



News-Line

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

Come for An Evening of Food and Faith

From Julie Stites

Take a break from the hectic season to enjoy **HOLY NIGHT**, a Christmas Tour featuring Christian singer and songwriter Julie Elias, in concert at Lincoln Park, Saturday, December 15, at 7 pm.

Elias has performed at Christian music festivals across the US and been featured with top music artists, including the Newsboys and Casting Crowns. Her career has spanned various facets of the arts, from leading worship,

to musical theater, to singer and songwriter. Elias was on her way to becoming an actress, performing on *Grey's Anatomy*, *CSI New York* and *Bones* among others. But, at a Christmas concert in 2010 in her hometown when she realized God's true calling

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Christmas Music



Please Join Us

Sunday, December 16

From Beverly Perella

**CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC at 9 am**

CHANCEL CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR

CHRISTMAS CONCERT at 11am

The Christmas Story in Three Parts

A selection of anthems with narration about God's promise of a Savior, the birth of Jesus, and what God asks of us.

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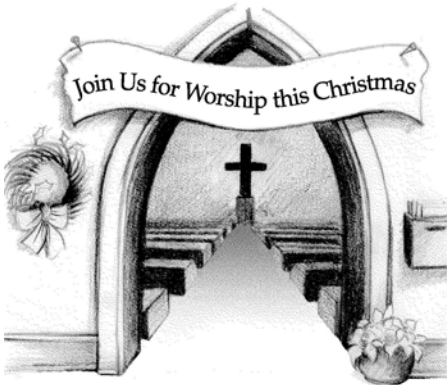
Come and Worship with Us

From Pastor David McMillan

Prepare the way of the Lord. Make His paths straight. – Matthew 3:3

In **DECEMBER**, we finish our sermons on the book of Genesis and begin to make straight our paths for the coming of God's Son. Let's begin by making room in our schedules so we don't miss His coming and the gift of life He alone offers.

In **JANUARY**, we begin a sermon series on the Old Testament book of Exodus. We'll join the Hebrews as they're delivered out of bondage in Egypt and follow Moses into the wilderness where a new life of



freedom will be forged in crucible doubt and faith.

December 2 First Sunday of Advent: *Joseph: Bought and Sold* – Genesis 37:1-28

December 9 Second Sunday of Advent: *The Ax of Repentance* – Luke 3:1-14

December 16 Third Sunday of Advent: **CHRISTMAS CANTATAS**

December 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent: *The Light Shines in the Darkness* – John 1:1-9

DECEMBER 24 7 pm – Family Service, Musical Preludes begin at 6:45

10 pm – Candlelight and Communion Service
Musical Preludes begin at 9:30

December 30 10 am : One Worship Service, *Where is Jesus?* – Luke 2:41-52
Pot-Luck Brunch afterward in Memorial Hall
Everyone is asked to bring a dish to serve eight people.
Come and let us break bread together as we reminisce on the past and look to our future.

January 6 *Bricks without Straw and the Birth of a Deliverer* – Exodus 1&2

January 13 *The Burning Bush and Bumbling Speech* – Exodus 3-4:17

January 20 *Let My People Go!* – Exodus 4:18-11

January 27 *The Passover and Pass Through* – Exodus 11-15

(Continued from page 1)

for her — that of spreading faith - affirming messages through her songs. Elias has graciously offered to share her talents with us at both worship services on Sunday, December 16.

Beginning at 5 pm, we'll offer a dinner of soup, salad, bread, and dessert along with entertainment.

Your children will have a secret shopping opportunity at Santa's Workshop where they can purchase presents for parents and others. Elf **Linda Woll** is in charge of Santa's Workshop, and she would welcome donations from you.

We'll receive free will offerings at both the dinner and the concert. **BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

From Pastor Dave McMillan



Our Youth Group will meet on Sunday, **December 2**, 6:30 to 8 pm, in Memorial Hall. Games and baking cookies are on the agenda.

Plans for the 16th are open right now. Possibilities include: caroling, games, and or sledding...if there's snow! Make sure to bring a friend!



December 2, 3 pm



From Pastor Dave McMillan

We're continuing our **BIBLE STUDY** on the Old Testament book of Jeremiah, also known as "The Weeping Prophet." We meet every Monday from 12-1:15 in the Church Library, except for the second Monday of the month.

Bring a lunch and join us for a lively discussion of God's Living Word.

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 Our Pastor

From Pastor David McMillan

Thinking Out Loud

I will no longer be surprised to see the congregation almost double in size on Christmas Eve. I now know the reason why and will let you in on the secret. It's the men. See if I'm right when you come to church on Christmas Eve. Notice the number of men with their families.

In his book *Why Men Hate Going to Church*, author and journalist David Murrow cites a telling statistic. If Mom goes to church, there's a 17% possibility that the rest of the family will follow. But, if Dad goes to church, the chance that the rest of the family will attend jumps to 91%. I can hear some conversations that take place on Christmas Eve – “What's that, Mom? Oh, you said Dad will be going with you to the 10 pm service. I guess we'll come, too.”

David Murrow says the reason men dislike church is because it's been feminized — primarily the domain of women. Men hate to feel incompetent, and most women can run circles around them when it comes to the Bible and being able to pray. Men like to appear in charge of their life. They don't like sharing their

vulnerabilities or worries. Women are grateful for a listening ear and are usually happy to unburden themselves. Notice who volunteers concerns for prayers of the people.



While women, who speak 21,000-22,000 words a day, enjoy attending Sunday School or Bible study and socializing after church, you'll be lucky to get a “hello” or a three word answer out of most men — who on average speak only 7,000 words a day. Note who gives most of the answers in Sunday School or Bible Study and who's socializing in the Wagner Room during fellowship time.

Another reason men hate church is because they have a short attention span. Seven minutes to be exact. Preachers need to shorten sermons or break them up with a half-time, cheerleaders included, or use object lessons. Most men remember the Children's Message more than the sermon.

Finally, Murrow suggests, the church has made Jesus out to be a *wuss*, a *mambi pambi*, all fluff and no fury. They want

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Schedule Changes for *News-Linc*

From Cheri Fallon

Due to new postal regulations and costs, we'll be sending our *News-Linc* out **every other month** beginning in January. We plan a winter issue covering the end of January through February, then March-April, May-June, September-October, and November-December-early January issues for 2013. Hopefully, we'll save money and man hours.

Another change is that all issues can have only 12 pages maximum, so we need to be concise and may have to eliminate some features.

With these changes looming, here are a few questions about the *News-Linc*.

What do you use the *News-Linc* for? Do you find out about events and programs? Are you interested in reading about people at Lincoln Park? Do you enjoy articles that inspire?

Is there anything in our *News-Linc* you

would especially miss? What do you look for first?

If you have any thoughts, please email cherifallon@comcast.net, leave a note in my church mail slot, or talk with me at church. I hope we can provide a newsletter that informs, interests, and inspires our friends and members —past, present, and prospective.

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the Jesus who tells off the religious authorities, who upsets the tables of the money changers, who tells Pilate he has no power over him, who calls the disciples to “follow me” not into a life of comfort or safety, but into an adventure of intrigue, self-sacrifice, and danger

On Christmas Eve, please notice all the men in church, and, do me a favor, give thanks and pray for them. Men need Christ and the Church more than ever before. And, the Church desperately needs men.

Possibly, even more than women, men are struggling with who they are and what their role is in the family, in the world, and in the Church. They may not say or show it, but they'll be there to do more than score points with wives and family. They'll be there because, deep down, they know their need for God, and Christmas Eve gives them the perfect cover to seek Him.

2013 Church Directory

From Marilyn Seiders

I am in the process of putting together the 2013 Church Directory. If you'd like to add a cell phone number, add an e-mail address, or update any information, please contact me at 610-777-1422 or e-mail me at lpcumc@verizon.net. Thanks!



Offering Envelopes Are Ready!

From Linda Hope

Offering envelopes for 2013 are available now in the Church Office or in the Wagner Room by mid-December. There will be a master list in the Wagner Room with names and envelope numbers.

If you're unable to pick up your envelopes, please contact the office, 610-777-1422, to arrange delivery. If you can help deliver envelopes to others who can't get to church, that would be greatly appreciated.

Also, please remember that the first envelope in the packet labeled *Initial Offering* helps defray the cost of printing. Other special envelopes included are labeled *Missions*, *Endowment*, and *Lent*. All these envelopes are contributions but don't count towards your total pledge. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Linda Hope** or **Marilyn Seiders**, Church Secretary.

Giving for 2012 Closes December 30

From Your Finance Committee

Just a reminder that we're quickly coming to the end of 2012. Please make sure your giving is up to date! If you have questions or concerns, please contact **Marilyn Seiders**, Church Secretary, **before December 21**.

All contributions RECEIVED in the mail by DECEMBER 28 or in the plate offering on DECEMBER 30 will be counted towards 2012. All contributions received after that will be credited to 2013 since they would not have been deposited in the year 2012.

Thank you for your continued support to our church and its ministries!

Deadline for Green Sheets Approaches

From Linda Hope

Please make sure all green sheets for check requests and bill payments to be paid out of the 2012 budget are turned into the office **by December 21** so that they may be processed before the end of the calendar year.

Anything turned in after this date will be processed from the 2013 budget. If you have any questions, please contact **Marilyn Seiders**, Church Secretary, **by December 21**.

State of the Church Report Presented

Pastor David McMillan

The following is the *State of the Church Report* I gave at our Annual Charge Conference on November 5.

With the waters of Hurricane Sandy still receding in some parts of the Northeast, I turn to the biblical story of The Flood for my State of the Church Report.

For me, the image of The Flood represents a deluge now overwhelming the church, leaving us afloat on a sea of uncertainty. This is true not only for Lincoln Park UMC but for many churches in the main line denominations who are experiencing record losses in church membership and attendance.

The flood waters have come from several sources including the rising tide of a lost religious memory and practice, once transmitted from generation to generation. This trend is born out in a 2005 survey which found that 60% of those born between 1926-1945 attend church, 45% of those born between 1946-1964, 20% of those born between 1965-1983, and only 10% of those born between 1984-2004.

The waters of uncertainty have also arisen from the storm surge of a growing

secularism (atheism and agnosticism), cynicism toward organized religion, and the more recent phenomena of those who call themselves “spiritual but not religious”. One third of all adults in the United States under 30 now profess no religious affiliation.



Why have so many, especially of younger generations, abandoned ship? My sense is that the Church has lost some of its relevance as a refuge, a prophetic voice, or an alternative choice to the prevailing culture. For almost a century, the Church has ridden the wave

of a cultural Christianity. While many of the Saints devoted their lives to Christ and His teaching, the Church has also bought into the American ethos of rugged individualism, self-security, self-pleasure, and self-peace.

Over the last century, the church, with other civic organizations, helped to build our nation. Now that the *Greatest Generation* enters the later years of life (and with them a church culture they helped to

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fashion) succeeding generations are adrift on a flood of uncertainty. These are uncharted waters, and what the Church will look like in coming years is unclear.

Interestingly enough, some churches still thrive today under this American ethos, especially the evangelical mega-churches. But even many within these churches, particularly younger generations, are beginning to question their church's culture.

So, where do we go from here? It's clear to me that the church will not look as it has for some time, or, possibly, ever again. But, how, while we try to re-imagine the church and Christian discipleship in the 21st century, do we keep our ark afloat?

First, we listen for God's voice. Amid all the competing voices of his culture, Noah kept an ear out for God. The Bible says that Noah "walked with God" and found "favor with God." Therefore, God called Noah to build an ark, a saving alternative community, a refuge amid the flood of cultural disarray. We will stay afloat as together we walk with God and listen for His voice. We do this through a shared life of prayer, worship, Bible study and service.

Second, we'll stay afloat only if we

“These are uncharted waters, and what the Church will look like in coming years is unclear.”

walk together *two by two*. By this, I mean with *mutual othering*: encouraging, forgiving, loving, and trusting one another with our needs and vulnerabilities. If we're unwilling to do this, we have nothing to offer the world and have lost our relevance as a place of healing and transformation. As pastor at

Lincoln Park, this is my greatest concern for our church.

There are several ways we attempt to *mutually other* one another here at Lincoln Park. We build one another up by worshipping together, sharing meals, Bible study, care groups, committee

meetings, and service. Recently, we started a Kids for Christ Club and joined Youth Groups with Calvary Wyo-omissing UMC to nurture the relationships of our young people. The health of our relationships will ultimately determine whether we sink or float.

Third, we'll stay afloat if we care for God's Creation. Even on board the Ark, Noah and his family were caring for Creation. He had a regular biosphere going on in there. Of the third of 30-year olds who no longer profess any religious affiliation, 52% feel a close connection to Creation. The Church of

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the future relevant to young people will be concerned with the just stewarding of all of life. This will entail acting justly toward the earth, all creatures, and resources, which will inevitably cost all of us, who are more fortunate, something.

We practice our care for Creation by being good stewards of our paper products, trying not to be wasteful. We practice our care for Creation through working for and serving the poor through Stone Soup, Opportunity House, the New Journey Soup Kitchen and Clothing Closet, Food Drives, Christmas Boxes, and Angel Tree gifts. We practice our care of Creation in the choices we make to live justly in our personal and communal lives with all people, resources, and every living thing.

Will God remember us on this flood of uncertainty? Will the flood waters one day recede so we find ourselves again on dry land? Will we hear God calling us again to “Go forth, be fruitful, and multiply?”

“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for the conviction of things unseen.”

Mark Your Calendars

- DEC.** 2 Kids for Christ, 3pm
Youth Group, 6:30 pm
3 Bible Study, Noon
Church Council, 7pm
6 Crafts, 1pm
10 Agape Christmas Party, Noon
Finance, 7pm
15 Holiday Bazaar, 5-7pm
Holy Night Christmas Concert, featuring Julie Elias 7pm
16 Christmas Cantata, 11am
17 Bible Study, Noon
Trustees, 7pm
24 Family Christmas Eve, 7pm
Candlelight & Communion 10pm
30 One Worship Service 10 am
Brunch afterward

News-Line Deadline for

Jan-Feb Issue

Wednesdays: Bell Choir 6:30,
Chancel Choir 7:30

Thursdays: Praise Band 8pm

- JAN.** 10 Worship Committee 6:30
14 Finance 7pm
21 Trustees 7pm
23 Lifeline Health Screening

We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to family and friends of **Dorothy Lackey**, who passed away on November 16. May God bless you with His peace and love.



What Will Make Your Christmas Merry?

From Marion Bond West, submitted by Nancy Villecco

From the *2011 Daily Guideposts*, page 360
Glad and merry in heart...II Chronicles 7:10

I harbor some Scrooge-like feelings around this time of year. So I secretly hoped no one would mention the Christmas Shop in Dillsboro, North Carolina, where some of us had driven for a day's outing. No such luck; everyone wanted to visit Nancy Tut's store.

I lagged behind and then decided to hurry in and out without buying anything. But once I stepped inside the shop, I sensed an indefinable sweet presence permeating the place. One room contained only Nativity sets; I stayed behind, touching them softly and marveling after the others left.

The spirit of Christmas surprised and captivated my heart to such an extent that I needed help carrying my purchases to the car. "Merry Christmas, ya'll!" I called back to the owners. With a new spring in my step and a smile that simply wouldn't stop, I joined our group for lunch.

Back home, as I took my tissue-wrapped purchases out of the festive shopping bags, I noticed a tiny brochure in the bottom of each bag. Printed in red and green, it asked, "What will it take to make yours a merry Christmas? Would good news make you merry? Being cured of a terminal condition? Receiving a gift? Restoring a broken relationship? Being reunited with someone special?"

Then the pamphlet listed some Scripture that provided the answers: Luke 2:10-11, John 3:16, Romans 3:23, I John 1:7, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8, Isaiah 59:2, Colossians 1:21, I Thessalonians 4:16-17, Romans 10:9, Romans 10:13. The house converted into the Christmas Shop some 42 years ago was about much more than gifts; its purpose was to remind us of the Giver.

Merry Christmas, Father! I praise You for the greatest GIFT ever given.

~Marion Bond West

From Jim Eckert

Please take a tag or two from our Angel Tree in the Wagner Room, and include some needy Reading family members on your Christmas list. Gifts will be collected through **Sunday, December 16**. Through our local Salvation Army, we plan to assist about three families, totaling around 15 folks, as is our usual practice over the years.





Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*December 30
for our
January-
February issue*

A winter issue will come out in mid-January.

Change of Address

Betty & Jim Garraway
944 N Penn Dr
Wernersville PA 19565

Baptism

Adelaide Elsie Lee, daughter of **Andrew** and **Jessica**, was baptized in our church on November 18. Her grandmother is **Linda Lee**. Adelaide wore a christening gown made from Linda's grandmother's wedding dress by **Pam Stanitis**. May God bless Adelaide and her family as she grows in love and grace.



From Your Trustees

If you have a key for the church or office, please notify Marilyn at the Church Office. We need to update the list.

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

From our mailbox



♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for the groceries you donated to our food ministry. Each donation is a blessing to us. We are glad for all our friends who help us feed the hungry. May God bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace

New Journey UMC Food Ministry
Soup Kitchen/Pantry Manager

Thank You!

The Mission Committee would like to give a special thank you to all who donated food items to the Food Bank at New Journey UMC. We collected 144 items of good nutritious food, as always much needed and appreciated by many.

Marian Longenecker

NEWS-LINC

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

Non-Profit Organization
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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-3 pm, Mon-Fri	Pastor: David McMillan, 610-670-1022
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