

NEWS-LINC

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

Change service requested

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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-1pm, Mon-Thurs Pastor: David McMillan, 610-670-1022
Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-603-0150
Secretary: Marilyn Seiders
Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735
cherfallon@comcast.net

Office phone 610-777-1422 Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Kris Fedeli
Ext: Kitchen 28; Rm 200 35; Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39
Fax line 610-777-4309
Voicemail: Pastor Dave 44, Church Office 21, Beverly Perella 26
Web: www.lpcumc.org
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 *March, April 2015*

From Pastor David McMillan

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Two services with distribution of the palms.
The Bell Choir will play at the 11 am service.

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Our celebration begins at 5:45 pm with a simple meal of two soups, bread, and salad for a simple reason — Jesus' friends gathering to break bread.
We continue with Holy Communion at 7 pm.



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Two services (9 am with the Praise Band and 11 am with the Chancel Choir and Brass.) Please bring flowers at each service for the flowering of the cross. Family pictures will be taken after each service with the cross.

EASTER EGG HUNT

We'll meet in Memorial Hall about 10 am, after pictures of families attending the 9am service are taken.

Smile!

From Beverly Perella

We'll be taking family pictures around the flowered crosses after both Easter services. We'll see that each family gets a copy, but more importantly, we'll use these pictures in a video we are making for our combined 10 am service on **FAMILY SUNDAY, MAY 10 (Mother's Day)**. It would be good to have two photographers at each service. **If you can help, please let Bev know.**





From Pastor David McMillan

During March, we continue our sermon series: *That's What the Man Said: The Sayings of Jesus*, inspired by retired Methodist pastor, Maxie Dunnam. During Lent, we focus on Jesus' hard sayings concerning *the cost of Christian discipleship*.

In April, we begin a new sermon series: *Jesus is the Question*. According to Seminarian President, Martin B. Copenhaver, Jesus' primary way of communicating and teaching was by asking questions. By his count, Jesus asks 307 questions and answers only three. Why does Jesus ask so many questions? Come to worship and see.

March 1	<i>Never Apologize for Being Human</i>	John 14:8-14
March 8	<i>Living in Our Second Childhood</i>	Mark 10:13-16
March 15	<i>How Deep Is Down?</i>	John 16:19-33
March 22	<i>Cross-bearing Discipleship</i>	Luke 9: 23-27



March 29	PALM SUNDAY <i>Not Everyone Who Says, "Lord, Lord,"</i> Matthew 21:6-11
April 2	HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE 7 pm
April 5	EASTER SUNDAY <i>Questions of Longing</i> , John 20:1-18

April 12	<i>Questions About Faith and Doubt</i>	John 20:24-30
April 19	<i>More Questions from the Risen Christ</i>	John 21:1-14
April 26	Guest Preacher	

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!



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



April 15
for our
May-June issue

Change of Address

Mr & Mrs Richard Blank
209 Delaware Rd
Buffalo NY 14217-2025
Mrs Margaret Campbell
8800 Sage CT
King George VA 22485

New Phone Number

Dorinne Bilger 610-781-0933

From our mailbox...

♥ Betty and I would like to express our heart-filled thanks to the membership of LPCUMC for the numerous cards, messages and expressions of concern, prayers and best wishes that I received during my recent incarceration at Reading Hospital. I am certain that they were instrumental in my eventual recovery. I must also express my appreciation to Pastor Dave for his frequent visits and prayers during some of the more difficult times.

We look forward to rejoining you in worship at LPCUMC in the near future and again thank you for your kindness and concerns.

Dick and Betty Larsen

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



From Cheri Fallon,
with help from the
Reading Eagle

Neko Mulally, grandson of **Jim** and **Roe Gehman**, and son of **Carolyn Gehman Mulally**, is "one of the top downhill bike racers in the world, ranking first in the US and fourth overall in the world." (*Reading Eagle*, 2/3/15)

Races usually take place at ski resorts.

Neko lives in North Carolina now where he trains year round. He and his brother **Logan** started biking together early. Now, Logan, who studies mechanical engineering at Brevard College (NC) "is getting hands-on experience by serving as Neko's bike mechanic."

"The brothers are looking forward to working together and being able to help each other while doing something to advance their own careers," says David Barr of the *Reading Eagle*.

Jim and **Roe** very much enjoy traveling around the world to follow Neko's races.

A Good Way to Live: Giving Glory to God

From Debbie Macomber, submitted by Nancy Villecco
From the *Daily Guideposts* 2012 Edition, p. 127-8 (March 18, 2012)

*I*ve never had a lot of exposure to classical music, and I tend to listen to it without much appreciation. But I read a true story about a composer the other day that made me sit up and take notice.

Johann Sebastian Bach wrote each note as though God Himself was scrutinizing every musical bar and phrase. One of his most acclaimed works is *The Passion According to St. Matthew*, which has been called one of the greatest choral works ever written. Now here's what really got my attention: *The Passion* was performed only once while Bach was alive and wasn't all that well received. Just one performance. One.

Then a hundred years later, in 1829, Felix Mendelssohn obtained a copy from his teacher, who allegedly bought the original score from a merchant who

was using it to wrap cheese. Mendelssohn's performance of the score was met with an appreciation and love that has never ebbed. This story certainly has God's fingerprints all over it.

What struck me particularly in the article, though, was this: At the beginning of almost all of his compositions, Bach wrote the abbreviation JJ for the Latin phrase *Jesu juva*, which means *Jesus help*, and ended with SDG (*Soli Deo Gloria*), which is Latin for *To God Alone the Glory*. This is just the reminder I need as I forge ahead in my life. All I do, every word I write, every action I take, everything belongs to God. To Him be the glory always and forever.

Father, to You be the glory in
all that I say and do.



Our sympathy to our dedicated Music Director, **Beverly Perella, Judy Gaylor**, and their family on the loss of Beverly's father and Judy's father-in-law, **Richard Gaylor**, on February 10. May God bless you and your family with His love and peace.

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



Concerts at the Park (Lincoln Park Church, of Course)

From Beverly Perella



Sunday, March 15, at 3 pm - **The Reading Philharmonic Orchestra**

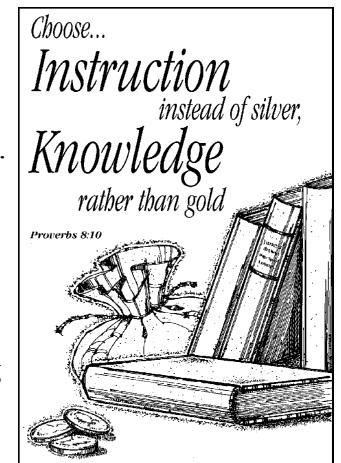
Sunday, May 17, at 3 pm - **The Yocum Institute for Arts Education - Two Pianos/ Eight Hands and Ballet Company**

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, at 11am - **Music Sunday featuring the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir, and Soloists**

Monday Adult Bible Study to Meet at New Time

From Pastor Dave McMillan

Our Monday Bible Study in the Library is now meeting from 11 am-Noon. We're currently reading and discussing the **Old Testament Book of Proverbs**. There we find ancient bits of wisdom like: *Pride comes before the fall, He who finds a wife finds what is good, gaining favor with the Lord, A joyful heart helps healing, but a broken spirit dries up the bones*. Many maxims in the *Book of Proverbs* bring you pause and force you to wrestle with their meaning and consider how to apply them to you own life. I hope you will come and join us as we feast upon God's Living Word.



Thinking Out Loud

From Pastor David McMillan

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.” - Luke 2:26

For as long as I can remember, my life has been filled with questions. There were questions I asked and was asked and those I carried around silently like a rough stone in my pocket, worn smooth over time.

**Live the questions now.
Perhaps then,
someday in the future,
you will gradually,
without even noticing it,
live your way into the answer.”**

– Rainer Maria Rilke

▫ *How did you get the holes at your knees?*

Mostly through attrition, I’ve become more comfortable with questions than with answers. In fact, I’ve become increasingly

skeptical of easy answers or simple solutions.

In *Jesus Is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and Three He Answered*, author Martin P. Copenhaver writes,

Easy answers can give us a sense of finality. By entertaining questions, God has a chance to change us. Answers can be offered as a conclusion. Questions are an invitation to further reflection. For the most part, answers close and questions open. It is telling that the word question contains the word “quest.”

That is, a question sends you on a journey and often in search of something valuable.

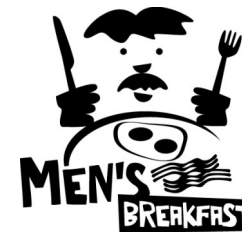
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From Pastor Dave McMillan

The Youth Group is for all youth, grades 7-12. We meet on Sunday afternoons for Bible discussions, activities, and outreach.

- On Sunday, **March 1, 4-5:30 pm**, we will meet for a Bible discussion on Social Media and games.
- On **March 8**, we’ll leave from the Church Office at 3 pm to go to Ozzie’s for an afternoon of fun. We’ll return by 5:30 pm.
- On **March 15**, we’ll meet at the church from 4-5:30 pm, for a biblical discussion on the role of government and games.
- And then, on **March 29**, we’ll meet at the church at 3 pm to go out for an afternoon of service for some of our at-home members. Come, join the fun, and bring a friend!



Men's Breakfast at Pastor Dave's March 28, 8:30 am

Come and join me at the parsonage for breakfast on Saturday, March 28, beginning at 8:30 am. My hope is that this will be an opportunity for all men, especially those who cannot join us on the first Wednesday of the month, to share a meal together and to talk about our lives and faith. You don’t have to bring anything, just yourself!

A reminder: All men are invited to breakfast at the Deluxe Diner on Old Lancaster Ave, Shillington, at 8 am, the first Wednesday of each month. After a brief Bible discussion, we break bread with generous hearts. Come and join us.

**LP Serves Dinner at
Opportunity House
Tuesday, May 5
Can You Help?**



Do You Enjoy Singing?

From Beverly Perella

I am genuinely worried!

Worried is a strong word, but it's the one that fits. I'm worried about the future of our Chancel Choir. I'm not worried about the dedication of our current members, of their commitment to weekly rehearsals and Sunday services, of their ability to learn and perform quality music. What I'm worried about is **the size** of the group.

Growing up at Faith United Methodist Church in northeast Reading, I learned about the strengths of other local Methodist churches — as in who was known for the largest youth group, the best facilities, the best music program. (Faith Church was known for its exquisite stained-glass windows.) And I discovered early on that Lincoln Park had an outstanding music program. So 10 years ago when I was given the opportunity to serve here, I was elated. And I still am!

But I do worry! Our choir members

feel guilty when they go on vacation, when they visit another church with family, when they are sick. They are deeply concerned that we might not be able to sing a certain anthem if they are

not present. This is an unfair burden to place on our dedicated church musicians.

God has given each of us special gifts. And to many more than the few members we have in the choir, He has indeed given the gift of music. No excuses accepted! If you have this gift, no matter how insignificant you feel it is, you need to share it with us! But you say, "I can't read

music." I teach. "I can't make every single rehearsal." I'll set aside special rehearsals for you. For every one of your concerns, I can find an answer! No excuses anymore, please. We need you. I do worry about our choir's future. And you should, too!

...THAT TOGETHER YOU MAY
WITH ONE VOICE GLORIFY
THE GOD AND FATHER OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.



Imperfection is the prerequisite for grace.

Light only gets in through the cracks.

—Philip Yancey

(Continued from page 4)

Truth be known, I've rarely felt very certain about anything. This isn't to say that I don't have my convictions or that I haven't done my homework on some of the larger questions of life like *Who am I?* and *What am I here for?* Still, when I've finally settled upon an informed opinion, if I'm challenged by new information, a new experience, or a persuasive argument, I often feel the need to return to the drawing board to start all over again.

Someone once said that *an unquestioned faith is no faith at all*. I believe



Jesus was forever asking his disciples and those who challenged his authority questions:

Who do you say that I am?
Who or what are you looking for?

What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul?

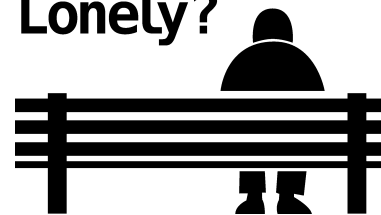
In asking, he sends us on a quest, a search for understanding of ourselves and others.

I feel that, if we stay the course, by the grace of God, we'll come to find that **learning to live with the questions** is more meaningful than **finding the answers**.

Join Us for a Small Group Experience: Loneliness

From Pastor Dave McMillan

Lonely?



None of us wants to admit we feel lonely, but national surveys tell us it is the number-one problem in America. For four Sunday afternoons we'll explore: how to recognize the various dimensions of loneliness, how to profit from facing loneliness, and how to embrace and help others, and yourself.

We'll meet **Sundays, March 15, 22, 29** and **April 12, from 1 -2 pm**, in the Church Library in Perkins Education Building. Everyone is welcome to bring a bag lunch.

Congregation Gathered February 7 to Discuss Future Possibilities for Lincoln Park Church

From Pastor David McMillan

At our first Congregational Meeting, on Saturday, February 7, we enjoyed a light breakfast, followed by a presentation on the cultural changes taking place in America today. These included the generational decline of political and civic participation. Along with these cultural trends has been a corresponding decline in church membership and worship attendance.

We then considered a model of the life-cycle of a church including its birth, incline, recline, decline, and eventual death. Included in this model is, of course, the possibility of church renewal.

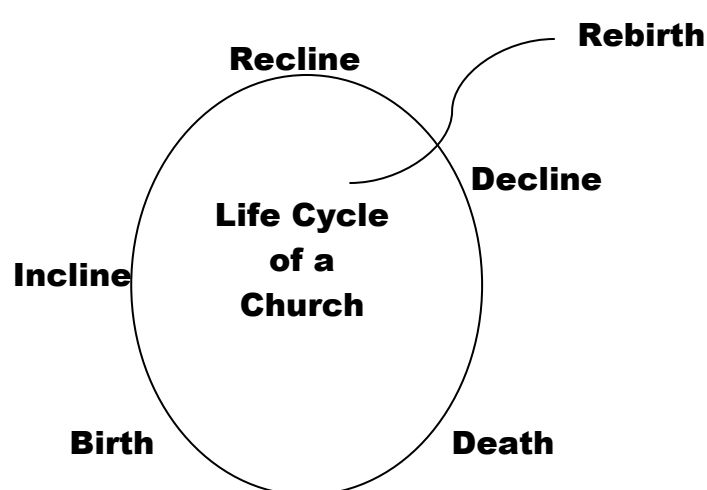
Those present at the meeting agreed that we, as a congregation are currently

in a state of decline.

Small groups met to discuss thoughts and suggestions. Several possible future scenarios were offered, including;

- merging with another Methodist Church, selling our building and moving to a new location,
- remaining and making changes that will hopefully secure a brighter future,
- or simply living graciously with one another as we slowly sink into the sunset.

With some consensus that we aren't ready yet to throw in the towel, participants were then asked to share ideas that could help the congregation grow.



What would you like to see happen at Lincoln Park? Come and join us on Saturday, March 14, and be part of planning for our future!

Join Us for a Second Congregational Meeting

Saturday, March 14, 9-11 am

From Pastor Dave McMillan



On Saturday, March 14, 9-11 am, we'll begin with a light breakfast and time of fellowship. Our agenda will include: re-capping our first congregational meeting, exploring God's will for us as a congregation here in Lincoln Park, discussing the characteristics of healthy congregations, and the difficult task of reaching young adults and the un-churched. A third congregational meeting will be scheduled for putting together an action plan for Lincoln Park Church.

My hope and prayer is that all friends and members of our congregation will be in attendance.

The Church In Our Hands

From John Ed Mathison, in *Tried and True, Eleven Principles of Church Growth*, from Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church

Recently I was walking down the hall on a Sunday morning and stopped by a children's Sunday School class. They had a little plastic church building that they used to collect their offering.

I was fascinated by the toy and picked it up to look at it. Very quickly one of the little boys said, "Be careful, you have our church in your hands." That statement both inspired and intimidated me. In a larger sense God has entrusted the church in our hands.

What an awesome opportunity!

