

NEWS-LINC

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

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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 9am-2pm, Mon-Thurs Pastor: David McMillan, 610-670-1022
Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-603-0150
Secretary: Marilyn Seiders
Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735
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E-mail: info@lpcumc.org (Secretary and Church), dmcmillan@lpcumc.org (Pastor McMillan) For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.



*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania
November-December 2014*

**Operation
Christmas Child
The Power of a
Simple Gift**
From Jim Eckert



Since 2002, generous participants at our church have filled nearly 1000 boxes with small gifts for children, many of whom have never received a gift. Brochures in the Wagner Room explain the ministry, suggested gifts, and instructions for preparing the box. Even non-shoppers like myself find this fun and rewarding. Some boxes will be provided in the Wagner Room. Note that a plastic container may be substituted for a shoe box.

This ministry provides not only smiles and gifts, but reading materials and follow-up (by Samaritan's Purse ministry founded by Franklin Graham, son of Billy) to introduce children to Jesus Christ - in over 130 countries. An on-line feature allows one to trace where their box is going.

Boxes are due in the Wagner Room **by Sunday, November 23**. Thank you for your generous support.

Bidding Opens in our Silent Auction

from Beverly Perella

Bids may be placed on three Sundays: **NOVEMBER 2, 9, AND 16**. Items and starting bids are displayed in the Wagner Room and on our website. Bids may be called into our secretary **Marilyn Seiders**. Among many offerings are: several baskets (heavenly chocolate, puzzles for the family, Christmas snacks), **Bruce Meckes's** chocolate, two tickets to see *Jersey Boys* in Hershey, a week or weekend in the Poconos at the **Bashore** house, oil and water color paintings, crystal, Goebel figurines, jewelry, a trip to Longwood Gardens and lunch for two, children's books, handmade scarves, four hours of garden work by Pastor Dave, and many one-of-a kind items.

Successful bidders will be notified the week of November 16. See **Bev Perella** if you have any questions. This is the second part of our biggest fundraiser: *Flea Market, Part Two*.

Come and Worship with Us

From Pastor David McMillan



In November, we'll finish our sermon series on *Living the Apostles' Creed*. It matters what we believe. Our beliefs shape the way we understand God and see our world. They determine the way we live in the world. On November 23, we'll pause with a sermon on *Gratitude*, apropos for our national holiday of Thanksgiving. And then, beginning on November 30, we begin the season of Advent as we await the birth of Emmanuel, *God with us*.

November 2	Sermon: <i>I Believe in the Holy Spirit</i> ; Acts 2: 1-21 Communion Service (All Saints Sunday)
November 9	Sermon: <i>I Believe in the Holy Catholic Church and the Communion of Saints</i> ; Ephesians 1:15-23
November 16	Sermon: <i>I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins, the Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting</i> ; John 3:16,17
November 23	Sermon: <i>Thanksgiving and the Way of Gratitude</i> Colossians 3:12-17
November 30	Sermon: <i>Stay Alert</i> (1 st Sunday of Advent) Mark 13:24-37
December 7	Sermon: <i>Confessing Sins</i> (2 nd Sunday of Advent) Mark 1:1-8
December 14	Sermon: <i>Making Paths Straight</i> (3 rd Sunday of Advent) John 1: 6-8,19-28
December 21	Christmas Cantata: <i>And They Were All There</i> (2 nd service)
December 24	Christmas Eve: <i>A Service of Lessons and Carols</i> , 7 & 10 pm

From Beverly Perella

DECEMBER 14- At the 11 am service- music by the **Bell Choir**

DECEMBER 21- Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata, 11 am

CHRISTMAS EVE– Special vocal and instrumental music for both services; preludes begin at **6:45** for the **7 pm Family Candlelight Service** and at **9:30** for the **10 pm Candlelight Service**



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*December 30
for our
Mid-January-
February issue*

News-Linc, bi-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, Betsy & Allen Buchanan, Bunny Carlson, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, and Elaine Meckes

Change of Address

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520 Church Lane Rd
Reading PA 19606-9120

♥ Pastor Dave and LP Congregation

I can't express how much it meant to me to receive so many cards of condolence and sympathy. Losing Cyndi has been made easier by our supportive friends and family.



Alison, Jason, and I will be forever grateful to Lincoln Park for your prayers and support before and after Cyndi gained her angel wings and became cancer-free again.

Peace,
Jim Harding

♥ Dear Loving Church Family,

Breaking a hip was no fun, but I have been very blessed ever since. I thank you for the calls, visits, cards, treats, bed changing, laundry, and a bushel of prayers. You made me feel loved and well cared for. You definitely walk in God's love and light.

Fondly,
Lee Riley

LP Serves Dinner at Opportunity House Tuesday, November 4



♥ Thank you from all the clients and staff at **Opportunity House** for volunteering in our kitchen last night! Please share our thanks and deep gratitude with all the members of your cooking team. Stay well,


John Moults,
Volunteer Coordinator
Opportunity House

Seeing the Blessing Behind the Challenge

From Sharon Hinck, submitted by Nancy Villecco

Do all things without complaining and disputing. – Philippians 2:14 (NKJV)

From the 2013 Daily Guideposts, pgs. 521-522 (November 22, 2013)

 arrived at church for a planning meeting with two toddlers in tow. In the narthex, one broke free and ran off, while the other clung to my legs, whining. Pastor Miller came out to greet us with a warm smile. “How are you today?” I huffed a strand of bangs out of my eyes and winced against a growing headache. “The kids are running me ragged.”

His eyes twinkled. “But isn’t it wonderful that they can? How difficult to be a parent with a child too ill to run and play.” I absorbed that new perspective.

So many of the challenges I complained about were only in my life because of much greater blessings. Could I shift my focus to them and spend a little less time on the complaining? In the coming days, it became a bit of a contest for me. Each time I heard my-

self protest about something, I looked for the blessing I was missing. The car stalled out on a cold morning, but that problem only existed because we had a car and didn’t need to take a bus to work. My calendar stressed me out with a packed schedule, but it was a gift that we all had the health to participate in so many events. My husband had to work late, but the fact that he had a job was a blessing. Piles of laundry, dishes to wash, and bathrooms to clean were no longer a reason to complain but a chance to thank God for the bounty in my life.

Heavenly Father, thank You for all the gifts You’ve poured into my life. When my day feels difficult, help me to notice the blessing behind the challenge and turn my complaints into praise.



A Long Goodbye

From Pastor Dave McMillan

In November, our program on navigating the season of mourning and death continues on Sunday afternoons, 3-4:30 pm, in Memorial Hall. Our remaining topics include: *How to Write a Will, Choosing an Executor & Power of Attorney and Making Pre-Funeral Arrangements*, and *Coping as a Family with the Death of a Loved One*. Whether or not you’ve attended any of the programs to date, you are welcome!

Celebrate Christmas with Your Church Family December 14

From Beverly Perella

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION,

Sunday, December 14, at 5 pm with **DINNER** followed by a **CHRISTMAS PLAY** in the sanctuary.

Yes, you do have time for this in your busy schedule! Let’s make time to celebrate the birth of our Savior with our church family. Let’s set aside all that is hectic and overwhelming for a non-anxious, joyous, peace-filled evening.

You owe it to yourself and your family to experience a little bit of heaven this Christmas. Please list this on your calendar immediately!



From Betsy Buchanan

YOU CAN HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCH and beautiful sanctuary for Christmas by ordering red, white, or pink poinsettias. The cost is \$6 a piece (same as last year) and they can be dedicated *in honor or memory of someone or to the glory of God*.



Forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins, Wagner Room, or the Church Office. **Orders MUST be placed by December 7.** Questions? Call **Betsy Buchanan**, 610-777-2501, or the Church Office, 610-777-1422.

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!



Thinking Out Loud

From Pastor David McMillan

Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it – Genesis 28:16

In the Old Testament book of Genesis, Jacob tricks his older brother Esau out of his birthright and flees to the distant household of his grandfather. Stopping to rest at night, he makes a stone his pillow and dreams of a staircase reaching between earth and heaven, with angels ascending and descending it. Suddenly, he hears the voice of the Lord extending the same promise of blessing, of security and a future, which God had first made to his grandfather Abraham.



JACOB'S DREAM

Waking the next morning, looking around at the ground, stones, shrubs, soaring birds, and surrounding hillsides, Jacob declares: *Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it*. Then he erects an altar to the Lord, including his stone pillow, and names it *Bethel*, meaning *The Entrance to the House of God*.

In *A Geography of Faith: An Altar in the World*, Barbara Brown Taylor writes of the meaningful ways we can discover the *sacred* in the small things we say

and do and in the simple practices of walking, working, and getting lost. The word *sacred* has been used by the Church to describe all that is somehow connected to God, making it worthy of respect and devotion, even awe-inspiring. Unfortunately, as Taylor points out in her book, we often limit our idea of the *sacred* to practices and sacraments within the church on Sunday mornings. We have unfortunately separated the *sacred* from the mundane and so feel disconnected from God during the week.

In my spiritual journey, it's been authors like Barbara Brown Taylor, Eugene Peterson, Wendell Berry and my study of other world religions (including Hinduism and Buddhism) who have helped me begin to see all of life as *sacred*. **The way this works for me is in being mindful of the ways my life is connected to God and the world around me and then being intentional about celebrating those connections.**

(Continued on page 8)

How to Support Our Youth Mission Trip

(While Christmas Shopping)

From Tracy Goldsborough



How?

Did you know that buying gift cards through Lincoln Park's Youth Group will help our youth experience the rewards of a mission trip? When you order gift cards, **from October 26-November 30**, you'll support our youth in what can be a life-changing mission trip – and you'll make progress on your Christmas lists at the same time.

Some of the many cards available are: Dunkin Donuts, Barnes & Noble, K-Mart, Walmart, Target, Olive Garden, Red Lobster. Our order forms show the percentage we earn from each card, since they vary.

Obtain your order forms in the Church Office or Wagner

Room – or request one from tracy.goldsborough@alvernia.edu.

Submit them with payment in an envelope in the offering plate or give them to me or **Linda Hope**.

Pick up your cards on **Sunday, December 7**, at church or in the Church Office thereafter.

A percentage of the gift card sales will go to our Youth Mission Trip. Please support our amazing youth! If you don't want to give cards, you can always use them yourself!

Youth Sunday School Class Meets 10:10 am - Join Us!

From Pastor Dave McMillan
The Youth are meeting for Sunday School in the Youth Room, from 10:10-10:50, on Sunday mornings. In November, our theme is *A Jesus-Centered Life*. Together, we'll spend six weeks exploring the disciples' answer to Jesus' question: *Who do you say that I am?* Come and join the fun!



From Pastor Dave McMillan

The Youth Group is active doing mission projects, enjoying fun activities, and discussing everything from *parents to random acts of kindness*. Come and join us for the next Youth Group planning meeting on **Sunday, November 2**, 4-5:30, as we schedule activities to the end of the year.

(Continued from page 4)

This morning, stopping for coffee and breakfast at Wawa, I left my things on the check-out counter to go back for ketchup. When I returned, the cashier joked that she thought I had left her breakfast. Embarrassed, I said I hadn't, but I would remember her idea in the future. I then searched out her name tag as she took my money. Her name was spelled "J-a-c-e-l-j-y-n." "Oh well," I thought to myself and took a flying leap at thanking her by name. Fortunately, I got the pronunciation right and, noticing the apprehension in my voice, we both laughed.

Was my exchange with Jaceljyn at the check-out counter of little note or was it something *sacred*? Was it an altar, *Bethel...The Entrance to the House of God*?

So many of us in this 21st century are troubled by feelings of alienation from others and God. Unfortunately, we go around far too often through busy weeks unaware, not recognizing that *God is in this place and we did not know it*. **We need to be more mindful of and intentional about looking for and celebrating the connections between God and our ordinary daily existence.**

➡ So, **LET ME ENCOURAGE YOU** in the coming days to look for the *sacred* in all things: in the gracious eye contact you make with passing strangers and in your kind words, in the work of your hands that the Lord gives you to do, in your gazing out of your car window at the beautiful array of fall leaves, in your preparation of dinner as you slice ripe tomatoes and cucumbers to make a salad, in the laughter you share with others around a breakfast or dinner table, in thanking your cashier by name. These moments can all be an altar, our *Bethel*, our *Entrance into The House of God*, moments worthy of respect and devotion, even awe-inspiring...leaving us feeling love, whole.

We were saddened at Lincoln Park Church to hear of the deaths of three members. **Dean Zuber** died unexpectedly September 23.. Husband of **Nancy**, Dean is survived by three daughters: **Kelley Dossantos**, **Kristen Jackson**, and **Kimberly Nuss**, and seven grandchildren.

Catherine Harbach passed away on October 16. Our sympathy to her sons **Randall** and **Bruce** and their families.

Henry J Christ Sr, 96, died on October 11. He is survived by his wife of 75 years, **Margaret**, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

You are in our hearts and prayers at Lincoln Park Church!



Sunday School Class on Trial

From Beverly Perella

If you need affirmation that something's right in the world, visit our **POTTER'S WHEEL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** to see God at work. The children (in Grades 1-6) are preparing for a "trial" on Sunday, November 23, at the Contemporary Service. There we'll decide if they're "guilty" of following what God asks. (In this case "guilty" is a good verdict!)

In order to be found "guilty," the children need to:

- Keep of journal of sightings — of a family member, neighbor, schoolmate, teacher, or stranger - doing something good.
- Help others: Provide dessert for our church's Opportunity House dinner, rake leaves, listen to older youth about their recent mission trip.

- Meet with our "grandparents" in the Lectionary Sunday School group, hearing about God working in their lives and God's gifts to them.
- Volunteer to help someone and write about it in their journals.
- Send pictures of our group to our shut-ins, wishing them a lovely autumn.

We hope the kids experience God working in them. They've made lists of simple good deeds and talked about what it means to be a Christian. They're learning how to play on the bells the well-known song *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian in My Heart*.

The Potter's Wheel Class meets during the Contemporary Service. Please join us!



Annual Flea Market in Jeopardy?

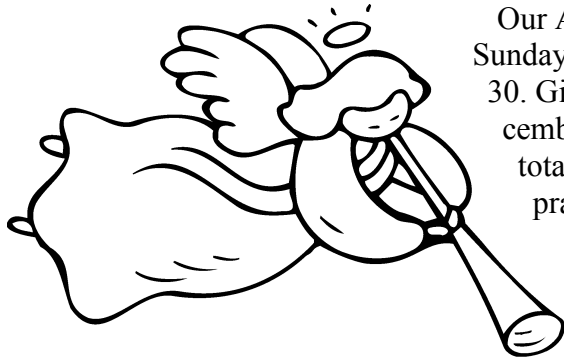
From Beverly Perella

This long-time church activity could be canceled in 2015 if no one is found to accept leadership. There are volunteers to help, but no one to take the helm. I'm willing to assist a new chairperson with planning. Perhaps two of you would accept joint leadership. If interested, please let **Pastor Dave**, **Bev Perella**, or **Jack Villecco** know.

Angel Tree Gifts Bring Joy & Help

Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family Program

From Jim Eckert



Our Angel Tree will be up this season on the Sunday following Thanksgiving – November 30. Gifts will be collected up to Sunday, December 14. We plan to assist three families totaling around 15 folks, as is our usual practice over the years.

The Missions Committee and Salvation Army want to thank our church family at Lincoln Park for their response to the Adopt-a-Family Angel

tree last Christmas. We helped three families totaling 14 individuals. They had experienced difficulties and medical concerns (a 7-year old girl recovering from heart surgery, and a boy with Crohn's disease). Another family had a special needs child, four children sharing a bed, and they struggled to pay for heat on a cut income. Gift requests were, for the most part, daily needs items such as winter clothing, boots, simple toys or crafts for children, household items. All items placed on the tree were taken by generous folks who wanted to help make the season a bit better for those whose needs were so great. In addition, individuals who made donations for gift cards to Giant and Wal-Mart allowed these folk to make choices of their own.

End-of-the-Year Financial Notes

From Linda Hope

- **2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES** will be available as of November 23 in the Wagner Room.
- **2014 CONTRIBUTIONS:** All contributions for the year 2014 must be in the plate/office by Sunday 12/28.
- **2014 BILLS/INVOICES:** All payments must be in the office by Sunday, 12/21 to be paid out of the 2014 budget.



Here's an Opportunity to Make a Difference

Habitat for Humanity Workday

From Jim Eckert



The Missions Committee will sponsor a workday for a residence in Reading on **Saturday, November 15, 9 am to 2 pm.**

Volunteers are crucial in keeping the cost of homes affordable for low income families who purchase them from Habitat for Humanity of Berks County. One important note: All volunteers on the site must be at least 16 years of age, and anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult who will sign a waiver for them.

Please wear old clothes and sturdy shoes (No open-toed shoes are allowed). Work gloves are needed and will be provided if you don't have your own. Sign in at the jobsite approximately 15 minutes prior to scheduled time and bring a bagged lunch/drink. Tools are not necessary but if you choose to use your personal tools, bring them at your own discretion. The construction manager will assess your ability and have you do something you are comfortable doing.

There's a sign-up sheet in the Wagner Room. Contact **Jim Eckert**, 610 373-1064, with questions.

Mark Your Calendars

NOV	2	<i>The Long Goodbye</i> 3pm Youth Group 4-5:30pm
	3	New Member Class 6:30pm
	4	Opportunity House Supper 4/6pm
	9	<i>The Long Goodbye</i> 3pm
	10	Finance 7pm New Member Class 12:30 Church Musicians Pot-Luck 6:30
	13	Worship Committee 6:30
	15	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORKDAY 9-2pm
	16	<i>The Long Goodbye</i> 3pm Youth Group 4-5:30
	17	New Member Class 6:30pm
	23	Shoe Boxes Due
DEC	30	Gift Card Sale Ends
	7	Gift Card Pick-up Poinsettia Orders Due
	8	Finance 7pm
	14	Bell Choir Performance FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 5pm
	21	CHRISTMAS CANTATA 11am
JAN	24	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 7 & 10pm
	6	Opportunity House 4/6pm
Mondays:		Exercise Class 11am Bible Study 12pm (except 2 nd Mondays)
Wednesdays:		Bell Choir 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30
Thursdays:		Praise Band 8pm