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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 April 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)
Prayer Team live on phones 10:30-11 a.m. Sunday

facebook lancasterunited
(no FB membership needed)

YouTube lancasterunitedmc

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

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
Caregivers Support Group
Caring and Hospitality
Grief Group
LUMKitchen
Music Ministries
Office Volunteers
Online classes
Prayer Team
Prayers and Squares
United Methodist Women
Youth Group
Wellness Works

CREATIVE BE 2021
CAREFUL & CARING
LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Link

The church's monthly newsletter
Vol. 65 Number 4
April 2021



Holy Week and Easter 2021

Maundy Thursday — April 1: 7 p.m. on Facebook

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

(There will be NO Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday due to COVID-19 restrictions)

Easter Sunday — April 4:
Regularly scheduled services with social distancing and other restrictions
— 9:30 a.m. streaming with the choir
— 11 a.m. courtyard with the praise band

New: 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.



DON'T BE LEFT OUT! The cutoff date for our initial order of commemorative bricks will be Friday, April 30th. Please use the enclosed form to place your order at the Church Office or use the link on our website to order on line.

Questions should be directed to Keith or Cathy Swords 661-943-1905 or wkswords@twc.com or the church office 661-942-0419.



"So Here's the Thing —" for April

—- by Pastor Greg



Easter Week

Easter is NOT CANCELLED!

We are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ a bit differently this year than we ever have. Because Jesus rose from the grave, we have tremendous hope for today, tomorrow, and all eternity!

Bill Gaither wrote the beautiful song, which seems to be more relevant today than ever. The words to the simple yet powerful chorus go like this:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know, yes, I know, He holds the future.
And life is worth the living… just because He lives!

Our Easter plans are simple. It is God's presence, our humble dependence upon the Holy Spirit among us, that makes this Easter like non-other. Our Easter Sunday schedule times will be the same as they have been since last November. There will be a 9:30 AM live steaming traditional service and 11:00 AM outdoor in-person worship. The only difference is that the praise band will join us outdoors. The focus will be on the resurrected Christ who makes life worth living at all times.

Holy Week, the week before Easter, will include two special services.

First, on Maundy Thursday, Heather KinKennon and I will be live streaming worship on FaceBook or YouTube to explain and sing through the Last Supper that he had with his disciples. During his last meal, he commands his disciples to love one another and then washes their feet as a symbolic act of his ultimate purpose for living, dying, and resurrected.

Second, on Good Friday, we connect virtually with our fellow United Methodists from the Antelope Valley Mission Area on Palmdale UMC's Facebook or YouTube channel. (it will also be linked on our Facebook page) Although this Friday was a terrible Friday for Jesus, we call it Good Friday because it led to the resurrection of Jesus and his victory over sin and death and the celebration of Easter.

The bottom line is this: **Jesus Christ is alive and well!** God is always with us and reveals his plan to us in this life and for life to come. Our long-term belief is that we will be with Him throughout the endless ages of eternity in a new resurrected body, soul, and mind. That is a beautiful thing!

— Pastor Greg

LUMC Passages

Louise Dumas
Entered the Church Triumphant:
February 28, 2021
A Zoom funeral was held on March 17th.

Don Davis
Entered the Church Triumphant:
March 3, 2021
Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

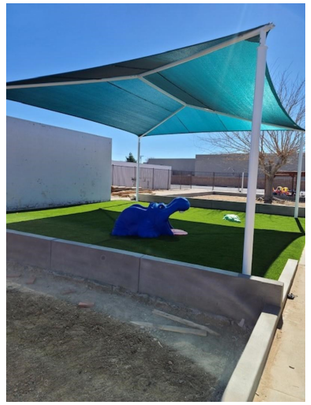
Footprints CCC

by Tammy Damon



Happy Spring! Our enrollment is keeping steady, with average of 90 children attending each week. Even with children going back to school (at least part of the time), we remain busy! Also, the playground is finished! We have safe new structures with new ground cover. Many thanks to all who made this possible!

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 for a tour (masked, of course) and we are working on the production of a virtual tour as well!



LUMC Financial Blog

— Dayna Rodriguez, treasurer

The February 2021 Unified Fund continues on a positive note with a small surplus however once again the Building Fund (Mortgage) contributions were short of the mortgage payment by approximately $1,000. We continue to pray this will improve in the coming months. If you have any questions or concerns or would like more information regarding the LUMC finances, please feel free to contact the Treasurer, Dayna Rodriguez at treasurer@lancasterunited.org, or call the church office.

The **Caring and Visitation Ministry** would like to thank everyone who donated greeting cards to our church. They were very much appreciated. If anyone is having surgery we would like to get their loved one a "Waiting Room Bag". give me a call if I can be of any help. 661 802-1363. — *Donna Horn*

The **LUMC Youth Group** meets every Sunday in the church courtyard from 3:00-4:30 pm. We will have fellowship and Bible study. For more info, contact the church office.

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 (prayers for 2 months)
Ramona Beck
Mary Blackwell
Edith Crockett
Family of Don Davis
Family of Louise Dumas
Family of Bobby Gromer
Family of Glenna Fulton
Family of Nancy Killian
Carmen Lane
John Lee
Family of Jean McCandless
Joanne Marshall
Audrey Miller
Marilyn Waggoner

FAMILY & FRIENDS
Lionel Maddox
Betty Donnelly
Raymond Dorch
Dana Grossi
Bryan Kreimendahl
Rein Mutso
Matt Parco
David Robinson
Marianne Rose
Bob Stickney
Zach Tucker
Craig Van Howling
Mark Van Howling

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

PRAYER QUILT RECIPIENTS
Mark Van Howling
Zachary Tucker