

# News-Line

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

*January, February 2016*

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## **Wanted: Young Adults For a Dinner Meeting** **Sunday, January 31** **5:30-7:30 pm, Babysitting Provided!**

Many of us participated in our 2015 congregational meetings where ideas for renewing and revitalizing Lincoln Park Church were suggested. The formation of a young adult ministry was high on the list of priorities from these discussions.

Because I happen to love young adults (especially the ones who are my own) and because I also happen to love our church, I jumped at the chance to work toward the formation of a vital young adult ministry at Lincoln Park.

So what we plan to do now is **BEGIN** with a **DINNER MEETING** of as many young adults as we can gather ... to enjoy other adults in the same stage of life, but also to discuss what they might want from a young adults ministry at Lincoln Park Church.

So, please, if you'd like to attend, RSVP to [cherfallon@comcast.net](mailto:cherfallon@comcast.net), or 610-678-8735. Hope to see you in Memorial Hall on January 31.



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

To join a New Members Class at Lincoln Park Church, check out the schedule of classes on p. 3. We'd love to have you join us!



From Pastor David McMillan

Although it is beyond our comprehension, we often call upon our imagination to convey how we understand and experience God's presence in our lives. We say that God, for us, is like a *Shepherd*, or a *King*, or our *Refuge and Strength*. The Bible contains hundreds, if not thousands, of images for God, but we fix on only a few.

In this sermon series, based on a book by Episcopal Priest and author, Lauren Werner, we'll consider ways in which we meet God that are in the Bible, but often overlooked. This is no small matter. As we increase the number of ways that we imagine God, if we consider and select our images wisely, we may find ourselves meeting God more often and, in turn, have our lives transformed in ways we've never imagined?

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|-------------|--|
| January 10  | <i>Wearing God: Clothing</i> - Galatians 3:23-27; Romans 13:14; Col. 3:10, 12-14 |
| January 17  | <i>Wearing God: Smell</i> - 2 Corinthians 2:14-17; John 12:1-8                   |
| January 24  | <i>Wearing God: God as Laboring Woman</i> - Genesis 3:16; Isaiah 42:14;          |
| January 31  | Guest Preacher   |
| February 7  | <i>Wearing God: Bread &amp; Vine</i> - Psalm 34:8; John 6:41-51; Matthew 26:6-7  |
| February 10 | <b>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7 PM</b>  |
| February 14 | <b>CONFIRMATION (ONE SERVICE 10 AM)</b>  |
|             | <i>Wearing God: Fire</i> - Acts 2:1-4  |
| February 21 | <i>Learning to Walk in the Dark: Who's Afraid of the Dark</i> – Psalm 139        |
| February 28 | <i>Learning to Walk in the Dark: The Fear of the Lord</i> – Deuteronomy 4:9-14   |

**Worshipping as a community makes us accountable to one another,  
supporting one another and growing together,  
as we clothe ourselves in Christ and compassion.**

**Continued Prayers for Beverly Perella,  
our Music Director and Children's Coordinator**

From Pastor David McMillan

Please remember to keep Bev in your prayers as she recovers from her knee replacement surgery. There's a good chance that she'll be out until mid-February. Prayers for a full recovery and for many more years of leading our congregation in music, song, and education.



From Pastor Dave McMillan

On **Sunday, February 14**, during our **ONLY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM**, we will celebrate The Rite of Confirmation. All 13 of our Confirmands - **Daniel Antunes, Ben and Emily Born, Kara Brown, Emma and Meigin Chandler, Claire Chelius, Adam Gehr, Jack and Lucas Gensemer, Devon and Jordan Krick, and William Lamm** will accept for themselves and confirm the Christian faith into which they were baptized. Please continue to pray for our Confirmands and plan to be a part of this exciting celebration in the life of our church.

**New Members Class Begins February 28**

From Pastor Dave McMillan

For those interested, there will be a New Members Class February 28, March 6, and 13, from 6-8 pm, at the parsonage, 50 East Court Boulevard, West Lawn. I'm happy to arrange car rides for anyone interested in attending. We'll begin with a meal together, followed by conversations about Christian discipleship, Methodism, and our local church. Those who choose to join as members will be received into the church during morning worship on **Sunday, March 20**. If you're interested in attending, please contact me at 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

*Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. Psalm 19:2*

Where my fear of the dark originated is hard to say. Maybe, rather than learned, it's simply instinctual, but I'm not convinced.

Sleeping alone was regarded by my sisters, who *shared* a bedroom, as a privilege or luxury. They didn't realize that sleeping alone can lead you to believe that you're really not alone at all. Many unsavory creatures are under your bed or in your closet at night (especially after an episode of *The Twilight Zone*.)

My nightly battle with darkness progressed from a full surrender to my parents' bedroom, to sleeping with a night light and then with my door cracked open, a baseball bat between my mattress and bed frame. It was still there when my parents moved in 1995.

At night, our basement was also a place of great foreboding. Sounds emanated from our cellar, especially when my parents weren't home. As a boy I remember standing at the top step, peering down into the dark abyss, then switching on the

light and racing down and back up the steps to retrieve what I needed...just ahead of the grasp of whatever was down there! I took great pleasure in turning off the light in the basement when my younger sister was down there, listening to her ungodly scream!

Darkness outside was not as troubling for some reason. In our well-lit neighborhood with its street lights and lamp posts, my friends and I used the cover of darkness to play *flashlight tag* or *capture the flag* and spent many nights chasing fireflies. Still, I was grateful to be able to turn on the back light when I took out the trash at night, and, when out of the reach of that light, grateful returning to its safety. But, why was I so afraid of the dark?

I recently finished a book by Episcopal priest and author, Barbara Brown Taylor, entitled *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. In it, she talks about the bad rap that "darkness" gets. She reminds us that God created the light and the darkness and said that both were "good." Still, even

*(Continued on page 5)*

*"There are some things  
we will learn in the dark  
that we will never learn  
in the light."*

(Continued from page 4)

the Bible itself and the Church appear to equate darkness with everything bad and undesirable and light with everything pleasing and good.

Unfortunately, writes Taylor, this division of light and darkness can leave us spiritually at a loss when we're living through periods of darkness, including "caring for aging parents, attending the funerals of people we love, coping with economic crisis, seeing ice caps melt, and watching churches close."

Many churches, she writes, "market faith in God as protection from every kind of darkness. *Walk as a child of the light*, the advertisement reads, *and all your nights will be as bright as day*. But what do these advertisements do for those for whom darkness is an everyday reality."

Not long ago, I met with a group of fellow pastors. One pastor-acquaintance shared that he and his wife were exhausted from caring for their adult daughter who'd been an invalid for eight years after being struck by lightning while standing on their front porch. And, he told how they grieved for their 22-year-old son who'd become addicted to

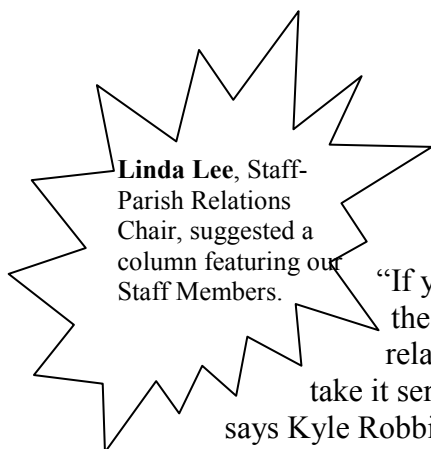
heroin, his whereabouts unknown to them for over a month.

Instead of denying or creating zones of safety against darkness, which only fail time and again, instead of trying to defend ourselves against dark nights, dark thoughts, and dark emotions, Taylor suggests, we should help each other to learn to walk in the dark. "The problem has far less to do with *what is really out there*," she writes, "than it does with our resistance to *finding what is really out there*."



Learning to walk in the dark begins by being willing to stay in the dark for a moment before having to turn on the light and increasing those moments as we are able. Learning to walk in the dark entails asking ourselves when we have felt this way before, what is it that we are afraid of, and what our mind is telling us to do about it. Learning to walk in the dark entails finding those things we need to stay there and recognizing that there are some things we will learn in the dark that we will never learn in the light.

Learning to walk in the dark can allow us to take back our faith. It can allow us to accept that we are both spirit *and* flesh, accept the presence *and* apparent absence of God, accept our faith *and* our doubts. Then, we will learn to live a life which blesses both the day and the night.



Linda Lee, Staff Parish Relations Chair, suggested a column featuring our Staff Members.

“If you have the gift to relate to kids, take it seriously,” says Kyle Robbins, our

newest staff member.

Not too many years ago Kyle was considering a degree in Real Estate. His goal was to flip houses for a living and eventually own a Real Estate firm. Instead, Kyle’s association in his senior year of high school with his own Youth Pastor, Judy Husted, became a life-changer. Her passion for working with youth affected Kyle, and his career plans changed tracks.

So Kyle went to Eastern University in 2011 and received his BA in Youth Ministry in 2015. Through his college years, Kyle worked as an Intern and volunteer at Hope Community Church. He also was the Director of Summer Programming and a camp counselor at Camp Ichthus, where there was much opportunity for leading and guiding youth.

In his few months at Lincoln Park, Kyle’s been leading our enthusiastic youth group and teaching the Youth Sunday School Class. He’s well liked and an asset to our program. When you talk with Kyle, you can tell: It’s a job and a joy for him — taking our youth seriously.

## Meet Our New Youth Pastor, Kyle Robbins

From Cheri Fallon

### Some Little-Known Facts about Kyle

- ☺ He worked at Chick-Fil-A for more than two years.
- ☺ He was Captain of the Eastern Exiles Ultimate Frisbee Team. (You might want to ask Kyle about this!)
- ☺ He’s engaged to marry the lovely Chelsea Bateman, on August 20.

### Some Quotes from Kyle

- *We can’t just watch them (our youth), we have to help them grow in depth in their own spiritual lives.*
- *Kids don’t care about what I know until I show them that I care.*
- *There’s a lot that tries to steal the attention of our youth, says Kyle (for example video games, peer pressure.) We need to be loving and invested in them.*



From Kyle Robbins,  
Youth Pastor

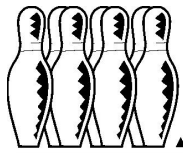
**Youth Sunday School** —10:10-10:50 am  
in the Youth Room  
**United Methodist Youth Group**  
for Grades 6-12.  
**Please join us!**

**January 30-31**

**YOUTH WINTER BLAST RETREAT** at  
Mt. Gretna Glen Camp Center. Cost is \$50.

**February 7 Souper-Bowl Sunday**

The congregation is asked to bring canned foods, and all proceeds will go to New



**February 12 Bowling**

6 pm. Cost will be \$5; bring a friend!



Journey Soup  
Kitchen.

**February 21 Mt. Gretna Youth Night**

Each month Mt. Gretna offers a free youth group night, 4-6:30 pm. We'll leave church at 3:15, return at 7pm.

**February 26 Game Night!!**

At the church from 6 - 8 pm. A fun-filled evening of both active and board games! No cost for this event! Bring a friend!

**March 20 Mt. Gretna Youth Night**

Each month Mt. Gretna offers a free youth group night, 4-6:30 pm. We'll leave church at 3:15, return at 7pm.

**TBA –The Philadelphia Project — Summer 2016**

This will be our middle school summer project. The Project has not yet released their summer dates. We'll be doing a variety of projects in urban Philadelphia. This will take place from a Friday night through Sunday afternoon. Tentative price is \$100.

**July 24-30 SERVE**

Our high school students will partner with Hope Community Church, travelling to South Londonderry, Vermont, to serve the community in a variety of ways. More details to come as the date approaches. Tentative price is \$175.

## *Dear Friends in Mission:*

Thank you for your support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through your gift you provide assistance for survivors of human trafficking, funding for health and development projects that alleviate hunger and poverty, holistic community-based health programs, and access to clean water and sanitation. This is just a sampling of the good works that gifts like yours make possible. Thank you for giving so generously.

Through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church, **100 %** of your contribution will go to Nothing But Nets...Your gift...of \$500 is saving lives using treated bed nets to prevent malaria...Thank you for joining with us to “be Hope” to those who desperately need it...

You can find out more about UMCOR’s work by visiting our website at [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org). To receive weekly updates about UMCOR’s work, sign up on our website for the UMCOR Hotline, a weekly email about the latest happenings at UMCOR.

This gift will bring hope to those who need it most.

Grace and Peace,  
Roland Fernandes, General Treasurer  
Emily Miller, Associate General Secretary  
Communications Development



*Please Join Us  
at 7 pm  
for Worship*

## **An Ash Wednesday Prayer**

Dear Righteous Lord,  
We enter the holy season of Lent  
confessing our many sins that separate us from you. We’re sincerely sorry for offending you repeatedly through our thoughts, our words, and our actions — and often through our inactions, too.

Forgive us, Lord, and show us your tender mercy. Restore and strengthen us to become your faithful and faith-filled servants. During our Lenten journey, remind us to show mercy to other people, just as you’ve shown mercy to us.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Although Lent starts early this year, before spring appears in many areas, it's an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Indeed, Lent comes from old German and English words for "spring." So, while it might be too soon to open windows or hang clothes on the line, now is ideal for some **spiritual** spring cleaning.

Lent calls us to examine our beliefs, confess and dispose of old grudges and selfish habits, dust off our Bibles for a new routine of study and prayer, air out our hearts and brighten up our attitudes. "Lent cleaning" lets the Holy Spirit freshen our faith — and it's never too early for that.

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## **What Defines Us**

From Heidi Mann

When their minivan was hit by a drunk driver, Gerald Sittser lost his mother, wife and daughter all at one time. Sittser, a religion professor, escaped without physical injury but was then forced to navigate his extreme loss. Eventually he concluded that "the experience of loss does not need to be the defining moment of our story" (quoted in AHA, by Kyle Idleman). Instead, "the defining moment can be our response to the loss," Sittser says.

*Take  
Heart!*

"In this world you will have trouble," Jesus warns in John 16:33 (NIV) — no sugar-coating or pretending there. But then he says, "Take heart!" Jesus doesn't want our troubles to define us; he wants to define us! The defining truth of our story is that Jesus has "overcome the world" — even at its worst. He's stronger than our struggles and sorrows. And in Him, so are we.

# Be a Follower of Jesus

From Melody Bonnette Swang in the *Daily Guideposts* 2015 Edition, p. 7-8 (Jan 5)

Submitted by Nancy Villecco

*The Lord your God is going ahead of you....*

Deuteronomy 1:30 (NLT)

When I sat down to write my resolutions for the new year, I looked back through my journal to resolutions I'd made over the last 20 years.

"Hmm," I said to my friend who'd met with me so that we could write our resolutions together, "it seems that each year my resolutions are basically the same. Eat better, exercise more, and read my Bible daily," I shut my journal. "I don't want to write a laundry list of things to do this year."

"I have an idea," my friend said. "How about we write our resolutions based not on things to 'do' but based on how to 'be'?" She opened her journal.

"A friend shared some ideas with me the other day. I think they are just what we are looking for." She read, "Be prayerful. Be trustful. Be obedi-

ent. Be forgiving. Be faithful. And, finally, be a follower of Jesus."

"Wow, these are great resolutions!" I said. "I must admit, though, they seem like a pretty tall order. I mean, without even knowing what will happen, we are resolving to handle everything this year as true followers of Christ. I love the idea, but it's a bit daunting."

"Let's remember this thought then," she said. "What's important about this new year is not WHAT is ahead of us but WHO is ahead of us."

Jesus, I know You will never lead me into anything You won't lead me through. Help me to be a prayerful, trustful, obedient, forgiving, faithful follower of You this year. Amen.





## Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*February 15  
for our  
Mar-Apr Issue*

### *From our mailbox...*

♥ The Mission Committee gives a special thank you to all who donated food items to the Food Bank at New Journey United Methodist Church. We collected 185 items of good, nutritious foods — as always much needed and appreciated by many.

Marian Longenecker

♥ Thanks you from all the clients and staff at Opportunity House for volunteering in our kitchen on November 3 and January 5. Please share our thanks and deep gratitude with all members of your cooking team.

John Moulton, Volunteer Coordinator

♥ Dear Friends,  
On behalf of all of us at New Journey, we would like to thank you so much for your donations of food and clothing, as well as the work of your volunteers who come in to service lunch. Congregations like yours are our foundation and allow us to operate. We really appreciate your generosity! God bless you!

New Journey UMC Food Ministry

*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,

### **Change of Address**

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Mr Nelson Loeb  
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Reading PA 19607-9625



# NEWS-LINC

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church  
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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  
   Youth Leader: Kyle Robbins  
   Secretary: Marilyn Seiders  
   Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735, cherfallon@comcast.net  
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