

# News-Line

*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter  
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania  
September 2012*

## Join Us for Kick-Off Sunday, Sept 9

From Pastor David McMillan



We'll kick-off the 2012-13 church year on Sunday, September 9, with a Church Breakfast.

*Between our early and late worship services, we'll gather in Memorial Hall for a family-style breakfast and short program high-*

*lighting upcoming educational and ministry opportunities. Please come to celebrate our life together and look ahead at the coming year.*

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## Sunday Morning Schedule Changes

From Pastor David McMillan

We've made a few changes to our Sunday morning schedule for 2012-2013. There are several reasons for these changes:

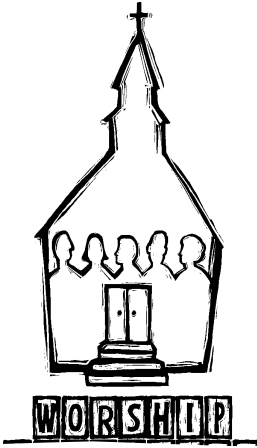
1. A designated Sunday School hour provides an opportunity for all members of our congregation, children through adults, to interact and nurture relationships.
2. Children, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and up, will remain in the sanctuary where they can learn to worship God through liturgy and the example of their parents and elders.
3. The logistical problems sometimes encountered when transitioning from our first service to our second service will be alleviated.

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Come & Worship with Us

From Pastor David McMillan

On the first Sunday of September we finish our Sermon Series on the Apostle Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia entitled *Traveling Light: Free to Live*. On Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>, we begin a four-week stewardship sermon series entitled "*What's in a Promise?*"



September 2	<i>Traveling Light: Free to Give, Free to Die</i> Galatians 6:6-18
September 9	<b>Kick Off Sunday</b> – <i>The Promise of Presence</i>
September 16	<i>The Promise of Prayer</i>
September 23	<i>The Promise of Gifts</i>
September 30	<b>Commitment Sunday</b> - <i>The Promise of Service</i>
October 7	<b>Anniversary Sunday</b> The Rev. Sara Davis-Shappell, Associate Pastor from 1984-1989, will be our guest preacher!

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(Continued from page 1)

**The overall objective of these changes is  
to strengthen a spirit of Christian community.**

9-9:55 am	Contemporary Worship
9:55-10:10 am	Adult Fellowship Time, Memorial Hall Children's Fellowship Time, Perkins Education Center
10:10-10:50 am	Sunday School for Children and Adults
11-12 am	Traditional Worship

Please note that there will be no Sunday school on Sunday, September 9. As part of our "**Kick-Off Celebration**," we will share breakfast together in Memorial Hall during the Sunday School hour.

# Come for Sunday School at Lincoln Park We Have a Class for You!

From Pastor David McMillan

## Children's Sunday School

† *Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it.* - Proverbs 22:6

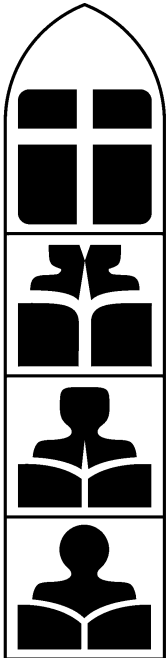
† *Allow the **children to come to me**, Jesus said. **And don't forbid them.***  
- Matthew 19:14.

For children to understand who they are, their purpose in life, and how to navigate their way in the world, they need a Master Narrative, an understanding of the Bible, and a loving community to help them find their way. I hope all parents will bring their children back to Sunday school.

Children's Sunday School will begin Sunday, September 16, 10-11 am, in the Perkins Education Center. Children K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade will meet in Room 201, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> in Room 204, and 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in the Youth Room. Pre-schoolers up to age 4 will meet in the Church Nursery. Parents are asked to drop off and pick up their children from their class. Please keep our children and their teachers in your prayers as we begin a new year.

## Adult Sunday School

This fall, we begin with three Adult Sunday School Classes. **The Lectionary Class**, which meets in the Library, reads and studies the Bible lessons given for each Sunday of the Church year. **The Women of Faith Class** meets in Room 203, in the Perkins Education Center. And, the **Contemporary Bible Study Class** will discuss the Adam Hamilton Series, *Making Love Last Forever*, in Memorial Hall. As the year goes on, we hope to expand our Adult Sunday School programs to interest as many folks as possible to deepen their walk of faith.



Learn  
&  
Grow

## Welcome Newcomers!

We invite you to any meetings or activities you read about here. Please call the Church Office, 610-777-1422, for names, phone numbers, information, or to speak with our pastor. If you'd like to receive *News-Linc* in the mail, just notify our secretary. Please join in at Lincoln Park!



# From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor David McMillan

## Belonging

*While*

vacationing in August with family in Ocean City, NJ, my second eldest sister Sandy and

I were the first up in the morning. Not wanting to wake the others, we took our coffee and books to the front porch.

A member of Bethany Presbyterian Church, she was reading the Westminster Confession of Faith drawn up by a puritan clergyman in 1646 to reform the Church of England. For over three and a half centuries various denominations have used this confession as their standard of beliefs. Heavy shore reading... right?

Sandy was reading the Westminster Confession because her congregation recently voted to part ways with the Presbyterian Church USA over the acceptance of homosexuality. They are now in the process of aligning themselves with a more conservative denomination called the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. For her congregation to become part of this new denomination and for Sandy to remain an elder in her

church, they have to pledge their fidelity to... you guessed it... the Westminster Confession.

I, on the other hand, was sitting beside her reading a book by Diana Butler Bass entitled *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*. In her book, Bass explains the alarming downward trend in

church membership and attendance in America and the growing number of people who are now identifying themselves as "spiritual but not religious."

Rather than despair, she believes that this change in American religious life is part of a new great interreligious

spiritual awakening leading toward personal and cultural transformation. One reaction to these changes in American religious life, she cites, has been for some denominations to splinter, with the more conservative factions circling their wagons around accepted "right belief" or orthodoxy i.e.... The Westminster Confession.

Unfortunately, she feels this approach

**“Younger generations are looking for a place where they feel welcome and accepted for who they are, a place where they can see faith in action as it is lived out in everyday life.”**

holds little hope for reaching young people and the “spiritual but not religious” for Christ. For centuries becoming a member of a church required “right belief,” followed by “right practice,” followed by formal acceptance into a religious community. But, for the majority of young people today and those who consider themselves as “spiritual but not religious,” the way to faith in Christ has now changed.



the path of belief, behavior, and belonging, it now begins with belonging, followed by behavior, then belief.

Younger generations are looking for a place where they feel welcome and accepted for who they are, a place where they can then see faith in action as it is lived out in everyday life. Then the time may come that they may be ready to ask, “Tell me again what it is you believe?”

No longer are younger generations and the “spiritual but not religious” satisfied with being told what they should believe. With many world religions and philosophies to choose from, they want to know why they should believe what the church is telling them. What difference will it make in their life and the world?

This way of coming to faith resonates with the Gospels. When Jesus called his first disciples Peter, James and John, he didn’t ask them to take a test on the Westminster Confession. Jesus said “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” It wasn’t until they had lived together for some time, and not until after they had observed him preach, teach, and heal the sick, that Jesus finally asked his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?”

Whereas church growth used to follow

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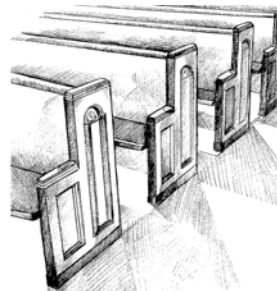
“I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new. Shall I not call God the Beautiful, who daily showeth himself so to me in his gifts?”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

# New Pew Bibles!

From Pastor David McMillan

In 2 Timothy 3:16,17 we read, “Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.” In the words of our Methodist patriarch John Wesley, we are a “people of the book.” A careful reading of the Bible is foundational in understanding who we are as Christians and how we are to live in the world. Without this foundation, we are like a ship without an anchor.



For this reason, I am pleased to announce that on Kick-Off Sunday, September 9, we will dedicate new Pew Bibles during both worship services. Two copies of the New Common English Bible will be placed in each pew for sharing and following along during morning worship. Additional Bibles will be used for our Sunday school programs. These Bibles have been purchased from the Memorial Fund in loving memory of **Norm Dettra** who loved the Bible and faithfully taught the Adult Lectionary Sunday School Class for many years.

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## Sanctuary Renovations Update

From Pastor David McMillan

The Trustees are now acquiring additional estimates for sanctuary renovations including: mounting a retractable movie screen and LED projector to the ceiling, floor speakers to the walls, placing flush microphone jacks and outlets behind the communion rail on both sides of the chancel area, and running all wiring under the floor to a new media center in the back of the sanctuary.



These changes will make our sanctuary safer and the front of the sanctuary less busy to the eye, improve the flow of worship during the early service, and reduce time in transitioning to the second service. Once the Trustees have had the opportunity to review the estimate costs, a decision will be made as to the best way to raise funds. Please stay tuned.

# Three Cheers for Music!

From Beverly Perella

A CHEER                    I've just returned from vacation in the calming state of  
Music, music            Maine, my mind still seeing light houses, hearing gulls, and  
God's gift to us,        watching beautiful waters. Since no one there offered me a  
Join us, join us,        \$100,000 a year job, I decided to come back to reality at LP.  
It's a must!                My cheer is silly, but the sentiment is real! September's

always been a new start for me, as a former teacher and as a church musician. It can be a new start for you, or a return to your dedication to our music ministry. Music is God's gift to us, a way to praise and honor God.

**Here are ways to serve Him and our church with music:**

▫ **The Praise Band**

leads music at the Contemporary Service, 9 am every Sunday. Weekly rehearsals are at 8 pm on Thursdays. Instruments and voices are needed, and you don't have to be the best musician; you just need a desire and commitment to serve God and our congregation in this way. Contact Worship Leader **Julie Stites** after the service, or at 717-579-1534.

▫ **The Chancel Choir**

rehearses Wednesdays at 7:30 pm and sings for the Traditional Service at 11 am. Voices are needed for all four sections -- soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. In addition to weekly services, this group presents a Christmas Cantata and a special service for Music Sunday in June. God accepts all volunteers, as does Director **Bev Perella**. Listen to God's call and your inner voice and volunteer to sing God's praises. The first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 12.

▫ **The Bell Choir**

offers an opportunity to make music with your hands. Our players range from accomplished ringers to novices. If you can make rehearsals Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, we invite you to join us. We perform at the Traditional Service several times a year. Whether you're new or experienced, please join us for our first rehearsal **Wednesday, September 12**. Church Music Director Bev Perella leads this group.

▫ **Vocal and Instrumental Soloists**

add to our music program, often during summer and on special occasions. Please contact Bev if you can offer your talent! NO talent is too small.

# September 2012



**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**We**

“Preach the Gospel every day; if necessary, use words.”  
—St. Francis of Assisi

2

3



4

5

“New Year”  
all Church Mu

**9 KICK-OFF  
BREAKFAST**  
10 am  
No Sunday School

10  
  
Finance 7pm

11

12  
Choir Rehears  
  
Bell Choir 6:3  
Chancel Choir

16  
Fall Sunday School  
Classes Begin

17  
  
Trustees 7 pm

18

19  
  
Bell Choir 6:3  
Chancel Choir

23

30

**Commitment  
Sunday**

24

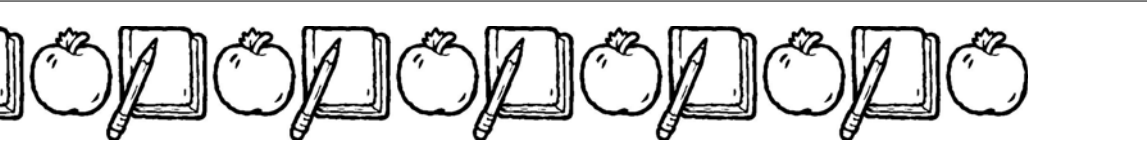


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26

Bell Choir 6:3  
Chancel Choir





Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1
Dinner for Musicians 6:30	6 Praise Band 8pm	7	8 Trustees Work Day 8am-Noon
Sales Begin 10pm r 7:30pm	13 Worship Cm 6:30pm Memorial Hall Praise Band 8pm	14 <i>News-Linc Deadline for October Edition</i>	15
10pm r 7:30pm	20 Praise Band 8pm	21	22
10pm r 7:30pm	27 Praise Band 8pm	28	29

**Coming Up in October**  
 October 7 Anniversary Sunday  
 The Rev. Sara Davis-Shappell preaches

# Stewardship Season – “I Will.”

From Pastor David McMillan

Our Stewardship Emphasis this September is entitled *What’s in a Promise?* When being received into the membership of Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church, we were asked the question, “*As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?*” Our response was, if we so chose, “*I will.*”



When we joined Lincoln Park, we made a promise to steward our life for the good of the whole church and for the greater good of God’s glory. Like all relationships, the life and health of our church is dependent upon the promises we keep. Fidelity, revealed in love and over time, is the tie that binds.

Beginning on Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, we will explore “What’s in the promise of presence, prayers, gifts and service.” As in years past, we will be receiving financial faith commitment cards on Commitment Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please prayerfully begin to consider your tithe and offering for 2013.

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## REFRESHMENTS



From Bev Perella

A snack attack is what we face at the end of each service. Please volunteer to provide snacks for our social time.

It doesn't have to be anything fancy, just edible. Sign the list at the back of the church for the Traditional Service or downstairs at the kitchen for the Contemporary Service.

## A Stewardship Idea for You

*Help thy Neighbor*

From Nancy Villecco

If you know of companies that are hiring workers in Berks or surrounding counties, please inform the Pastor so that he may be able to guide someone who is looking for work! Then, maybe, say a quick prayer that the info you have provided may be a blessing to someone.



# Here's a Way to Help Others

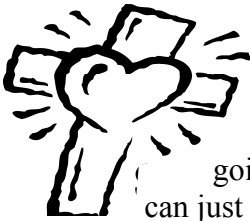
From Linda Neukrug, submitted by Nancy Villecco

From the *2011 Daily Guideposts*, page 250, August 26, 2011

*The cheerful heart has a continual feast.*

-Proverbs 15:15 (NIV)

When I was a child, I loved going to the butcher with my mother. I think our Brooklyn butcher must have been the first of the stand-up comics. “Do



you have any brains?” a woman once asked him.

“Hey, lady, if you’re going to insult me, you can just leave right now!”

I clung to my mother’s skirt, thinking that a fight was going to break out, not really understanding why everyone in the store had burst out laughing. Every time someone would ask for the skirt steak, he’d say, “With or without?” “With or without what?” “With or without pleats, of course!”

And then there was always the “chicken feet” routine. When a woman, probably planning to make a hearty soup, asked him, “Do you have chicken feet?” he’d act offended and proclaim, “My feet are perfectly normal.”

“You’re always so good-natured,” I remember my mother telling him. “Hey, I thank God every day for this dream job,” he said. “In what other job could a man who looks like me be surrounded by women all day and go home to a steak dinner every night?”

Women (who always did the shopping then) would come in with worry lines creasing their foreheads and crumpled grocery lists written on the back of coupon-stuffed envelopes, but they seemed much more relaxed when they left.

Maybe his jokes weren’t new, though they were new to me, but that butcher was an inspiration. He liked people and he showed it, and he helped people who had to count their pennies get through rough days. One of God’s helpers on earth, I’m sure.

**God, remind me that I don’t have to be in a helping profession to help someone. In any job- or none- I can be a helper and a healer.**

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**“Everything we call a trial, a sorrow, a duty, believe me...the gift is there, and the wonder of an overshadowing presence.” — Fra Giovanni**

# Random Acts of Kindness Stories

**Editor's Note:** We're happy to present this mini-series of articles "intended to stimulate thought and inspire action." We welcome your *Random Acts of Kindness Stories*. To submit, email them to [cherfallon@comcast.net](mailto:cherfallon@comcast.net) or leave them in my mailbox in the Church Office.



## Lending a Hand — or a Shovel

From Susie Romig

Two years ago when the real estate market was at its worst, **Norm** and **Nancy Dettra** hired my son **Randy** to sell their home as they prepared to move to Phoebe-Berks Retirement Community. Through a year of working with the Dettras, Randy felt as though they had become friends, and he came to appreciate Norm's sense of humor.

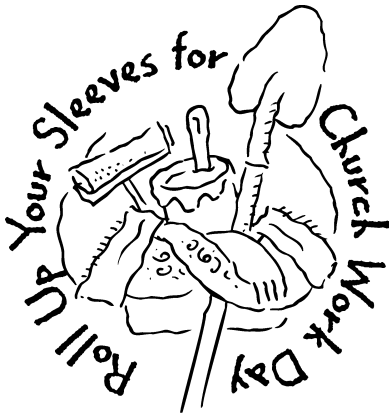
As Norm's health deteriorated, I would tell Randy from time to time when Norm was in the Healthcare Center. Occasionally Randy would pop in on Norm. The visiting routine was about like this: Randy would go to Norm's room and bellow, "I've come to visit that ambulance-chasing, greedy lawyer who only cares about how much money he could get out of people!" Norm would bellow back "Don't tell me it's that God-forsaken, stupid realtor who took a year to sell my house and didn't de-

serve a cent of his commission!" After about 2 minutes of this Abbott and Costello routine, they'd have all the staff standing around with their mouths open, and then they'd have a good laugh and a chat until Randy had to run.

The winter after Norm died we had a significant snowfall, and Randy was near Phoebe-Berks the next day, so he stopped to check on me. (Realtors are like the Postal Service---out in hail, sleet, snow, whatever!)

I was fine, so he headed out, but as he left the campus he saw that Nancy's car was still snowed in. He pulled over, took out his shovel and snow brush and in about 15 minutes had her car shoveled out and cleaned of snow, and went on his way. He didn't call Nancy, but when I talked to him the next week he told me what he had done and hoped it made it easier for her when she needed to be out and about again.

He not infrequently quietly does kind things like that.



## **Trustees' Work Day Saturday, Sept 8 8 am–noon**

### **It's a New Year at Lincoln Park Church: Join a Choir, a Class, a Group**

One of the best things about heading back to school is the chance for a fresh start. A new year, new teachers, perhaps even a new school offer students the opportunity to try a little harder and do a little better than the year before.



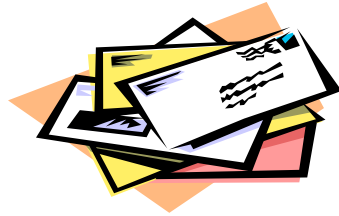
Praise God that He allows us to always start over. Jeremiah writes that the Lord's mercies "are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23a). With God's help we can begin each day with a clean slate and a new attitude, determined to make some changes for the better.

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We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to family and friends of **Anna Mishler** who passed away on August 25, and of **Ruth Ash**, who died on August 27. May God bless you with His peace and love.



# From our mailbox



♥ To All my Friends of LP Church,  
Thank you for all the cards and well wishes. Also thanks for the lovely flowers. I miss coming to church and happy memories I have had. God bless you all.

Sincerely,  
Anna Mishler

♥ Dear Friends,  
Our family wishes to thank you for the honor bestowed upon Harold recently. He would have been deeply touched by having his name added to the Education Building.

This church and the people who *are* the church were dear to his heart and meant so much to him.

In deep appreciation,  
Jeanne Perkins

♥ To the Lincoln Park Family,  
Thank you all for thinking of me on my graduation from seminary. I was blessed to have worked with you all and send out prayers for your future ministries. Peace,

Cori Pasquale

♥ Thank you to my Lincoln Park Church family for your constant love, support, prayers, and thoughts! I really appreciated the gift card to Barnes & Noble, too. That will sure come in handy!

Love,  
Heather Hope

♥ My Church Family,  
Thank you so much for thinking of me while I took this step in my life. It really means a lot to get a card from you guys!  
Corina Pillar

♥ Dear Lincoln Park Church,  
Thank you for the Barnes and Noble gift card! It is really appreciated.

Thanks again,  
Melinda Pierdomenco

♥ Dear Friends,  
I would like to thank all of you for my cards, flowers, visits, and all of your good casseroles. Although I really didn't want to be in the hospital again, you all made a big difference. Special thanks to Pastor Dave and Bev for your hospital, rehab, and home visits. You are good friends.

Ron and Doris Schucker

♥ Thank you again for the financial support. Jim and I can't express how thankful we are. Somehow it always seems to come when we most need it. Every Sunday we receive the emotional and spiritual support we need to guide us into the next week.

Thank you,  
Laura and Jim Perry



# Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



September 14  
for our  
October issue

## Change of Address

Alice Manhart  
Room #3  
Longwood Plantation  
1687 Longwood Dr  
Orangeburg SC 29118

Cynthia Loeb  
2165B Elder St  
Reading PA 19604-1339



## Kids for Christ and Youth

From Pastor Dave McMillan  
Look for more information on Sunday mornings concerning the starting dates and times for our

- Kids for Christ Group (Grades 2-7) and
- Our Youth Group (Grades 7-12). Plans are already in the works for combining our groups with other local Methodist churches.

*News-Linc*, monthly publication of Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church, hopes to link you to your church with information about its programs, plans, and people. Your comments and suggestions are welcome and may be left in the newsletter mailbox by the church office.

Our staff-  
Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678-8735  
Staff: Nancy Artz, Carol Bashore, Betsy & Allen Buchanan, Bunny Carlson, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, Elaine Meckes, and Doris Schucker

## Birth



Congratulations to **Michael and Christine (Fallon) Brown** on the birth of their daughter, **Isla Ray** (after Mike's Dad, **Ray Brown**) on Au-

gust 16. Isla was born at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, and weighed 6 lb 10 oz. Her proud grandparents are **Ed and Cheri Fallon** and **Tina Brown- Eckart and Fred Eckart**.

May God bless Isla and her family!

## Missing!



Five stenciled aprons — some red, some black — handmade by **Nancy Villecco**, have disappeared from our Church Kitchen. Perhaps you took them home to be washed. Can you solve the mystery?

Please return them to the kitchen as soon as possible.

# NEWS-LINC

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church  
1 Carlisle Avenue  
Reading, PA 19609

Non-Profit Organization  
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Reading, PA  
Permit No. 233

*Change service requested*



Worship with us: 9-9:55 am - Contemporary Worship  
9:55-10:10 - Fellowship  
10:10-10:50 am - Christian Education  
11 am - Traditional Worship

Office hours 9 am-2 pm, Mon-Th Pastor: David McMillan, 610-670-1022  
Office phone 610-777-1422 Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-603-0150  
Ext: Kitchen 28; Rm 200 35; Worship Leader: Julie Stites  
Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39 Secretary: Marilyn Seiders  
Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735  
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Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Robyn Harris

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Web: www.lpcumc.org  
E-mail: info@lpcumc.org (Secretary and Church), dmcmillan@lpcumc.org (Pastor McMillan) For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.