

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-1pm, Mon-Thurs Pastor: David McMillan, 610-670-1022
Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-603-0150
Worship Leaders: Becky Chadwick, Mark Villecco
Secretary: Marilyn Seiders
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*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania
Summer 2015*

Lincoln Park Presents...



From Beverly Perella
at its second annual **FAMILY MUSIC CAMP — *THE STAR FACTOR*** by Christy and Daniel Semsen — a musical for all ages! The setting is Camp Heart and Soul, a summer arts camp. There are clever story lines, humorous characters, and memorable songs! Leading us will be **Lindsey Villecco**, Director; **KC Dianna**, Choreographer; and **Beverly Perella**, Music Director.

Our music camp begins with a dinner, **Sunday evening, July 19, at 5 pm**, followed by a rehearsal from 6-7:30. Rehearsals are Monday – Thursday from 6-8.
Dress rehearsal is Friday, July 24, from 6-7, followed by a performance at 7:30.
There will be **one church service on Sunday, July 29 at 10 am**, featuring the musical ***The Star Factor***. Lunch will follow the service.

Last year 50-60 people helped in our production. They were actors, singers, dancers, babysitters, props personnel, snack servers, set designers/builders, costumers, AV technicians, and greeters. So, you see there's a position for YOU! Grandparents were singing next to grandkids, and church acquaintances became dear friends. Don't say *I Should*. Do it! We'll have pre-registration forms, but you can simply show up at 5 pm on July 19. This is one of our summer ministries. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us in the production. And don't forget to invite everyone to our two performances. This is a summer commitment you **will** want to make!



From Pastor David McMillan

On Sunday, July 5, we complete our sermon series *Jesus is the Question* with a message on *Questions About Who Jesus Is*. In the rest of July and first four Sundays of August, we'll look at God's secrets for nurturing healthy relationships. This new sermon series is inspired by Dr. Henry Cloud's book *The Secret Things of God: Unlocking Treasures Reserved for You*. Dr. Cloud writes:

We were not meant to be alone. And yet sometimes our behavior or attitudes push away the right kind of people or attract the wrong kind. We get stuck in relationship patterns and think we can't get out. But we can. When we activate God's secrets in our life, we will discover newfound confidence, deeper relationships, and the kind of fulfillment we long for.

On the last Sunday of August, we'll celebrate our 68th anniversary as a congregation with our Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula Conference United Methodist **Bishop Peggy Johnson**. I hope everyone will come out to celebrate another milestone in our life together.

July 5	<i>Jesus is the Question: Questions about Who Jesus Is</i> – Mark 8:27-30
July 12	<i>Do Unto Others... Nurturing Healthy Relationships</i> – Luke 6:31
July 19	<i>We Reap What We Sew: Nurturing Healthy Relationships</i> – Prov. 13:21
July 26	Summer Camp Musical (ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM)
August 2	Guest Preacher
August 9	<i>Don't Cast Your Pearls before Swine: Nurturing Healthy Relationships</i> Prov. 12:26
August 16	<i>Be Quick to Listen and Slow to Speak: Nurturing Healthy Relationships</i> John 1:19
August 23	<i>Be Angry, But Do Not Sin: Nurturing Healthy Relationships</i> Ephesians 4:26
August 30	Anniversary Sunday: Guest preacher U.M. Bishop Peggy Johnson (ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM)

➡ Please note: We will have only two combined services this summer: July 26, for our Family Musical, and August 30, for Anniversary Sunday. Fifth Sundays are no longer combined unless advertised.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



August 15
for our
September-
October issue

From our mailbox...

♥ Dear Lincoln Park family,
Thank you so much for the gift you gave me for my high school graduation. I appreciate the thought; I thank you for always being here for me. I am thankful for my Lincoln Park family every day of my life.

Sincerely, Parker Chadwick

♥ Thanks to all who prepared food and helped serve dinner at Opportunity House on May 5. It was much appreciated!

♥ Dear Friends, Thank you for the wonderful delivery of groceries. Each donation is a blessing to us. We are glad for all our friends who help us feed the hungry.

New Journey UMC Food Ministry

LP Serves Dinner at
Opportunity House
Tuesday, July 7
Can You Help?



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, Elaine Meckes, Mark Villecco

Birth

Congratulations to **Grant and Nicole Garrity** on the birth of their daughter **Ainsley Jane**, on May 25. Her proud grandparents are **Harry and Gretchen Garrity**.



Anniversaries

Congratulations to **Loreen and Dave Miller** who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a dinner given by their family. They were married on April 24, 1965, in St. Matthew's E.U.B. Church, 18th & Cotton Sts, Reading, by the Rev. Paul F. Rock II. Loreen and Dave have two children, Richard Miller and Donna Pitkoff, and three grandchildren, Brodie Miller, Corrine Miller, and Benjamin Pitkoff.

Congratulations, also, to **Ron and Susie Woessner**, who celebrated their 50th anniversary recently.

What Constitutes Growth?

From Jeff Japinga, submitted by Nancy Villecco
From the *Daily Guideposts* 2015 Edition, p. 205-6 (May 17, 2015)

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord...
to give you a future with hope. ~ Jeremiah 29:11 (NSRV)*

In North America, the majority of churches don't have as many members as they did 10, 20, or 50 years ago. Some experts say there's no hope for the church.

My friend Bill is not one of them. Pastor of one of those small-and-getting-smaller churches in the Midwest, he never seems discouraged about that reality. So one day I asked him, "How do you stay so positive when your membership keeps shrinking? Aren't you afraid you'll close?"

Bill smiled. "I don't know what you're talking about. We're not shrinking. We're growing- up 10 % from last year." "Can't be," I said. "I've seen your membership numbers. Down every year for the last 10."

"You count members," Bill said, "but we count 'touches.' Anytime anyone in our church does something for someone else in the name of Jesus, that's a touch: a card sent, a phone call made, a meal delivered, a donation to the food pantry. And, our goal is to increase touches. In the five years that we've counted this way, we've grown every year."

Bill's wisdom has changed the way I live my life. My initial goal was one touch per day; too small. Now it's five. And here's what I've discovered: When my touches grow in number, I grow in faith.

Show me, God where I can
bring Your hope and love to
someone else today.



We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to family and friends of **Virginia Buechley**, who passed away on May 16, and our heartfelt sympathy to **Catherine Eyrich** and her family on the loss of her husband, **Kenneth Eyrich**, on June 21.

Our sympathy and Christian love to our former Pastor, **The Rev. Larry Carl** and his wife **Brenda** on the loss of **Brenda's** mother in May.



Come to Worship and Enjoy Our Summer Mini-Concerts



From Beverly Perella

July 5
July 12
July 19
July 26

Dorinne Bilger, Piano
Jim Spangler, Trumpet
Robin Lilarose, Flute
One 10 am service, featuring our
Family Music Camp Musical,
The Star Factor; lunch afterward for all.
Doug Holder and **Bev Perella**,
Organ/Piano Duets

August 2

Annual Stewardship Campaign Begins September 13

From Pastor Dave McMillan

Our annual Stewardship emphasis will run from Sunday, September 13, until Sunday, October 4, **COMMITMENT SUNDAY**, when everyone in our congregation is invited to make a financial faith pledge for the coming year 2016.

This year's emphasis will look at stewarding our church for Christ through Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity.

**LP Serves Dinner at
Opportunity House
Tuesday, July 7
Can You Help?**



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

Jesus Is the Question

You have heard that it was said, ... But I say to you ... — Matthew 5: 27, 28

A beloved seminary professor was teaching his last class before retiring. As he finished his lecture, his students stood and applauded the man they had come to admire and trust. Waving gratefully, he made his way to the door. But before exiting, he raised his hand, motioning for one last word. “Remember,” he said. “Jesus is the question to all your answers.”

Through reading, thought, and prayer, Jesus reveals himself to me in ways which question my own answers and assumptions. When I look at places like Ferguson, Baltimore, or New York City, and at the racial tensions still existing, my answer is that racial harmony is beyond us. Then Jesus’ story of the Good Samaritan refusing to pass by the Jew who lies beaten and left for dead — reminds me of “who is my neighbor.”

When I despair over the tragedy and loss of life perpetrated in the name of God — or Allah, or Skanda, the Hindu god of war, or Asura the god of war of the Buddhist — my answer is: *How will anyone ever come to understand God as love?* Then I think of Jesus’ tortured

body, hear him loudly declare from the cross: “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do,” and I have hope that even religious extremists will know the love of God.

When I’ve suffered moral failures, wandering from God into some distant country, my answer is that I am beyond reach. Then, Jesus reminds me of a prodigal son, who leaves his father’s house, squandering his inheritance in riotous, dissolute living. When he comes to his senses, he returns, expecting to be received as a hired hand. But, his father meets and embraces him — calling to his servants for his finest robe, ring, and sandals for him. For this son of his was lost, but was now found. He was dead, but is now alive again.

You and I are forever arriving at answers for ourselves that hold out no hope for a future. But Jesus comes to us again and again “questioning our answers and assumptions,” and setting our feet once again upon the way that leads to life. Thank God, Jesus is “the question to all our answers.”

Je·sus (jē'zəs)
The Way.
The Truth.
The Life.

Diapering Babies in the Reading Area

From Kathy Avedissian, Missions Committee



Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to our recent **BASICS FOR BABIES** collection. Our church collected 18 canisters of formula, 12 packages of diapers, 16 packs of baby wipes, 39 containers of baby food, eight boxes of cereal, as well as 18 bottles of shampoo, lotion, and washes. All items were delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution to needy families. Thank you for helping many little ones and their families in our area!

In Sympathy

From Loreen Miller

The Rev. Colin Brown, 80, of Bridgnorth, England, passed away February 28. He and his wife Ann served Lincoln Park Church in the summer of 1994, during a pulpit exchange with **The Rev. Jack and Nancy Buttimer**, who served in England.

Pastor Brown suffered from a debilitating disease in recent years. He and Ann recalled their time here with great fondness. If you remember the Browns, and would like to send a card to Ann, her address is: Ann Brown, 11, East Castle St, Bridgnorth WV164AL, Shropshire, United Kingdom. (Postage is currently \$1.15.)

(Continued from page 5)

- † creating a position that will coordinate church ministries and train and mentor volunteers
- † enhancing our congregation’s financial support for the needs of the local community
- † reorganizing structurally where necessary to address needs
- † and making more effective use of advertising and getting our name out in the community.

By the time you read this edition of *News-Linc*, these suggestions will have been presented to the Administrative Council for approval. If approved, the Administrative Council will be responsible for implementing these recommendations over an acceptable time frame and with evaluating their effectiveness.

In the Bible, we are told that “a people without a vision will perish.” Our vision and mission remains “to seek and share Christ.” Our re-visioning process is our attempt to flesh out this mission statement with the hope of bearing new fruit.

Lincoln Park Graduates Are Awesome!

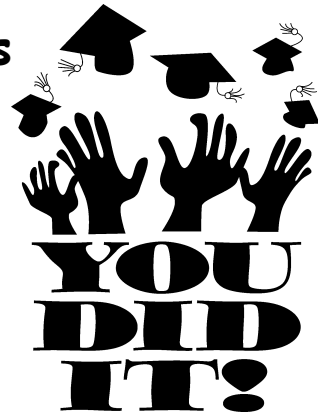
From Cheri Fallon

Parker Chadwick...

graduated from The Janus School in Mt. Joy, PA. Parker is the son of Rebecca and William Chadwick. He received the Leadership Award, Janus's top award. Parker had a very exciting Senior year! He was Student Council President, a leader in the Outdoor Club, and a top bowler on the Bowling Team. Parker also achieved the rank of Eagle in Boy Scouts. Having received a Dean's scholarship, Parker will attend Unity College in Unity, Maine, beginning August 2, where he plans to major in Wild Life Biology. Congratulations, Parker!

Hannah McMillan...

daughter of Pastor David McMillan, graduated on June 3 from Berks Catholic HS. She will attend Bryn Mawr College, beginning August 26, to major in Economics. Hannah was made *Berks Best* for languages, nominated by her Spanish teacher. She has just returned from a trip to Spain with her Spanish class. She was a member of National Honor Society, in school musicals, and the Spanish Club. She also did service projects with Olivet Boys' and Girls' Club and the Soup Kitchen. If you go to the Arbor Inn this summer,



you might be waited on by Hannah, who works there for her uncle. Be sure to leave a nice tip!

Rebecca Chelius...

recently graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education (Middle School Math & Science). She has studied for five years, the first two at Reading Area Community College and the last three at Alvernia. She is the husband of **Chad**, mother of **Gabe**, 15, and **Clair**, 12, and the daughter of **Jan Ferree**. One reason Becky has chosen teaching, Chad says, is "because she liked the idea that she'd have an impact."

Other graduates from our church are:

Grace Deibler, Johanna Gaylor, Daniel Kostival, and Katie Osika.

We hope to tell you about them in our September issue. If you know of another graduate, please email me, cherifallon@comcast.net, or leave information about them in the *News-Linc* mailbox in our Church Office.

Congregational Renewal

From Pastor Dave McMillan

Over the past several months, our congregation has been going through a re-visioning process in light of our declining membership and attendance. Aware of our aging demographic, we recognize that there are still a few options open to us.

- We could choose to continue our current course and live gratefully and gracefully, accepting that every congregation has a life-cycle which naturally ends (an end which still appears several years off) with closing its doors.
- We could choose to merge with another local congregation and combine our gifts and resources. We could choose to relocate to a new area where there are fewer churches.
- Or, we could choose to revision and repurpose ourselves in an effort to deepen our faith and reach out to invite others into our fold.

Those who attended the first congregational meeting made it clear that **WE WANT TO FIND A WAY TO REMAIN A VITAL GROWING CONGREGATION HERE AT LINCOLN PARK**. To this end, we followed up with two additional congregational meetings for input and, with the help of a priority team, have arrived at suggestions for reviving our shared life. They include:

- † Improving our ability to "invite" others to worship with us, establishing a permanent "hospitality" area
- † reinstituting the "first friends" ministry for those who express interest in joining our church
- † adding a new staff person to administrate and improve our Christian education program for children and youth
- † developing a small group ministry meeting both inside and outside the church
- † conducting discussions with young adults in an effort to establish ministries that address their needs
- † providing a mentoring program for new emerging church leaders,
- † identifying our unique "niche" as a congregation, providing a narrower focus to our outreach ministries



(Continued on page 9)

