or some small parties, anyway, celebrating some more obscure holidays about sports and food. Our second week is all about wild animals who live in the snow; our Bible story will be "Ladder to Heaven." Our third week will focus on those who live in the Arctic Circle, ending with the Northern Lights. In week 4, our Bible story will be about dreams. Then we will ring in the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit with Chinese lanterns, fans, fish, and fortune cookies. Finally we will look to February, and if the groundhog will see his shadow!

Footprints will be closed on Monday, January 16th (Martin Luther King Jr. birthday)

We are accepting children, infants through TK! Please call us at 661-942-0812.



My name is Nicole Medina, and I am truly honored to be the New Director of Lancaster United Methodist Preschool. I have worked in the Field of Child Development for 23 years. I received my AA Degree in Child Development in 2011 and my BA Degree in Human Development in 2013. Through my many years of teaching and being a preschool Director I have gained extensive knowledge on working with children and their families. It brings me so much happiness in my heart to know that I am making a difference in a child's life. As the New Preschool Director I will work hard alongside our Footprints Team to ensure that all children in our care receive a loving, nurturing and fun preschool experience . (*Right in photo.*)

My name is Aja Minters, and I am beyond excited to be the new administrative assistant. I have worked in the early childhood education field for about 25 years. I have a strong passion for children and families and laying a strong foundation for young children that will set them up for success for years to come. My goal as an administrative assistant is to find new and creative ways to improve the preschool program and help create a safe, warm environment for children, families, and staff. (*Left in photo.*).

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
Ray Wolleman

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Suzanne Dearborn
Steve McDougall
Phil Roberts
Al Zimmerman

PRAYER QUILT RECIPIENTS (sponsors in parentheses)
Teri Fletcher (*Gerry Saul*)

FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Rick Bass
Martha Gibson
Bob Hill
Chiujung Hsing
Cindy Little
Michelle Medina
family of Vivian Neilson

PRAYERS FOR THE MILITARY
Jerry Wayne Davis III
Rayden Finifrock
Hallie (Day) Herrera &
Felix Herrera
M. Todd Kelly
Edinson Kinsey Sr.
Nathan Maldonaldo
Matthew McDougall
Heather McDougall
Branden O'Carroll
Joseph Perez

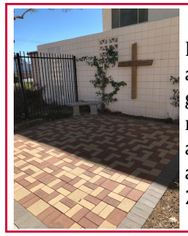
All Church Notices

Children's Ministry is on the move! We were blessed to distribute 12 Bibles to children and youth last month! We will continue to have children help lead worship on the first Sunday of each month. On other Sundays, we will meet in room 14 unless announced otherwise.

As Pastor Greg mentioned in his letter, this month we will begin our youth activities for grades 6-12. Contact the office for more information.

— Elaine Stanley, Children's Ministry





LUMC's Memorial Brick Garden is accepting requests to add bricks to the garden. If you wish to order a custom memorial brick, you can pick up an application at the church office. The applications are due Monday, January 23, 2023.

Thank you for your faithfulness in 2022, as explained by Pastor Greg in his letter. Also, for those of you who requested donation envelopes, they are available in the front office.

— Dayna Rodriguez, Treasurer

LUMC Passages

Vivian Nelson
(December 12, 2022)

Service information was unavailable at time of publication.



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.

The **Caring Ministry** is open to new volunteers, needing a little help. Our next gathering will be **Monday, January 23rd,10am** in the Grand Foyer. All are welcome. Please let Donna Horn know if your interested, so she can put you on the email list. Donna 661 802-1363. We are still welcoming donations, such as books of "Forever" stamps, so we continue to send cards to those in need. Cash is also appreciated. All donations may be marked "Caring Ministry" and put in the offering box, or in the church office.