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"So Here's the Thing" for February

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Footprints & Financial Blog

Children's Church & Youth Ministries

Office Closures:
Monday, February 21 (President's Day Holiday)



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

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES

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THE LINK

LABEL

TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DELIVER BY February 12TH

LUMC Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 10 a.m. ~ 2 p.m.
PLEASE MASK UP BEFORE COMING!
Closed Saturday & Sunday (661) 942-0419

In-Person Streaming Service Sundays — 10 a.m. in Sanctuary (*masking required*)

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

LANCASTER UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
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The Link

The Church's Official Newsletter
Vol. 66 No. 2
February 2022

1NE
1 WORD 1 BOOK 1 CHURCH 1 PEOPLE
Lancaster United Methodist Church, CA - 2022

One Vision for 2022

Our new logo for 2022 reveals our vision to become "ONE" with God and as a supernatural outgrowth into becoming one with each other. The design outlines our four-step plan: 1 Word, 1 Book, 1 Church, 1 People. During Jesus' last supper with his disciples, he knew what lay ahead for him and his disciples, so he prayed his final prayer for oneness for the 11 (Judas had left) and all future followers.

> ***"My prayer is not for them (11 disciples) alone. I also pray for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:21-22)***

It seems impossible that God would answer this prayer today, given all the discord in the world. Nevertheless, being "ONE" was Jesus' final and ultimate prayer for all his followers before going to the cross. Do you think He was being realistic? Or was it just a romantic prayer to keep us going in difficult times? Are we fooling ourselves to believe God's will move or even cares to fulfill this prayer? Being "ONE" with God is the catalyst to God's first and second greatest command.

> ***"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mk 12:30-31)***

So how do we put God first in our lives and keep growing in our love for Him? It is the gift of the Holy Spirit who leads and enables us to grow in our desire and love for God.

> ***"For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ... If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:10 & 13)***

For God to be real to us, we must be honest with Him. How do we nurture an authentic, intimate relationship with God? We humbly ask God's Spirit to expose one of two things:

1) Our Cross is our deepest struggle: fear, resentment, depression, confusion, powerlessness, shame, abandonment, despair, etc.
2) Our Command is our ultimate need: peace, forgiveness, hope, faith, love, joy, patience, humility, peace, self-control, encouragement, etc.

ONE WORD: The first step to discovering our ONE WORD is simply inviting God to become one with us. Humbly ask God to give us faith to trust in His amazing grace and truth, so Christ is free to fulfill His greatest commandment in our hearts and lives.



(*cont'd on page 2*)

"So Here's the Thing — " cont'd, plus All-Church Notices

Once God confirms our personal cross or command, look it up in a Bible concordance (word search where that word appears in the Bible), begin reading the various verses. Ask God to direct us to the one verse He has chosen for us. Then meditate over this verse daily until we have memorized it thoroughly. Next step, muse over the surrounding verses to experience a daily journey to know and love God as He heals our souls.

Our Lay Leadership Visioning Team has determined an estimated 2022 timeline for the remaining three steps: 1 Book, 1 Church, and 1 People. So, the All-Church Conference Visioning Retreat will determine how and when we will move forward in facing our denomination's clash over human sexuality. Everyone involved in our church is invited to attend and will have a voice and vote. The Visioning Retreat is on **Saturday, February 26, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** These are exceptional times on many levels; join us in seeking Christ's way to be **Careful, Caring, and Creative** as we do life together at LUMC.

One with Christ and one another,
Pastor Greg

LUMC Passages

Grace Walker Wiesmann (January 3, 2022)
Services were held January 31st at Halley-Olsen Mortuary.

Joan Holzmann (January 2022)
A memorial meal will be held at Greenhouse Café in Lancaster on February 6th at 4 p.m.

Velta Mann (January 30, 2022)
Services will be held at a later date.

ONGOING PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS
Bob Barry
Cynthia Christensen
Steve & Cindy Farrand
Dorothy & Roger Finifrock
Vicki & David Fisher
Bill & Alease Goesch
Sheila Gonzales
Andrea Lackvoic
Carmen Lane
Jennifer Lawrence
Doreen Maynard
Gerry Saul
Randy Beckett
Phillip Trujillo
Ray Wolleman



FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Kathy (friend of Melinda Hunter)
Terry (friend of Barb Urmanski)
LaNiece Cannon
Henkin Family
Joan Holzman family
Dorine Jones
Margy Koris
Velta Mann family
Trina McCombs Perry
Jack Melano
Isabel Molina
Bonnie O'Carroll
Jesus Salcedo
Mary Senia
Family of Nancy Shaffer
Jeff & Ashlie Shreeves
Craig Van Howling
Dr. Fred & Donna White
Margaret Zimmerman

RECENT PRAYER QUILTS
January:
Fae Heston

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

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Pat Alexander
Ramona Beck
Melinda Hunter
Sylvia Hacker
Devon Marx
Destiny McCaslin
Philip Portugal
Marguerite Shirley
Ann Thomas & Billy
Barb & Dick Urmanski
Bette Jo & Carlos Valdez & Family
Mary Waggoner
Tina Waller
Glenn & Dot Williams
George Yamakawa
Frank Yaw
Jean Youngquist and Family

All Church Notices



Ash Wednesday, March 2nd — Service at 4 p.m.

Palm Sunday, April 10th — 10 a.m. (live and streaming)

Maundy Thursday, April 14th — 6:30 p.m. with prayer labyrinth at 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 15th — TBA

Easter Sunday, April 17th—Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m. in church courtyard
Sanctuary (live and streaming) 10 a.m.



Children begin their Sunday's in the Sanctuary, then are invited to join Children's Church in the Dining Room after the Children's Sermon. All children are welcome! Our youth are assisting as part of their Confirmation studies, helping with crafts, singing, audio-visual, puppetry, and Bible navigation. Please join us!



February at Footprints begins with our celebration of the Chinese New Year (the Year of the Tiger). Then we will learn about love and friendship, which will culminate with our Valentine's Day party on February 14th. We will follow this types of transportation, as well as a story about the Bible's "Yes-No King."

We will be **closed** for President's Day holiday (**February 21st**), but will come back to learn about all types of birds, then transition to our studies of spring at the end of the month, and the Bible story about "bread from Heaven."



Donation envelopes have arrived! If you ordered envelopes for the coming year, please pick them up at the check-in tables on Sunday, or in the office during the week (10 am-2 pm).

— Dayna Rodriguez, Treasurer



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 church van is back in business! Call the church office if you need a ride to church.

SAVE THE DATE!

Church Conference
Saturday, February 26,
10 a.m.—12 noon

See Pastor's letter (pp. 1-2) for more details. Details will be sent later for registration for Zoom links.

Keys to Forgiveness Workshop
Saturday, March 26, 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Led by Joanne Van Hook of Agape Journeys
Free-will offering taken



More details regarding COVID protocols and any food offerings will be listed in the March LINK.