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Church office will be closed December 26-30 (Christmas holiday break)



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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TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DELIVER BY DECEMBER 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.

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The Link

The Church's Official Newsletter
Vol. 66 No. 12
December 2022

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

"The Hopes and Fears of All the Years Are Met in Thee Tonight"

When someone is crying, does it always mean they are sad or upset? Of course, not; our tears carry within them both the highs and lows of life. ***Psalm 56:8 "You, O Lord, number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle."*** Ancient Hebrew women kept a small tear bottle to collect their tears of gladness, sadness, and glee and heartbreak. When they got married, they gave their husband this little bottle of tears, which meant "I give all my heart to you." When we give all our heart to Jesus, he will take good care of it. Even if we live with a broken heart, we give it to the God of hope, who quenches the fears of all our years as they are met in Christ throughout our Christmas nights.



The four Sundays preceding Christmas are known as the season of Advent. Each Sunday of Advent, we light a new candle representing another step towards giving all our heart and life to God. Advent means **arrival or coming**. Every Sunday, a new candle illumines the **'arrival'** of another gift from God: hope, peace, joy, and love. Christ lights the way to open His blessings in the shadows & darker places of our hearts.

Don't try to push through or avoid the holidays on your own. Instead, join us and invite a friend to any of our holiday events listed below Merry Christmas! — ***Pastor Greg***

Christmas Season Schedule 2022 (*all in-person events are free of charge*)

Saturday, December 3rd at 12pm and 3:30pm,
Leoni's Christmas Music Recital
— in LUMC Sanctuary

Sunday, December 4th at 11:30am
All-Church Christmas Luncheon & Talent Show — in John Wesley Hall

Sunday, December 11th at 5:30pm,
Sunday Night Singers in Concert
— in LUMC Sanctuary

Thursday, December 15th at 2:00pm
Due date for **WRAPPED** gifts for Angel Tree
(see article on p.2)

Thursday, December 15th at 6:00 pm
Footprints Preschool Christmas Program
— in LUMC Sanctuary

Monday, December 19th at 2:00pm
Due date for **UNWRAPPED** donations for St. Nick's Room (see article on p. 2)

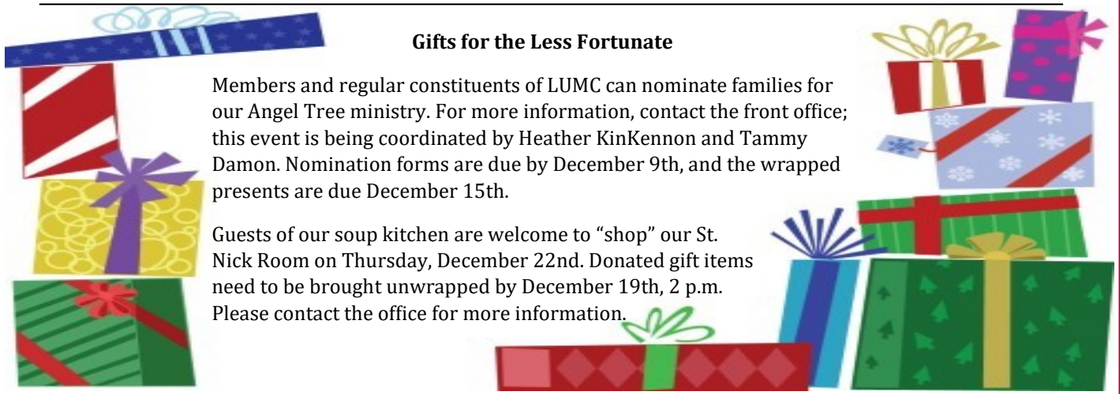
Christmas Worship Services

Wednesday, December 21st 12:00pm
Blue Christmas Service (for those who grieve)
— in Fireside Room

Saturday, December 24th in Sanctuary
(also streamed on YouTube and Facebook)
6:00 pm **Organ Christmas Concert**
6:30pm **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 am in Sanctuary
(also streamed on YouTube and Facebook)
Christmas Day Service
Children can wear PJs and bring a toy

All-Church Notices



Gifts for the Less Fortunate

Members and regular constituents of LUMC can nominate families for our Angel Tree ministry. For more information, contact the front office; this event is being coordinated by Heather KinKennon and Tammy Damon. Nomination forms are due by December 9th, and the wrapped presents are due December 15th.

Guests of our soup kitchen are welcome to "shop" our St. Nick Room on Thursday, December 22nd. Donated gift items need to be brought unwrapped by December 19th, 2 p.m. Please contact the office for more information.

On November 17th, our Footprints director, Tammy Damon, formally retired. We give thanks to God for Tammy's many years of service to our preschool children. She will be greatly missed!

Our assistant director, Nicole Medina, was officially promoted to director of Footprints. Congratulations, Nicole! She will be busy, as December at Footprints will be MERRY AND BRIGHT! We will explore Bible stories and learn the colors of the season, as well as games and songs. We will also talk about how we can care for, and share with others during the holidays. Our Footprints Christmas Program will be held on December 16 at 6 p.m. in the LUMC Sanctuary. Please join us! **Merry Christmas to all from Nicole and the Footprints Crew!**

Footprints will close at 1 p.m. on December 23rd, and remain closed on December 26th. We will also be closed on January 2, 2023, in observance of the New Year holiday.

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

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

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Suzanne Dearborn
Phillip Portugal
Philip Roberts
Al Zimmerman

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

FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Chiujung Hsing
Michelle Medina
Janet Talbert
Ray Wolleman

PRAYER QUILT RECIPIENTS (sponsors in parentheses)
Allen Thomson (*Scott Thomson*)



All Church Notices

Children's Church new curriculum, DigIn, is in full swing! For the 2nd, 3rd, 4th (and 5th, if applicable) Sundays, we'll meet in Room 14. (our alternate location is the dining room, if needed) 1st Sunday of the month is Family Sunday, and the children will stay in the sanctuary and help lead worship. We will be presenting Bibles to children and youth on December 4th.

On December 11th at 11:30 a.m., Pastor Greg will be holding a meeting and lunch for children, youth, and their parents. This is to discuss our vision for children and youth ministry, especially the upcoming confirmation class (6th grade and above) in January.



Got Tree?
Our worship committee is on the lookout for a new sanctuary tree! They are looking for one that is 9 feet, "skinny," and pre-lit. If you have one that you would like to donate, please contact the office or Marty Gatlin.

The CFA announced at the annual conference that apportionment giving at the 75% level will be given 100% credit. We have estimated that we will need an additional $3,888.67 of apportionment funding by December 31st in order to receive the 100% credit. If you are looking for areas to give in addition to your regular generous donations, please consider the apportionments. Thank you for your continued generous support of LUMC . — *Dayna Rodriguez, Treasurer*



Memorial Bricks 2023

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



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.

The **Caring Ministry** is needing a little help. Would you be willing to donate a book of "Forever Stamps," so we can continue sending 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. Our next gathering will be **Friday, October 28th,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.