In this month's LINK:

"Oh no! Not Again!"
Pastoral Letter

Upcoming book study

LUMC Passages

Oliver Handbell Choir:
Now Recruiting!

CROP Hunger Walk

Footprints &
Financial Blog

Children's Church &
Youth Ministries

Van Driver & Bereavement
Committee Recruitment



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

THE LINK (USPS 370-870)

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY:
LANCASTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LABEL

TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DELIVER BY SEPTEMBER 12TH

LUMC Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday & Holidays
(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 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Check www.lancasterunited.org for more information on our active groups and ministries — the list is growing!

Bible Studies
Caring and Hospitality
Children's Church
Grief Group
LUMC Kitchen
Music Ministries
Office Volunteers
Prayer Team
Prayers and Squares
Tech Team
United Women in Faith (formerly UMW)
Wellness Works
Youth Group

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. 66 No. 9
September 2022

"Oh, no! Not Again!"

General Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The gathering of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church is postponed – for the third time! The UMC's General Conference typically gathers every four years for ten days around Labor Day. Hundreds of delegates from around the world gather at these General Conferences to make policy decisions for our denomination.

As some of you may know, the General Conference (GC) met in 2019 for a special session on homosexuality and the church. Then the regular scheduled GC of **2020 was postponed until 2021** due to Covid-19; however, as many suspected, the GC of **2021 was also delayed until 2022** due to Covid related issues. That leads us to now, and the GC of **2022 has been postponed until 2024.** The three key points surrounding this third delay are as follows:

1) Long wait times for visas, (up to two years), to guarantee global travel for all delegates' presence and participation. The coming GC was to have 862 voting delegates — 55.9% from the U.S., 32% from Africa, 6% from the Philippines, 4.6% from Europe, and the remainder from other churches with close ties to the UMC. Attendance includes bishops, interpreters, staff, volunteers, and guests from around the globe. (Bishops preside at sessions but do not have a vote.)

2) It is unclear whether new delegates will need to be elected for a GC because of the four-year delay. The Judicial Council, the denomination's top court, will have to clarify what needs to be done when it comes to delegates and their positions in the GC.

3) After decades of intensifying, debate and defiance of church bans on same-sex weddings and "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy, the oncoming GC faces multiple proposals for denominational separation. However, leaders of a planned breakaway denomination, Global Methodist, moved the launch date to May 1, 2022, without waiting for GC to act.

I hope we can embrace these delays and use the time they provide in a positive and creative way. Moving the UMC's final decision on the question of homosexuality leaves LUMC and other denominations with more time to prepare and plan. May we see these postponements as God's gift to us to examine our lives and encourage one another as disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world in all things.

In faith, hope, and 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. The book study on Sprinkle's book will be led by Deacon candidate Heather KinKennon. 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. The book study on Vines' book will be led by Pastor Greg.

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

FOOT PRINTS
Christian Children's Center

At Footprints, we are all about Back to School!

The first full week (after the Labor Day closure on September 4th), we will have fun talking about the summer, and having crazy hat and pajama days. During the 2nd week, we'll become familiar with the new school year — new teachers, friends, and rules. Our Bible story will be about "the first seven days." The 3rd week is "All About Me" as we talk about ourselves, our families, and our pets — what makes us special? Finally, the 4th week is all about feelings, and the Bible story, "two by two."

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

LUMC Passages — Update

The funeral service for Rachel Cash will be held in the LUMC Sanctuary on Saturday, September 10, at 11 a.m. A reception will be held in the Grand Foyer immediately afterwards.

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

MEMBERS (2 MONTHS)
Robert Banghart
Suzanne Dearborn
Melinda Hunter
Phillip Portugal

PRAYERS FOR THE MILITARY
Jerry Wayne Davis III
Rayden Finifrock
Hallie (Day) Herrera &
Felix Herrera
Col. Michael T. Kelly
Edinson Kinsey Sr.
Nathan Maldonaldo
Matthew McDougall
Heather McDougall
Branden O'Carroll
Joseph Perez

FAMILY & FRIENDS (1 MONTH)
Christa Arthur
Cheryl Schroeder
Chiujung Hsing
Jill Jones
Cheryl Schroeder
Janet Talbert

PRAYER QUILT RECIPIENTS
(sponsors in parentheses)
Joan Lema (*Pau Stauning)*
Cindy McCarthy (*Connie McDougall*)



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.



Our 17th annual CROP HUNGER WALK will take place here at LUMC on **Saturday, October 8, 2022 at 9 a.m**. We raise funds for Church World Service to combat hunger, education, water, and agriculture support all over the world. One quarter of our funds raised locally stay here with Grace Resources and SAVES. Please sign up if you would like to participate. For more information, contact Sharon MacDougall.



The church continues to operate at a deficit . 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 loyal and continued support of LUMC. If you have any questions, you can contact me. — *Dayna Rodriguez, Treasurer*



Children's Church will begin our new curriculum, DigIn, in September! Family Sunday will be on the 1st Sunday of the month, and the children will stay in the sanctuary and help lead worship.

Also, if your child will be in 3rd grade or over, and has not been given a Bible, please be sure to speak to one of our Children's Church volunteers, so we can include them in a ceremonial distribution of Bibles this fall. — *Elaine Stanley, Children's Ministry*



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)

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 email: quiltingnana@msn.com.