

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *May, June 2016*

LP's Annual Flea Market Is Fundraiser & Tradition

From Beverly Perella

Preparations are underway for our **FLEA MARKET, MAY 21, 7 AM-3 PM**. Pricing continues every Monday and Wednesday from 11-1 in the Choir Room of the Education Wing. The **LAST DAY** for flea donations is **TUESDAY, MAY 17**. Please place your fleas in the breezeway. Beginning Sunday, May 1, we'll accept ladies' clothing, shoes, purses, and accessories. Items should be ready for sale and on hangers, please.

There's a new category this year- *Almost New or With a Price Tag, Too*. If you have items with tags attached or *almost new*, please mark them as such. We'll have a



special room for them. It's not too late to offer your help for the day of the sale or to donate food and baked goods. And, if you have furniture to be picked up, please call **Bev Perella**, 610-334-4197. Furniture should be in good condition.

Our Youth Group is offering a Car Wash this year, to be held on Carlisle Avenue in front of the Church Office.

This is your FLEA MARKET. It's a way to tell our community about our ministry, our outreach, and our love for God. Come and celebrate this day with your church family!

Annual Lincoln Park Golf Outing, Sunday, June 12

From Pastor Dave McMillan



Join us on Sunday afternoon for golf at Flying Hills Golf Club. We'll play a Scramble format, which means everyone's part of a team of four. Each takes a shot and all play the best shot in the group. In other words, you can "stink" and still have fun! We have six tee times, so I'm hoping for 24 players!

There will be prizes for the lowest team score and closest to the pin on par 3's. Afterward, we'll meet at the parsonage for hot dogs and barbecue. The cost is \$25 to play and \$6 for dinner. Let me know if you're interested, or sign-up in the Wagner Room!



From Pastor David McMillan

In May, we conclude our sermon series *Grounded: Finding God in the World* and begin a new series entitled *Not in God's Name*, based on Rabbi Jonathan Sacks's book *Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence*. We live in an age of religious extremism and violence. We will explore its supposed biblical roots to find that "to invoke God to justify violence against an innocent is never an act of sanctity but sacrilege." The God we worship in Jesus does not condone but rather grieves for those who use violence for said religious reasons... "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

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| May 1 | <i>Grounded: Finding God in the World: Revelation</i> |
| May 8 | FAMILY SUNDAY (One service at 10 am)
See p. 3 for related article |
| May 15 | <i>Not in God's Name: Bad Faith</i> - Genesis 6:5-8 |
| May 22 | <i>Not in God's Name: Sibling Rivalry</i> - Genesis 21:1-14 |
| May 29 | <i>Not in God's Name:</i>
<i>The Stranger, Justice & the Particularity of Love</i> - I Chr. 29:10-16 |
| June 5 | <i>Not in God's Name: Relinquishing Power and Letting Go of Hate</i>
Matt. 22:15-22 |
| June 12 | MUSIC SUNDAY |
| June 19 | <i>Not in God's Name: The Will to Power or the Will to Life</i>
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 |
| June 26 | Guest Preacher – Kyle Robbins , Lincoln Park UMC Youth Pastor |

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!



From **BEV PERELLA**

Coming Up this Week: Family Sunday

Mother's Day, May 8, at 10 am,
we'll gather for **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE**,
celebrating family, followed by snacks in the Wagner Room.

The Theme Is: ***How Will They Know?***
How Will the World Recognize Us
as a Family of God?



Our worship service will include...

- the reception of new members,
- the debut of our newly-formed **Children's Choir**, directed by **KC Dianna** and **Krista Gilham**
- a skit *How Will They Know?* performed by children from the **Potter's Wheel Class** and the **Youth Group**. The skit compares a family from the time of Jesus to a contemporary family. What has changed and what remains the same?
- a special instrumental by our youth.

Music Sunday- June 12 at Both Services

9 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE will be lead by the nine member Praise Band directed by Worship Leaders, **Mark Villecco** and **Becky Chadwick**, with the theme *Songs about Music*. Be prepared to sing your praises to God!

11 AM SERVICE features the **Chancel Choir** performing their favorite anthems. Each choir member has chosen a beloved anthem including traditional, classical, spiritual, and contemporary selections. The **Bell Choir** will perform individually and as accompaniment to the choir. **Robin Lilarose**, flutist, is the guest musician.

Sunday, June 19, is the beginning of the
Summer Mini-Concert Series.

Small envelopes have been placed in the pews for contributions to the Concert Fund.

Simply place the envelope in the collection plate. Please accept our sincerest
"Thank You" for your continuing support of music here at LP.

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Bunny Carlson** and her family on the loss of her husband **Tom** on March 5.
And to **Santra Bailey & Pamela Light** on the passing of their husband and father, **John Bailey**, also on March 5.



Thinking Out Loud

From Pastor David McMillan

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor. Would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't you be my neighbor?
- Fred Rogers

It will soon be five years since I moved into the parsonage on the corner of 50 East Court Boulevard in West Lawn. I'm very comfortable in my home. It's more than I need, but I appreciate the two and half bathrooms and the door from the garage into the house, especially in winter.

This past fall, my neighbor across the street, whose name I can't remember, remarked that he never sees me. I told him it was probably because I live mostly on the other side of the house, away from his own. The truth is, entering through the garage, I rarely see any of my neighbors. On occasion, when I'm letting Summer outside or putting out the trash, I'll see Mark or Chris, or their daughter Ruth, who back up against me. If I had to give myself a grade as a neighbor, I'd say "barely passing."

I've become familiar with Dick and Jean, an elderly couple who live across the street, opposite my driveway, mostly because they sit on their front porch in the summer, and we exchange

waves when I'm pulling in and out. When the Spirit convicts me, I'll walk across the street and talk for awhile. A few years ago, Jean's son died unexpectedly, and she asked me to perform his funeral. As a result, we've become closer.

When I first arrived, a neighbor who lives catty-corner to the parsonage was the first to welcome me. But somewhere along the way, I clearly did something to offend him. He no longer returns my wave. And, over the winter, when I saw and greeted him at WAWA, he walked past without saying a word. My daughter tells me not to worry ... that "he's just weird." But, it's unsettling. I don't do well with the feeling of having wronged someone, or even more, with being disliked. The sad thing is, for now, I haven't the courage to approach him.

This "loving our neighbor as ourselves" is not as easy as it sounds. It takes an investment. It requires getting out of our comfort zone, plus our time and sacrifice. Author Peter Block writes about a breakdown of neighborhoods in America... "the problem is," he writes, "people don't feel like they 'belong' to such places, resulting in 'an age of iso-

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lation.’ ... We may live in a particular location, but it’s hard to sense that our lives are with others.”

Being neighborly, “loving our neighbor as ourselves,” “doing unto our neighbor as we would have them do to unto us,” is sacred work. Diana Butler Bass writes that it is through our neighbors that we come to know God...that love of God and love of neighbor are closely connected. For this reason, if we want to join in on the spiritual revolution (which she is convinced is taking place with young people across the country) we need to reconnect with our neighborhoods.

I’m personally in agreement with her on this one. I believe the moving of the Spirit is toward things local. It always has been. With modernity, in our pursuit of who knows what, we chose to look beyond our next door neighbor – who may or may not want to have anything to do with us! But that doesn’t change the point. We need neighbors and neighborhoods to become human.

So, what grade would you give yourself as a “neighbor?” What grade would you give our church? I find myself feeling more and more convinced of our need to reach out right here to our surrounding neighborhood in Lincoln Park. I’m aware of its rich history of neighborliness, and I would like us to become a part of its resurgence. “It’s a beautiful day for a neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor.”



From Kyle Robbins

Sunday School —10:10-10:50 am
in the Youth Room

UM Youth Group —for Grades 6-12.
Please join us!

May 13: GAME NIGHT at the church, 6-8 pm: **MINUTE TO WIN IT GAMES** with prizes! Bring a friend!

May 15 & 29: Youth (Grades 6-12) meet from 6-8 pm. Friends welcome!

June 10: END OF SCHOOL COOK OUT
Meet at church, from 4-6:30 pm, to celebrate another school year complete, with food and friends! Bring a buddy!

June 12 & 26: HOME GROUP
This summer, we’ll have youth group at different youth member’s houses. If you can host a home group, please contact me! We’ll meet from 6-8 on Sunday evenings. Please bring a friend for a relaxed evening of food, faith, and friends!

June 17: HARRISBURG SENATORS
Although the Reading Phillies are right around the corner, it’s fun to see new places with great friends! This event will take place from 5:45-TBA. If you’re interested in helping drive, please contact me. Cost is \$5 per student.

June 24: MOVIE NIGHT AT CHURCH,
6-8:45 pm We’ll watch a movie that’s relevant, age appropriate, and can be used to teach something about Christ.

Thank You, God, for Rebirth and Renewal

From Ashley Kappel, submitted by Nancy Villecco

*I went down to the grove of nut trees to look at the new growth in the valley,
to see if the vines had budded... ~Song of Songs 6:11(NIV)*

I was pretty sure, in our first year of home ownership, that we'd managed to kill the roses, the yard, the crape myrtles, and the vine, which had fallen prey to some much-needed foundation repairs. My husband and I spent the winter looking out the window. "Are you supposed to water in the winter?" I asked. "Or mow?" We watched our neighbors and decided not to.

I was preparing for a wedding shower in early spring when my mom arrived to help. The first thing she did was turn on the sprinklers full blast.

"When plants are growing, flowering, and making leaves, that's when they need the most water," she said.

Overnight, our yard transformed. The scratchy yellowed grass went "to seed," my mom said, sprouting tiny nubs at the tip of each blade, which she assured me meant new growth. The weeds I'd so diligently and ineffectively plucked from the beds bloomed into beautiful tulips. The

roses lit up our backyard, not to be out-paced by the abundance of mint that crept along the fence. And that gnarled, woody vine exploded with crisp green leaves and dainty white flowers that drew big fat bumblebees, never failing to make me smile.

I always feel like my house is teaching me something. Often the lesson of the day is patience, but in this case, I learned the importance of nourishment, endurance, and rebirth. As I sit in my backyard, surrounded by blooms, buds, and bright green leaves, I'm reminded of God's tender mercy, His Resurrection, and His life-giving blood, which like the water to my plants, brought new life in a seemingly hopeless space.

God, thank You for rebirth and renewal. Remind us that life moves in seasons. Help us enjoy every moment.



We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family of **Allen Buchanan**, his wife **Betsy**, daughters **Elizabeth Kirkpatrick** and **KC Dianna**, and four grandchildren. A faithful member at LP Church, Allen was a charter member of our Endowment Fund. A Memorial Service will be held on May 7, 11 am, in our sanctuary. May God bless you and your family with His love and peace.





Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*June 15
for our
Summer Issue*

From our mailbox...

♥ To Pastor Dave and wonderful people at LP Church,
My heartfelt thanks for your support, care, love, prayers, cards, flowers, and phone calls. This has been the longest time I've ever been out of commission, so every thought and kindness meant more than you can ever know. Now that I'm back on the roads, I hope to see you soon and thank you in person.

Wishing you many blessings and good health, **Lee Riley**

- Thank you to our friends at Lincoln Park for all the kindnesses we received during Tom's illness and after his death. A special thanks to Pastor Dave and for the many contributions to the Memorial and Endowment funds. Tom loved the church and it gave him great comfort. God bless you all.

Bunny Carlson & Family

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, Bunny Carlson, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, Mark Villecco

Weddings

Best wishes to **Bradley Brightbill** and **Nicole Didyoung** who were married on March 5, at Lincoln Park Church. Brad is the son of **Carol Brightbill**.

Congratulations to **Chris Avedissian** and **Susan Costello** who were married along the coast of Big Sur in California on March 26. They live in Monterey, CA, and are both teachers in the area. Chris is the son of **Dr. Michael** and **Kathy Avedissian**.

Best wishes to **Danielle Pasquale** and **Justin Hallacher**, who were married on April 30.

Birth

Belated congratulations to **Pamela** and **Matt Light** on the birth of their son, **Ryan Matthew**, on January 13. **Santra Bailey** is his proud grandmother. Welcome to the world, precious baby!



**"We all stumble, every one of us.
That's why it's a comfort to go hand in hand."**

—Emily Kimbrough

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
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