



News-Line



Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania

November, December 2016

Sing Messiah

Sunday, November 27, 3 pm

From Beverly Perella

It's our turn to sponsor this beloved concert at the beginning of Advent.

Brian Gibson is the conductor, and the Reading Pops Orchestra will accompany. Of course, we'll have four outstanding soloists.

So, if you want to sing along or simply listen, put this date on your calendar. AND invite everyone you know. We do receive an offering and suggest a donation of at least \$10. If you'd like to sponsor this music ministry with a donation before the concert, let me know or place your donation in the offering plate marked *Sing Messiah*. Our costs will total close to \$2,500 (\$1,790 for the Reading Pops, \$450 for the soloists, newspaper advertising, and flyers to individual churches). I'll include a list of sponsors with the bulletin.

Sing Messiah! is the perfect way to begin our Advent preparations and our individual journey toward to birth of our Savior.



Annual Family Christmas Party Planned for Sunday, December 4, 5-7 pm

From Beverly Perella

Come and share the spirit of the season as we dine, worship, and laugh together, and share our abundance with God's children. Dinner will be provided so you can come and enjoy during this busy season.

This year we ask you to donate items for New Journey's Community Outreach: toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, body lotion and wash, washcloths, small towels, deodorant, combs,

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From Pastor David McMillan

In October, we began a six-week sermon series based on Adam Ham-

ilton's book *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Others Things The Bible Doesn't Say*.

The season of Advent begins November 27 when we'll follow the Revised Common Lectionary as we prepare ourselves for Christmas, and the coming of Emmanuel, "God with us."

November 6 *Half Truths: God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle*
I Corinthians 10:13 **ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY**

November 13 *Half Truths: God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It*
Deuteronomy 23:12-14

November 20 *Half Truths: Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin* – Matthew 7:1-5

November 27 *Comings* - Matthew 24:26-44

December 4 *Get Found* - Matthew 3:1-12

December 11 *Is Jesus the One to Come?* - Matthew 11:2-11

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

December 18 *He Will Save His People from Their Sins* - Matthew 1:18-25

December 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE, 7 AND 10 PM**

Glory to God in Heaven, and on Earth Peace - Luke 2:1-14

December 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY, Informal Service, at 8 am**, in the Sanctuary

January 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY, 10 AM**, Covenant Service and Love Feast

Come Early for Christmas Day Worship

This year, Christmas day falls on a Sunday. To celebrate the birth of our Lord, we will meet early, at 8 am, on Christmas day, for a short informal service of carols and a Christmas meditation before returning to our homes to celebrate with family and friends.



New Year's Love Feast

On New Year's Day, the first Sunday of January, we'll gather in the Sanctuary for one service, 10 am, for a Wesleyan Covenant Service and Love Feast. Come bring in the New Year with the worship of our Lord, "our help in ages past and hope for years to come!"

May the Sounds and Blessings of the Season Bring You Peace

From Beverly Perella



Our **CHRISTMAS CANTATA** will be performed **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, AT 11AM**, with the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir, trumpet, trombone, flute, piano, and drums. Our Narrators will be **Sandi Rosencrans** and **Rich Auman**.

Morning Star by Lloyd Larson celebrates Jesus as the Everlasting Light of Christmas. This Light did rise as prophesied, and still shines in even the darkest of nights for people then and for us now. This is the promise of Christmas. Please join us and invite your family and friends to hear this story of hope and redemption.

Family Service, Christmas Eve, 7 pm

The tiny Baby born in the stable in Bethlehem fills the hearts of Christians everywhere on Christmas Eve. Join us as our children tell you in word and song how their “brothers and sisters” from around the world welcome the Holy Child on this Blessed Night. The customs and music differ, but the spirit of the Christ Child remains the same for all Christians. He fills our hearts with hope for peace, joy, and love. If you have a child, grandchild, or even a neighbor who’d like to participate in our pageant, please call **Beverly Perella**, 610-334-4197.

Traditional Service, Christmas Eve, 10 pm...

features beautiful, majestic Christmas music by our Chancel Choir with special instrumental and vocal music. Preludes begin at 9:30.

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

But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ for he is our peace. In his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

Over 27 years ago, my sister and her husband spent many months and tens of thousands of dollars to become pregnant. In their mid-30's (after numerous disappointments and heartbreaks) they decided to adopt a child. They explored several avenues and settled on adopting a child from Guatemala, where the waiting period and expenses were considerably less. They were able parents, ready to offer a child, any child, a loving home.

After a call from their lawyer that a young boy was available, they traveled to Guatemala City to receive their six-month-old package of joy. Though years have passed, I remember their excitement and our joy at welcoming my new nephew, Benjamin, home, into our extended family.

Over the years, we've remained close as a family, sharing birthday parties, weddings, holidays, and vacations. Ben has become as much a part of the family as any other member. Still, I've become aware — through things my sister has

shared with me privately and from the rare occasions when Ben has willingly been forthcoming — that his life has

been much more difficult than our own. He's had to live with feelings of rejection, alienation, and discrimination because of his physical features, dark black hair, and skin color.

I'm embarrassed to say that I've been less than sympathetic towards Ben, at times inwardly questioning

his stories of prejudice and discrimination, wanting to believe that most people are basically good and fair in their estimation and treatment of others. *It couldn't be as bad as he's made it out to be. Is this his justification for not accepting the hard responsibilities of adulthood?* Mm...How easy it was for me to judge — a white middle-aged male living in a predominantly white world, with all the privileges this affords me.

"If there was ever a time in recent history when the Church could make a difference in the course of a nation, it is now."

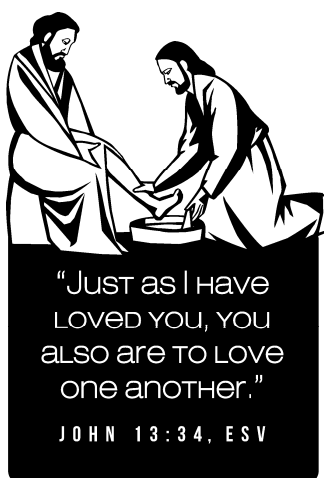
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A few nights ago, my sister called me on her way home from work. She'd been on the phone with Ben, who has worked several years for an organic lawn service servicing wealthier neighborhoods. He'd pulled his truck to the side of the road and was unloading his spreader when a man drove up next to him. Lowering his window, he yelled that Ben's truck was illegally parked; then looking at him, he said, "Just like you, an illegal immigrant."

Something sticks in your gut when words like these are said to someone you love. First, you want to go and confront this person. At least, you think it. Then, all your own prejudices take the wind out of your sails. *Who have I looked at and thought the same? Whose son, father or mother, whose nephew? How could we, white America, know what it's like to be the object of such hatred and prejudice unless we've been on the receiving end ourselves?*

There's a lot of hate out there—and I'm afraid to say—a lot of hate in here, too...in our own hearts. In the past several months it seems to have been unleashed upon the world, even accepted and condoned. It's more than the result of a presidential campaign; some call it the underbelly of America.



In my mind, it comes, in part, from economic uncertainties and a continued breakdown in community: in our homes and in the civic and religious institutions that have traditionally held us together. It comes as a result of the breakdown in human relationships, especially today, along the lines of race, which have been charged with renewed, deep-seated fears and mistrust. But, ultimately, it's a spiritual problem arising from an insecurity

born of feelings of being unacceptable or unaccepted. When a person feels fully loved and accepted in the eyes of God, he cannot help but love and accept all others.

If there was ever a time in recent history when the Church could make a difference in the course of a nation, it is now. By Church, I mean individual churches and Christians, each of us first looking honestly at ourselves in light of the life of Christ who confronted the social challenges of his day while also being a peacemaker and bridge builder.

As followers of Christ, we're called to be a healing balm, reaching across existing hatreds to offer a way to relate to one another, to break down walls of hostility that separate us. We're called to do this through acts of self-sacrifice, service, humility, and love...a love for all people, including those who do not look like ourselves.

Covenant Bible Study

From Pastor David McMillan

Please keep the Covenant Bible Study in your prayers. Seven of us have undertaken the challenge to read through and discuss the Bible over the next several months. Covenant is a 24-week, in-depth group Bible study. It differs from other Bible studies in that it emphasizes the biblical concept of covenant as a unifying pattern throughout the entire Bible, underscoring the unique relationship God chooses with us as his people. I hope to offer another Covenant Bible Study in 2017. Prayerfully consider taking the journey yourself!

New Members Class

Pastor Dave is offering a New Member Class this fall. A series of three meetings will be held on Monday evenings —November 7, 14, and 21, from 6:30-8 pm, at the parsonage. If you're interested in becoming a member here at Lincoln Park, please speak with Pastor Dave.



**LP Serves Dinner at
Opportunity House
Tuesday, January 3**

Can You Help?
**Sign-up sheets are in
the Wagner Room.**

VIM Mission Trip

From Pastor Dave McMillan

Plans are now in the works for a United Methodist Volunteer in Mission Trip to Louisiana in early June.

During this one week mission trip, we'll help rebuild homes lost in this year's flooding. If you're interested in learning more or being a part of this trip, please speak with Pastor Dave.



Dr. Jamie Bashore Long, daughter of **Richard** and **Carol Bashore**, has been off to India for a second mission trip with Glad Tidings Church. She said of her first trip, "It was the most meaningful thing I've ever done!"

(Continued from page 1)

brushes... everyday items that we take for granted. Let's share with our local brothers and sisters.

For your entertainment we'll return to days of yesterday with an old-fashioned Chalk Talk by Lancaster County artist Elva Hurst. We'll also be wrapping books for four Reading elementary classes, making gifts for our shut-ins (our kids will deliver them at a later date), and a Santa Store for little ones to select and wrap a present for their parents (at no cost).

And what would the night be without a visit from Santa?! So promise yourself and your family that you'll come and be with your church family, as we all prepare for the birth of that tiny baby.

Operation Christmas Child

The Power of a Simple Gift

From Jim Eckert

Join what God is doing and pack a shoebox! says Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization, led by Franklin Graham. At LP Church, generous participants since 2002 have filled 1,000 shoeboxes for children in need in over 130 countries. Many have never received a gift before.

Brochures in the Wagner Room give ideas on what to buy and how to pack your box. Also, at samaritanspurse.org, you can read much more about the program, print labels that will allow you to track your box so you know what country it goes to, and even pack a box online for \$25.

The ministry not only provides smiles and gifts, but reading materials and follow-up to introduce children to Jesus Christ.

If you have extra shoeboxes, you can bring them to our Wagner Room for others to use, and plastic containers can also be substituted for a shoe box.

Boxes are due in the Wagner Room by Sunday, November 20. Give Your \$7 Donation Online to Track the Destination of Your **Shoebox** Gift! The amazing journey of a shoebox begins with you!

PS: From the Editor: I have the most fun taking my grandchildren out one by one to fill a shoebox. Sometimes they write notes, and we send a picture of them in the box. Good for them and for me, too, bond-



Be an Angel Again this Christmas

From Jim Eckert

When we set up our Angel Tree after Thanksgiving, you'll be able to pick a tag (or two?) to buy gifts for others who are not as fortunate as we are. Through the Salvation Army's Adopt-a-Family Program, Lincoln Park Church has been able to help (usually three) families, with gifts and more.

The tags on the tree are requests for items like winter clothes, 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!

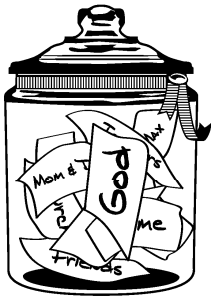
BLESSINGS JAR

Thanksgiving reminds us of our many gifts from God. Count your blessings all month long with this craft.



What you need:

- Jar
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue
- 3 sheets of paper (different colors)
- Marker or pen



What you do:

1. Measure and cut enough ribbon to wrap around the jar's neck, below the lid. Glue in place and let dry.
2. Fold each piece of paper in half three times, resulting in eight rectangles per sheet. Cut along the fold lines, and you'll have 24 rectangles.
3. Each day in November until Thanksgiving, write down one blessing from God. Then place that blessing in the jar.
4. On Thanksgiving, open the jar and read all your blessings to your family and friends.



From Kyle Robbins,

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

UM Youth Group —for Grades 6-12.

We meet weekly on Sundays, 5-7 pm

Please join us!

November 18:

ALL NIGHT REVERB EVENT

Reviewed as “one of the most exciting nights your youth ministry can experience!” and “the best evangelistic event on the planet,” this life-changing event begins with a Hershey Bears hockey game and continues with a Gospel message and dynamic speaker. Games go on all night, including go karts, paintball, skating, volleyball and much more.

We'll meet at church at 5 pm and return to church about 7 am Saturday morning.

The cost is \$35.

November 27- No Youth Group

This is the Sunday following Thanksgiving and many people will still be with their families.

December 25- No Group

Merry Christmas!

Having Trouble Remembering?

From Bill Giovannetti, submitted by Nancy Villecco

Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.

Jon, a young man excited about his newfound faith, approached me with a major frustration. He had a consistent devotional life, but his Bible reading felt cold. He said he forgot what he was reading as fast as he read it. He knew what book of the Bible he was in, but to repeat the content or even the main idea was a hopeless task. Tempted to throw in the towel, he decided to talk it over with me first.

I had been in his shoes and experienced the same frustration. I remembered back to the tiny Chicago church that reared me. One of the sweetest women I knew, Aunt Izzy, had a warm heart for the motley assortment of kids who ran around the church.

"Aunt Izzy," I said, "I don't see what good it's doing me to read the Bible. I can't remember anything I read."

Aunt Izzy's eyes sparkled as she gave a

knowing nod. "Bill, tell me what you ate for dinner the last few days."

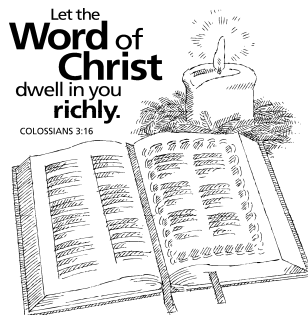
I thought hard but could only remember yesterday's dinner. "Last night, pork chops," I said. "I don't remember much before that."

"Does that mean those meals did you no good?" I shook my head.

"So it is with God's Word. It's like a feast. You just keep on digging in." Aunt Izzy smiled. "Don't worry about what you forget. Be faithful, and you'll have all the spiritual muscle you need before you know it."

I put my hand on Jon's shoulder and smiled. "Jon, tell me what you ate for dinner the last few days..."

Lord, let Your Word be to me as daily bread and strengthen me by it as You fill my heart with truth.



We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family of **The Rev. Jack Buttimer**, 75, former Pastor at our church from 1988-2000. His wife, **Nancy** is living with her daughter, Catherine Cole/Bious, at 1347 W 4th St, Plainfield NJ 07063. May God bless Pastor Buttimer's family with love and peace.

Here Come the Brides!

Both daughters of **Rich** and **Beth Auman**, **Jennifer** and **Lynn**, were married this summer.

Jennifer married **Matthew Lundquist** in our sanctuary on May 22. **Pastor Dave McMillan** co-officiated with **The Rev. Ken Gruebel**, a family friend of the groom, and a reception followed in Lancaster. **Beverly Perella** and church members **KC Dianna** and **Krista Gilham** provided special music during the ceremony.

Jennifer and **Matthew** live in the Mount Washington neighborhood of Baltimore. **Jennifer** is an audit manager at Cohn Reznick LLP, Baltimore. **Matthew**, a native of Jericho (Long Island) NY, is a police officer with the Baltimore County Police Department. **Jennifer** graduated from Wilson HS and Mount St. Mary's University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Spanish and a Master's of Business Admin.

Lynn married **Brandon Fuhrman** of

York in an outdoor ceremony on the 18th green at Moselem Springs Golf Club. A dinner followed in the clubhouse. **The Rev. Steven Belinski**, a family friend and a summer guest preacher at Lincoln Park, officiated in the July 2 ceremony. They live in Dover Township, York County.

A graduate of Wilson HS and Messiah College, **Lynn** has a degree in Human Development and Family Science with a concentration in Marriage and Family Therapy. She's a Behavioral Support Specialist with Integrative Counseling Services, Harrisburg. She also coaches field hockey and track and field in the West York School District. **Brandon** is a Health and Physical Education teacher in the Dover School District. He is the Junior High Wrestling Coach in the district and a PIAA wrestling and volleyball official.



Love Is an Action

Fiddler on the Roof, the 1964 musical about an Orthodox Jewish family navigating cultural change, includes a duet by the main character, Tevye, and his wife, Golde. As they watch their daughters marry for love, they contemplate their own arranged marriage. "Do you love me?" Tevye sings. After first deflecting the question, Golde recounts the many things she's done for or with him during 25 years together — cooked, cleaned, endured hardships, raised a family. She concludes, "If that's not love, what is?"

When Jesus speaks of love, he uses a word that might be better translated as "serve." Above all, love is an action. Sometimes we feel loving; sometimes not. But Jesus calls us always to act lovingly. And in the end, serving is the best way to show our love.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*Dec 30
for our
Mid-January-
February Issue*

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.

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Congratulations to some special couples in our congregation who've recently celebrated wedding anniversaries:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Bernie and Rolland Ackelson | 65 years |
| Hildamay and Herb Bartron | 60 years |
| Barbara and Don Schlosser | 55 years |
| Cindy and Dave Kercher | 38 years |

From our mailbox...



Excerpts of two letters from New Journey Community Outreach:
Your contribution of \$1,500 helps us to provide food and clothing for individuals and families in need.
We received at the Clothing Center bags of new socks and underwear from LPCUMC. Thank you for remembering our needs and helping us so generously.

“You must habit yourself to the dazzle of the light and of every moment of your life.”
—Walt Whitman

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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