

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *March, April 2016*

Please Join Us On Easter Sunday, March 27

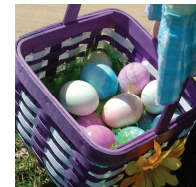
From Pastor David McMillan

We'll gather for two services, at 9 and 11 am, celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord. Our celebration will include the *Flowering of the Cross* (folks are invited to bring a flower), and photos taken up front at the end of both services.



Bring Your Easter Basket!

This year's Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Sunday between the 9 and 11 am services. Please gather downstairs in Memorial Hall by 10:15, and remember your Easter basket!



You Can Help Beautify Our Church for Easter

From Betsy Buchanan

The deadline for ordering Easter flowers (lilies, tulips, or daffodils) at \$7 each, is **MARCH 6**. Plants can be dedicated *in honor of*, *in memory of*, and *to the Glory of God*. Please call Betsy Buchanan, 610-777-2501, to put in your order today!



From Pastor David McMillan

In March, we continue with our Sermon Series, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. While most of us would love to avoid the darkness, few of us are ever spared. When darkness comes, rather than reaching for the nearest light switch, what if we tried to understand what the darkness has to teach us about God, ourselves, and others? God can be found in darkness, if we search for him with all our heart. There are some things we can learn in the dark that we will never learn in the light.

In April, we'll begin a new sermon series, *Finding God in the World*, based on a book by Diane Butler-Bass. Today, many look for a Christian spirituality which connects them to everyday life. There's an old saying that "some Christians are so heavenly minded that they're no earthly good." In the words of Pearl Buck, God created this *good earth* and can be found herein if we have eyes to see.

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| March 6 | <i>Learning to Walk in the Dark: Addictions</i> – Romans 7:13-25 |
| March 13 | YOUTH SUNDAY — <i>Learning to Walk in the Dark: Adolescence</i>
One service at 10 am, followed by Pot Luck Luncheon |
| March 20 | <i>Learning to Walk in the Dark: Mental Illness</i> – Luke 8:26-39 |
| March 24 | HOLY THURSDAY , Dinner at 5:45 pm, served by our youth
Service with Holy Communion, 7 pm
<i>Learning to Walk in the Dark: The End of Life & Death</i>
– John 19:17-30; 21:15-19 |
| March 27
10 | EASTER — <i>Learning to Walk in the Dark: Caves</i> –Matthew 28:1-10

Family pictures will be taken in front of the flowered cross following worship services |
| April 3 | <i>Finding God in the World: Roots</i> – Genesis 5:1-5; Matthew 1:1-17 |
| April 10 | <i>Finding God in the World: Home</i> – Ruth 1:16-17; John 14:23 |
| April 17 | <i>Finding God in the World: Neighborhood</i> – Matthew 22:37-40;
Luke 10:25-37 |

Wednesday Night Lenten Study

From Pastor David McMillan

During the 40 days of Lent, we're meeting on Wednesday evenings, from 7-8:30 pm, downstairs in Memorial Hall. Our Lenten Series, written by Methodist pastor Adam Hamilton, is *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*. After viewing a video of the Holy Lands, we'll discuss various aspects of Jesus' life as his journey leads him to a cross. Each session stands on its own. All are welcome!



New Children's Choir Forms

From Bev Perella

We're pleased to announce that our new Children's Choir, for ages 10 and under, begins rehearsals on **Tuesday, March 1, 6-6:30 pm**. **KC Dianna** and **Krista Gilham** will be directing.

Beginning Palm Sunday, an acolyte will be part of the processional at the 11 am service. **Bev Perella** is seeking young people to serve as acolytes. Please see her to volunteer.



FAMILY SUNDAY, MAY 8: A COMBINED 10 AM SERVICE followed by refreshments. Our children and youth will lead the service, with the theme *How Will They Know?* How will others know that we are a Christian family? It is also the debut of our newly-formed Children's Choir, led by **KC Dianna** and **Krista Gilham**.

YOU'RE INVITED FOR A FREE BREAKFAST THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 8:45 AM, BEFORE OUR 9 AM WORSHIP SERVICE.

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: Sibling Rivalry

From Pastor David McMillan

...And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed - Genesis 12:3

Not too long after my father's death in 2004, my sisters and I were sitting around one night reminiscing. I recalled how my father had attended all my baseball and volleyball games. Even after I graduated from college and was coaching at a local high school and college, he came to cheer on my teams. I also recalled going into church early with him one Sunday a month to set up tables and chairs for our Methodist Men's Breakfasts.

In summer we worked together around the house cutting grass, edging sidewalks, and painting shutters. When I was 13, he began teaching me to play golf at a little nine-hole course in Delaware. By the time I was in high school, he was taking me out on weekends to golf with his friends when they needed a fourth.

As I reminisced, I couldn't remember my father not being part of my life. I'll never forget his words when I left home for good to begin my minis-

try at Lincoln Park "Just be yourself and you'll do okay." And, I'll never forget the day I told him that my wife and I had separated. He had suffered from Lewy-body dementia for over six years by that time, but, in a rare lucid moment, he told me he was sorry, but I would "be okay." His "okays" have sustained me now for many years.

As I sat with my sisters reminiscing, I began to feel guilty. I felt I had monopolized my father's time. Had they felt slighted? When I shared my feelings, they looked at me in disbelief. To a sister, each felt as I did. Each of us had been a recipient of his blessing.

"To invoke God to justify violence against the innocent is not an act of sanctity but of sacrilege," says Rabbi Jonathan Sacks.

In the book *Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence*, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks tackles the phenomenon of religious extremism and violence committed today in the name of God. He traces the roots of violence associated with the monotheistic religions of Juda-

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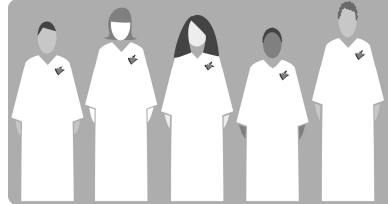
ism, Islam, and Christianity to, among other things, sibling rivalry. Beginning with Abraham, he recounts the battles among sons for their father's blessing: Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his brothers. Each son vies for his father's approval and birthright, leading to enmity and threats of violence.

Using Genesis and rabbinical commentaries, Jonathan Sacks challenges this common "misunderstanding" of these biblical stories and offers a different interpretation on the questions of *chosenness*, *birthright*, and *blessing*. All the children of Abraham—Judaism, Islam, and Christianity—are recipients of blessing. No one religion has a monopoly on God's favor. Abraham himself sought to be a blessing to all nations, thus should all his descendants.

"It is not our task to conquer or convert the world or enforce uniformity of belief," says Sacks. "It is our task to be a blessing to the world. The use of religion for political ends is not righteousness but idolatry . . . To invoke God to justify violence against the innocent is not an act of sanctity but of sacrilege."

Jonathan Sacks calls for people of goodwill from all faiths and none to stand together, confront the religious extremism that threatens to destroy us, and declare: *Not in God's Name*.

Confirmation Class of 2016



From Pastor Dave McMillan

It is with great joy that I announce the Confirmation of 13 of our youth. They include: **Daniel Antunes, Benjamin Born, Emily Born, Kara Brown, Emma Chandler, Meigin Chandler, Claire Chelius, Adam Gehr, Jack Gensemer, Lucas Gensemer, Devin Krick, Jordon Krick, and William Lamm.**

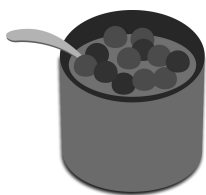
A special thanks to their mentors: **Rich Auman, Jerry Manhart, Karen Osika, Bev Perella, Loreen Miller, Becky Chadwick, Jack Vilecco, Pastor Dave, Harry Garrity, Linda Lee, Jim Eckert, and Dan Christopher.** Also a special thanks to all the parents who faithfully brought their kids to meetings, events, and helped them with their service projects.

A prayer for all of our Confirmants that they will continue to grow in their love of God and their neighbor and willingly choose to serve in the vineyard of our Lord.

Join Our New Young Adult Group for a Service Project

From Cheri Fallon

When 11 of our young adults met for dinner on January 31, they shared more than pasta and babysitters: most importantly, a desire to meet again. They agreed on a service project for their first event.



**ON FRIDAY, MARCH 19,
5:30-7:30 PM, IN OUR
CHURCH KITCHEN, THEY
PLAN TO MAKE SOUP FOR
THE GREATER MIFFLIN
FOOD PANTRY.**

Please join them to help out if you'd like to be part of this group. Babysitting provided!

Other shared interests for future events include:

- Social events like dinners, brunches, picnics
- A parent's group
- Sports --- hiking, bowling, skiing, skating...

- Informative programs (or series of programs) about parenting, family, stress, time management, coping, religion, or other topics relevant to their stage of life.

A second event for spring will possibly be a video and discussion about parenting.

Lastly, there was much enthusiasm for the formation of a children's choir, and two of our young adults –



Krista Gilham and **KC Dianna** – eagerly volunteered to lead it. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, March 1, 6-6:30 pm, at the church. All children 10 and under are most welcome.

So, the ball is rolling. Now all you need to do is come! If you have questions, suggestions, or would like to be added to our email list, contact **Cheri Fallon**, Coordinator, 610-678-8735, or cherfallon@comcast.net.

“A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love.

Never let anything so fill you with sorrow
as to make you forget the joy of the Christ risen.”



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!

March 6, 6-8 pm

Youth group meets this evening to prepare music, skits, and more for Youth Sunday at our worship services.

March 12

Meet at the church at 11 am for a final practice for Youth Sunday. Pizza will be provided for lunch. We'll also go bowling after; the event will end at 3 pm. If your child is only able to make part of the time, please come out for the bit that you can!

March 13

Our youth will lead the congregation in worship, using skits, music, and a variety of roles. It's a great opportunity for the youth to serve their congregation, using their gifts from the Lord.

March 20—Palm Sunday

This evening, we'll invite the youth and their mentors to take part in a Seder meal and a stationed activity about the events that took place prior to Christ raising from the dead.

March 27—Easter Sunday NO YOUTH GROUP

April 3 Youth Group meets from 6-8 pm

April 17

We'll return to Gretna Glen Camp for their Youth Night, leaving at 3:15 pm and returning around 7:15 pm.

April 23

We have two possible options for this date. We'll either go and serve at a camp, preparing for their summer camping season, or we'll go on a hike and enjoy God's creation.

About Our Music Director, Beverly Perella

From Cheri Fallon

She began playing the piano at five, was accompanying at seven, and organist at Grace Lutheran Church at 17. Surprisingly, says Bev, "I never planned a career in music."

Born and raised in Reading, Bev graduated from Reading High and Kutztown University, majoring in German and Russian. Later, she got her English certification from Alvernia and did graduate work (in German) in Bremen, Germany.

In 1979, Bev began teaching German, English (later Russian, too) at Twin Valley High

<p>"I didn't choose this (career) ... God gave me the gifts. God chose it."</p>	<p>School, where she also di- rected mu- sicals for many years.</p>
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Beverly has been to Europe 25 times, mostly with groups of Twin Valley students. "I once took 43 kids on a 16 day trip," she says. She loves Lucerne in Switzerland, Italy, the Swiss Alps, the Grand Canyon, and, most of all, the ocean. And, at home in Reading, she feels peaceful "sitting on a bench by the water at the Reading Museum."



Bev has two sons. Timothy lives in Chino Hills, California, with his wife Sheryl, and Andrew and wife Valerie live in

And what doth the
LORD require of thee,

but to do justly, & to love mercy,
& to walk humbly with thy



M I C A H 6 : 8

Bev's Favorite

West Chester. She is Godmother to six, two of whom are the children of former students. And we can't forget "my cat Rolland, who resides with me."

Bev's favorite comfort food is chocolate, but she admits "I need my PA Dutch Rivel Soup," which is mostly "milk and doughballs."

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane is Bev's favorite book. It "shows you what love is," she says.

Fortunately for all of us, Beverly loves Lincoln Park Church and the work she does here. "I feel very blessed that God chose me to serve his people through teaching and music," she says. "What I give here at this church, I get back ten fold."



From Beverly Perella

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Fleas, plants, garden items, furniture, books, CD's, DVD's, baked goods, candy, women's clothing...

WHEN AND WHERE?

All items should be brought to the church between 9:30 and 1 pm on Mondays-Thursdays, Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9 pm, and Sunday mornings. Place items in the basement of the office building until Sunday, May 1. After that, please place them in the breezeway between the church and the education wing. Pricing begins on Monday, March 7, and

It's a Fundraising Tradition at Lincoln Park Can You Help?

will continue every Monday and Wednesday from 11am until 1pm. Everyone is invited to help!

WHAT ABOUT CLOTHING?

The collection of women's clothing will begin Sunday, May 1. It must be ready for sale and on hangers. Hang the clothing on the racks outside the Youth Room. Hangers are available at church.

Please do not bring plants until Sunday, May 15.

THE LAST DAY TO DONATE is Tuesday, May 17.

Dear Members,

Many thanks for your contribution of \$1,229 from your Christmas Eve services. Your gift helps provide food and clothing for those in need.

Our Soup Kitchen serves an average of 145 free, nutritious lunches four weekdays each week. Our Food Pantry provides groceries for 75 individuals and families every Wednesday, our Clothing Center serves about 80 individuals and

families each week.

With only three part-time staff, we rely on over 600 volunteers who help us. Your gift is a blessing. Those we serve are greatly appreciative, showing gratitude and respect toward our volunteers and staff.

Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of those much less fortunate than ourselves.

Kindest regards,
Sue Krall, Executive Director, New Journey Community Outreach, Inc.

Things Did Not Turn Out As I Hoped

From Katie Ganshert, in the *Daily Guideposts* 2015 Edition, p. 178-9 (Apr 29)

Submitted by Nancy Villecco

Moses answered the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today...' Exodus 14:13 (NIV)

"I'm miscarrying."

Those two words, texted to me from one of my best friends, stole all of the breath right out of my lungs. This was her second miscarriage in a matter of months.

Later, at the doctor, she discovered she hadn't miscarried but still might. All she could do was wait and see.

During that wait, my friend told me about a verse in Exodus she had underlined in her Bible months before, about God's deliverance. It felt like a promise. Together, she and I prayed that God would deliver her baby, that He would spare that baby, that He would save that baby. A couple of weeks later, she miscarried.

"The thing is, Katie," my friend said to me afterward, "those words I read are no

less true on this side of my miscarriage than they were on the other." At the time, I'd been going through some trials in my own life: infertility and an unpredictable, emotionally exhausting adoption, just to name a couple. How often had I looked for God's deliverance in a specific outcome? How often had things not turned out as I'd hoped?

God continues to teach me that deliverance doesn't always look the way I think it should or want it to look. When Jesus died that violent, humiliating death on the Cross, His disciples and family didn't see that as deliverance either. I have to imagine they were confused and grieving and maybe even angry. Until three days later...



We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to family and friends of **Dorothy Stradley**, who passed away in December. May God bless you and your family with His love and peace.

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



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*April 15
for our
May-June Issue*

From our mailbox...

- ♥ It is said that our friends are the family we pick. And I can tell you I have picked the best family right here at Lincoln Park Church. The weeks of recuperation from total knee replacement were difficult for me, but your cards, hand-written notes, phone calls, food, and chauffeur service kept me going. You were, and remain, a true blessing in my life! I ask God for His peace for all of you.

With my sincerest thanks
and deepest affection,
Beverly Perella

- ♥ Dear Friends,
Thank you for the groceries you donated to our food pantry, as well as the candy, diapers, and wipes. We put the candy on our lunch trays on Christmas Eve. Our littlest clients thank you for thinking of them, too. May God bless you for your kindness!

Ann Marie Wallace
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,

Weddings

Congratulations to **Emily Avedissian** and **Tyler Barile** who were married in Lancaster on December 5. Emily is the daughter of **Dr. Michael** and **Kathy Avedissian**.

Best wishes to **Judy Gaylor** and **Robert Lockyer** who were married in our sanctu-

Births

Congratulations to **Janelle** and **Mark Simmon** on the birth of their daughter, **Isabella Riley Simmon**. Janelle is the daughter of **Rick** and **Linda Mann** and the granddaughter of **Ron Schucker**.

*"By this all people will know
that you are my disciples, if you
have love for one another."*

JOHN 13:35. ESV

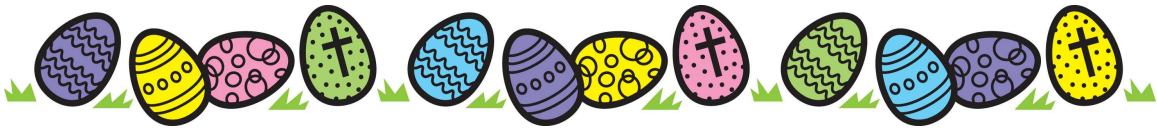


NEWS-LINC

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
 Youth Leader: Kyle Robbins
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