

Lincoln Park Family Christmas Party

Sunday, December 13, from 5-7 pm

From Beverly Perella

“Are you crazy?,” might be your first thought. “There’s only one more Sunday until Christmas!”

Yes, I know, and that’s why our Youth Group and Potter’s Wheel Class are offering you these two short, precious hours to de-stress and relax as our church family prepares for the birth of Christ. And, dinner will be prepared for you. There is no food to cook, only food to enjoy!

We’ll begin the evening wrapping books for three Reading School District elementary classes taught by **Karen Osika, KC Dianna, Jen Born, and Alyssa**



Chandler. Word has it that Santa will be present again for pictures. Wonder if Rudolph might join him? The children will be able to select presents for their parents, and you’ll have the opportunity to reach out to our shut-ins by writing a Christmas card. But perhaps most important is that we’ll be supporting Mary’s Shelter and Mary’s House, and New Journey Community Outreach.

Mary’s Shelter and Mary’s House“ provide housing and social services to pregnant young women who need a supportive environment because of lack of suitable housing or favorable family relationships.”

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From Pastor David McMillan

In November, we continue our sermon series *Transformed: How God Changes Us* based on a sermon series by Rick Warren of Saddleback Church in California. In this series we learn how to be transformed through the renewing of our minds, leading to changes in how we see and order our world as disciples of Christ.

During December, we prepare for and welcome our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who is Emmanuel: God with us. Come and worship, surrendering all that holds you back from the freedom and love God is ever coming to bring to us and our world!

Nov. 1	<i>Transformed in My Mental Health (All Saints Day)</i>	Philippians 4:8
Nov. 8	<i>Transformed in My Emotional Health</i>	Mark 12:29,30
Nov. 15	<i>Transformed in My Relational Health</i>	I Peter 4:8
Nov. 22	<i>Transformed in My Financial Health</i>	Proverbs 3:9
Nov. 29	<i>Transformed in My Vocational Health</i>	Colossians 3:23
Dec. 6	<i>Preparing the Way</i>	Matthew 3:1-12
Dec. 13	ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA (Late Service)	Luke 1:47-55
Dec. 17	VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE (8 pm)	
Dec. 20	Emmanuel: God with US	Matthew 1:18-25
Dec. 25	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES (7 and 10 pm)	
Dec. 27	LOVE FEAST, CAROL SING & WESLEYAN COVENANT	

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-Line* in the mail, just notify our secretary. Please join in at Lincoln Park!



Fall Silent Auction

From Beverly Perella

Sundays: November 1, 8, 15

This year it will truly be a silent, anonymous auction as bids will be placed by numbers. (Each bidder will be given a number and will place that number on the bid sheet.) This way you won't feel bad bidding against a friend because you won't know who has which number. Successful bidders will be announced on Nov 15 at 12:30, following the late service.

You may pay in cash or check. Look for new surprises and old favorites, including the Meckes's chocolate!

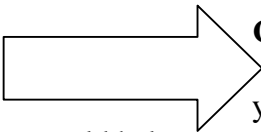


From Beverly Perella

Christmas Cantata – Sunday, December 13, at 11 am, features the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir, soloists, instrumentalists, and narrators in a performance of Lloyd Larson's *Were You There on that Christmas Night?*

Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE at 7 pm- The children will present a nativity musical, *The First Christmas* by Teresa Jennings and Karl Hitzemann . **Lindsey Villecco** portrays a Sunday School teacher who tells the Christmas story in poetry and song with the help of the children. There will be an accompanying video of our own LP children acting out the Bible story of Christ's birth.

 **CHANCEL CHOIR** is still looking and listening for new members! Are you still "burying" that gift of music? Perhaps you can't commit to a weekly rehearsal and service, but you could help out for the Christmas Concert and/or Christmas Eve. There's nothing to fear about our rehearsals unless you don't like to laugh! And don't worry, we have enough choir robes for an army. Please talk to Beverly.

Thinking Out Loud

From Pastor David McMillan

Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. —Romans 12:2

During our recent annual Charge Conference with District Superintendent, Dr. Anita Powell, I had the opportunity to share some highlights of our past year at Lincoln Park, which I'd like to summarize for you.

First, in 2015, as a congregation, we faced the **reality of decreasing membership and worship attendance and an aging congregation.** We had three congregational meetings to consider revitalizing our shared life and mission. As a result, we came up with 14 recommendations, which were approved by the Church Council to be implemented over 2015 and 2016. (If you'd like a copy, please call the Church Office.)

Of all our recommendations, our second highest priority was the **hiring of staff to oversee our Children and Youth Ministries.** Fortunately, **this priority was recently met through the hiring of a Children's Ministry Coordinator, Bev Perella, and Youth Pastor, Kyle Robbins.** Bev has stepped up to lead our children's ministry through June of 2016. Kyle, a recent graduate of

Eastern University, is now beginning what will hopefully be a long, fruitful ministry with our youth. Both these programs help us fulfill our mission of *making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*



This year, our **early worship service began to include a breakfast on the fourth Sunday of every month.** This informal setting and sharing of a meal has provided a chance to get to know one another and to talk openly about faith. **The Praise Team also started offering an informal service every third Thursday of the month at 8 pm.** While they have been lightly attended, those of us who do come have found them meaningful.

While a New Member Class was not held in 2015, **we have a number of new faces, over 15 people, who are now worshipping with us on a regular basis.** Several have become active in our congregation: playing in the Praise Band, singing in the choir, attending Bible studies, helping with Opportunity

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House and Sunday School. **A New Members Class will be offered in the coming year.**

On Wednesday, October 7, we began a Confirmation Class that includes 11 youth. Seven of these youth recently attended a Confirmation Retreat at Gretna Glen United Methodist Camp. Parents and mentors will be a part of the process as our Confirmands prepare to claim their faith in Christ as their own.

Our congregation is faithful in paying our full apportionment to the United Methodist Church and in our continued outreach to local ministries, including:

- serving two meals a month at the New Journey Soup Kitchen,
- preparing and serving bi-monthly meals for Opportunity House, (an inner city shelter for men, women and children)
- and preparing soup for the Governor Mifflin Food Pantry.

There is also:

- our annual Food Drive for the New Journey Food Pantry,
- Angel Tree project with the Salvation Army, purchasing Christmas gifts for poor families,
- our Children's Shoebox Collection,
- a workday with Habitat for Humanity and
- ongoing clothing collection for the New Journey Clothing Closet.

We have a very generous congrega-

tion who faithfully step up to fund the ongoing life and ministries of our church. For the past three years, our income has exceeded expenses, and sizable gifts have been received for new ministry initiatives and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help needy individuals and families inside and outside our congregation.

I'm grateful and amused at our **ongoing Monday morning exercise class: grateful for the women who have found a place to take care of themselves physically, but who have also found a place to build friendships.**

I'm amused every time I see them heading out the church driveway for their morning walk around our community. We'll have to order them Lincoln Park UMC tee shirts and capitalize on their exercising.

Lastly is our common life. While times are hard in the local church with declining memberships, **we remain faithful in our common life and mission, including our care of one another.** I overhear various stories of members ministering to other members through cards, meals, visits, gifts and presence. I witness our care for one another in members attending funerals of other members and serving one another on committees or as ushers, or in the choir or praise band.

We have much to celebrate here as together we faithfully and joyfully live out our mission to seek and to share Christ.

Eleven Youth Prepare To Claim their Faith

From Pastor Dave McMillan
e are fortunate to have 11 young people participating in this year's Confirmation Class. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they prepare to claim their faith in Christ as their own. This year's class includes:



Daniel Antunes...

is in 6th grade at Wilson Southern Middle School, has an older brother Philip and loves girls and karate!

Benjamin Born...

lives in Lincoln Park and is a 6th grader at Wilson Southern Middle School. He has a sister Emily and two dogs, Lulu and Sparky. He enjoys reading.

Emily Born...

is Ben's twin and also a 6th grader at Wilson Southern. She plays the flute and enjoys singing in a chorus.

Kara Brown...

is a 6th grader at Wilson West Middle School. She has a dog and a fish and enjoys playing basketball and soccer.

Emma Chandler...

is a 6th grader at Governor Mifflin Intermediate School. She has two cats and a dog and enjoys playing the violin, swimming, cooking and reading.

Meigin Chandler...

is Emma's older sister and an 8th grader at Governor Mifflin Middle School. She loves riding horses and running.

Claire Chelius...

is a 7th grader at Governor Mifflin Middle School. She has a black lab, three cats, and five fish. She enjoys snowboarding, skateboarding, surfing, and taking pictures!

Adam Gehr...

is a 6th grader at Wilson West Middle School. He enjoys baseball, bowling and homework!

Devin Krick...

is an 8th grader at Wilson Southern Middle School. She has a dog, two cats and two goats! She is a member of NJHS Yearbook Club and enjoys car racing and country music!

Jordon Krick...

is Devin's older twin and also an 8th grade student at Wilson Southern. Jordon enjoys cutting grass, bowling, and feeding his chickens.

William Lamm...

is a 7th grader at Conrad Weiser Middle School. He has a dog, rabbits, chickens, a cat, and fish. He enjoys playing baseball, taking pictures, and playing outdoors!

New Youth Leader Hired; Bev Perella Takes On a New Role

From Linda Lee, Staff-Parish Relations Chair

Please welcome **Kyle Robbins** to our staff as Youth Director. He comes to Lincoln Park as a new graduate of Eastern University, majoring in Youth Ministries with a minor in Biblical Studies and Theology. He joins the staff of Lincoln Park on a part-time basis.

We're also happy to have our very own **Beverly Perella** assume Coordinator of Children's Ministry. Bev gra-



ciously stepped up and is expanding Potter's Wheel (expanded session for children grades 1 - 6). She met with a group of mothers and will use the curriculum from Potter's Wheel through the 10 am hour for Sunday school. She is coordinating teams of volunteers to present material she develops.

We welcome Kyle and are excited for our children as Beverly kicks off



November 1, 6-8 pm — First Youth Group meeting with new leader, **Kyle Robbins**

November 15, 6-8 pm — Meeting for Parents, youth and Potter's Wheel Kids **DINNER PROVIDED.**

November 20 ALL NIGHT

YOUTH GATHERING in Hershey! Leave church at 5:30 pm.

November 29, 6-8 pm — Youth Group meeting

Youth Sunday School (10:10-10:50 am in the Youth Room) and our United Methodist Youth Group is for Grades 6-12. Please join us!



Angel Tree Gifts Bring Joy

From Jim Eckert

We'll be setting up our Angel Tree soon after Thanksgiving, so we can help families in need enjoy Christmas, through the Salvation Army's Adopt-a-Family Program. Last year we gave gifts for three families, by shopping for requests that adorn the tree. For the most part, the tags are for daily needs items such as winter clothing, boots, simple toys or crafts for children, and household items. Gift cards to Giant and Wal-Mart have also been purchased through your donations. Your generosity makes Christmas a bit better for those whose needs are so great. Thank you!

We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to family and friends of four Lincoln Park members who passed away in recent months.

Rose Hare, widow of **Clyde**, passed on August 29. She was active at Lincoln Park as Sunday School Superintendent, in Ladies' Aid, Heart & Hand, and on the Administrative Board. Rose enjoyed knitting and made many hats and mittens for underprivileged children.

Mary Gundy, 94, died on August 29. The widow of **Sam**, Mary taught physical education and later was Program Director for the YWCA in Reading. Mary hardly ever missed a Phillies or Penn State game. She sang in the choir at Lincoln Park.

Mary Griffiths, who died on September 12, was active in community affairs, historical societies, and was her college (Western Maryland) alumni association president. She and husband Bill were seasonal residents at Vero Beach, FL. Mary had a close, loving step-family.

Ronald Thompson, husband of **Albina**, passed away on October 4. He was a Navy veteran who loved to travel and golf. He had nine children, 23 grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren!



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Although these charities need a variety of supplies, we'll focus on baby items. As your entrance ticket to our party, we ask you to bring new items from the following list: Similac formula, diapers of all sizes, bottles, onesies in all sizes, baby wash, shampoo, lotion (but no oil or powder, please), baby wipes, blankets, crib sheets, baby books, toys, and clothing.

Following dinner we'll have a bit of entertainment. And you'll be leaving for home at 7. Let's see if we can break last year's attendance. That was 90. Can we go for at least 100?

Operation Christmas Child The Power of a Simple Gift

From Jim Eckert

It's time to fill a shoe box again! Since 2002, generous participants at our church have filled **nearly 1000** boxes with small gifts for children, many of whom have never before received a gift. Check in the



Wagner Room for brochures explaining the ministry, the suggested gifts, and instructions for preparing the box.

Even non-shoppers like myself have found this to be fun and rewarding. Some boxes will be provided in the Wagner Room. Note that a plastic container may be substituted for a shoe box. Please, also bring in empty shoe boxes for others to use if you have extras.

This ministry not only provides 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 22.**

"It's So We Get More Light."

From Sabra Ciancanelli, in the *Daily Guideposts* 2014 Edition, p. 464-6 (Nov 3)

Submitted by Nancy Villecco

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Yesterday, as I went around the house changing clocks for Daylight Saving Time, I explained to my youngest, Henry, the story behind why we do it, how it began. "We lost an hour as we slept," I said.

Henry watched as I clicked the digits on the oven and microwave, moved the hour hand on the wall clock in the mudroom. He followed me upstairs as I changed the alarm clocks in the bedrooms.

"But, Mom, what time is it really?" Henry asked. "What do you mean we lost an hour? Where does it go?"

I tried to explain the history of daylight saving and how it makes the most of natural light. "By changing the clocks, we use less electricity."

"You just delete an hour?" Henry looked at me with a mixture of disbe-

lief and intrigue as if I'd told him I made the sun rise.

"Well, we lose an hour on the clock, but we gain an hour of daylight," I said.

"Oh, Mom, I think I understand. It's so we get more light. Why didn't you say so in the first place?" *So we get more light*, I said to myself. It's no wonder light appears more than 200 times in the Bible.




Light represents the presence of God. Light gives us comfort and understanding. We strive to walk in God's light. Wouldn't it be great if each of us would use each day to set our spirit for more light?

Dear Lord,

Thank You for being the Source that brightens my life and the lives of those around me.



"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving."



From
Betsy Buchanan

ORDER YOUR Poinsettias You can help decorate our church and 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 6. Questions? Call **Betsy Buchanan**, 610-777-2501, or the Church Office, 610-777-1422.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



December 30
for our
Winter Issue
(Mid Jan- Feb)

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,

From our mailbox...

♥ Dear Lincoln Park Congregation,
Thank you for your donation of \$107 from VBS for the client families of the Mifflin Community Food Ministry. We use all gifts of time, money, food, and paper products to serve God and the families in need in our area. The Food Ministry is open the 3rd Sat. of every month at Zion EC Church, Mohnton, 9-11 am.

Sincerely yours,
Janet Reese, Secretary

♥ Thank you to all who prepared food and helped serve dinner at Opportunity House on September 1.

John Moul, Volunteer Coordinator

♥ Dear Friends,
Thank you for the groceries and money. We are glad for all our friends who help us feed the hungry.

New Journey UMC Food Ministry

♥ A big thank you for allowing us to borrow the clothing racks. Our garage sale was a huge success. Please use this check for the music program.

Ginny and Nels Freyling

Change of Address

Travis Celmer
6 Old Fritztown Rd
Shillington PA 19607-1110

Ms Connie Deal
518 Albert Dr
Sinking Spring PA 19608

Ms Bronwyn Graeffe
318 Laurie Ln
Lititz PA 17543-8132

Mr & Mrs Christopher Johnson
2462 Carriage Dr
Lancaster PA 17601

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

—William Arthur Ward

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
Worship Leaders: Becky Chadwick, Mark Villocco
Secretary: Marilyn Seiders
Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735, cherfallon@comcast.net
Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Kris Fedeli

Office phone 610-777-1422; 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.