

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania

January-February 2017

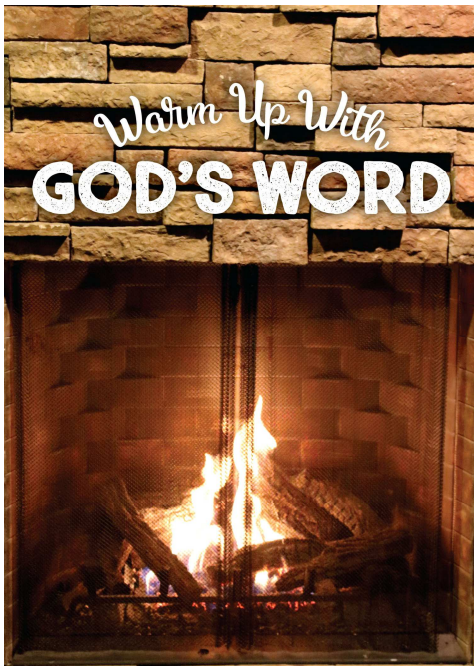
Covenant Bible Study

From Pastor David McMillan

The Covenant Bible Study meets on Thursday nights, 6:30-8 pm, in the church library. For eight weeks, we'll be reading the scriptures and discussing how to live out our covenant relationship with God. If you're interested in attending this study, please let me know so I can provide materials.

Monday Morning Bible Study

Our Monday morning Bible Study (11-12 noon) meets in the Church Library in the Perkins Education Building. We are currently reading and discussing the gospel of Luke. Everyone's invited to a lively time of reflection, questions, and discussion.



"I want to know one thing, the way to heaven: how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end he came from heaven. He has written it down in a book! Oh, give me that book!"

—John Wesley



From Pastor David McMillan

To begin the new year, we will be following the Revised Common Lectionary which leads us from Jesus' circumcision at eight days old to his baptism at around age 30, to the calling of his first disciples, the inauguration of his ministry, preaching, and transfiguration. In observing and following Jesus, we begin to see a pattern for our own spiritual formation. We find we are becoming disciples of the one who called us to take up our cross and follow him.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| January 15 | <i>Come and See</i> - John 1:29-42 |
| January 22 | <i>Follow Me</i> - Matthew 4:12-23 |
| January 29 | <i>The Beatitudes</i> – Matthew 5:1-11 |
| February 5 | Guest Preacher – Youth Pastor Kyle Robbins |
| February 12 | <i>But, I Say</i> – Matthew 5:21-37 |
| February 19 | <i>Be Perfect</i> -- Matthew 5:38-48 |
| February 26 | <i>Transfigured</i> – Matthew 17:1-9 |

Every Third Thursday Join Us for Worship at 8 pm

IT'S THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE! Please come for a special monthly worship service in our Wagner Room the third Thursday of every month. During this casual worship time, we'll sing, pray, hear devotions, and join in fellowship with one another. This is a great opportunity for anyone who cannot attend worship on Sunday mornings, or for anyone who'd like to supplement weekly worship with a new experience in a different setting.

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!



Thank You, God, for Your Gift of Music to Us at Lincoln Park.



From Beverly Perella

We sincerely appreciate all the musicians involved in our music program year round, but are especially thankful at Christmas time for their dedication, loyalty, and willingness to share their talents at our worship services, Christmas Cantata, and Christmas Eve Services. A heart-felt thank you, also, to our members who support our program with prayers and finances.

It was a Merry Christmas at Lincoln Park Church, and it will be a great New Year, too. Many thanks from a director who's so grateful for all of you!

To My Lincoln Park Church Family,

My name is **Jean Weikel**, and I am very proud to be a member of Lincoln Park Church. I have found many friendly, kind, and caring people in our congregation.

For those who many not know, I had surgery on October 4, in Philadelphia, at Thomas Jefferson Hospital. I had a disc and a vertebrae that was pinching my spinal cord, resulting in problems with my arms, balance, and ambulation. After surgery, my surgeon said he expects near-to-full recovery, but it will take some time to get my strength back to normal.

I would like to thank anyone who said a prayer, made a phone call, sent flowers, visited me in the hospital (Pastor Dave and friends) or brought food to our home and stayed for a

visit. George and I appreciated all your kindness so much.

After surgery, while lying in my bed, I said how "lucky" I was, but soon changed that to "I am blessed." I was blessed for my son to have found a good surgeon. I was blessed for all the prayers that were said for me. I was blessed to have a good husband (George) who took good care of me for about a month when I was unable to do for myself, and I was blessed with many good family members and friends who gave me lots of encouragement and love during my recovery.

During this time, my faith has grown even more, and I know God does hear and answer all our prayers. I know you must always keep your faith and trust in Him in both good and bad times in our lives.

Praise to our God, for He is *Great!*

Thinking Out Loud

From Pastor David McMillan

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:14,15

My niece recently published her first book, *Shoot Down the Wendy Bird*. These words were spoken by Tinker Bell who was afraid Wendy would win the affections of her Peter Pan.

My niece writes "I've forever been drawn to the feisty fairy that goes after what she wants despite all obstacles. No little girl was going to come in and take her love away, or ruin the good thing she had going in Neverland. Nope, she'd secure her happy ending, no matter what."

That's how *Shoot Down the Wendy Bird* was born. It's about the fire that makes you unstoppable on the journey to what you want. It's permeated with the drive to seize opportunities and situations, and to empower yourself to take an active role in your destiny. It's what these short stories and poems all share, even if they are all so very different. At the core of the book is the pas-

"I've begun to recognize the need for lovingly speaking the language of faith in our homes..."

sion "to live a better, happier, and more magical life."

Please know that I love my niece very much and that her book is very well written, but the funny thing is, I struggled to find within it the means "to live a better, happier and more magical life." Instead, what I was left with was the feeling of the absence of a presence who is able to make all things new again, a presence I call *God*.

I believe my niece, now in her early 30's, is representative of a growing number of young people who are searching for a narrative in which to find meaning, belonging, and hope. They are also a part of the growing number of so-called *Nones* and *Dones*, mostly 20 and 30-somethings, making up almost 20% of our population, who are leaving organized religion because they no longer believe in religious teachings, or, in some cases, in God. There are a number of reasons why some people are finding religion irrelevant to their lives, but all point to a

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

deepening secularization of our country. Unlike some, I do not believe that our growing secularization as a nation is because of the absence of a dedicated time for prayer in schools or because stone replicas of the Ten Commandments have been taken out of the lobbies of our courthouses. I believe it is something more fundamental than this.

What I see in Christian homes is the growing absence of a presence, the recognition, writes author Calvin Chin, “that there is something larger than a human being, accompanied by capacities for awe, respect and shame.” When the absence of this presence exists, writes theologian Harvey Cox, “Christmas becomes a family reunion. Easter a spring style show, and Thanksgiving a time when there is no one to thank.”

I am guilty on this account, of becoming restless when praying over the Christmas turkey or Easter ham goes on at length to recount all God’s faithful acts or to remind us of our covenant responsibilities. But I’ve begun to recognize the need for authentically, lovingly speaking the language of faith in our homes, to remind ourselves of our biblical narrative and to intentionally acknowledge and yield to the One, “in whom we live and move and have our being.”



I believe the onus for the loss of faith in our homes rests primarily upon parents and grandparents. Possibly in fear of alienating our children and grandchildren or looking hypocritical, we’ve abdicated our roles as spiritual leaders and the vows we made to our children at their baptism... to lead them to faith in Christ “by our teaching and example.” I believe many of us have erred for too long in thinking that our “example” is enough. Our shortcoming has been in our failure “to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.”

Among many of the so-called Nones and Dones today, there remains a search for a master story in which to find meaning and belonging, in which they can inherit the “passion to live a better, happier, and more magical life.” Many turn to the stories of Hollywood, celebrities, fantasy, vampire trilogies, or young adult fiction of unrequited loves.

All the while we, their elders, who have been entrusted with the good news of a God with us, a God of unconditional love, have chosen to keep this gospel to ourselves. In the words of the Apostle Paul “How are they to call on one whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?...As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”

Jesus Is Offering Do-Overs

From Susanna Foth Aughtmon, submitted by **Nancy Villecco**

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

I LOVE DO-OVERS. Making a fresh start in the new year is the ultimate do-over. Last year, I vowed to get strong and fit in January and started a new eating and exercise plan. By February, I had thrown my back out and was eating whole bars of chocolate on the couch. But this is the thing, life... is....wild. Sometimes all your plans and hopes and dreams get turned on their ear and you are left remarking, *Well, this year sure didn't turn out like I thought it would.*

I have an idea for you. Don't pin your every hope and dream on this shiny new year. Pin them on the One Who set the stars in place and Who breathes life into everything He touches.

If that new year feeling is slipping through your fingers and your pants are

"Why don't you give Me this year and let's see what we can do together?"

still tight and you still don't have a regular devotional time with Jesus, don't feel that this year is shot and your chance at bright and shiny is gone. Jesus loves do-overs more than we do. He is a do-over kind of God and He doesn't just wait until the new year. He wants to give you do-overs all year long. In January, mid-April, and late October. Jesus has new mercies for us every day, and His great faithfulness is at the ready to keep us lifted and full and sustained no matter what this year holds. He sees our great hopes and says, "Why don't you give Me this year and let's see what we can do together?"

Jesus is offering daily do-overs, steadfast love, never-ending mercy, and unwavering faithfulness throughout. I think we should take Him up on His offer, don't you?



We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family of **Genevieve Matthews**, former member of our church. Genevieve was always willing to help out at Lincoln Park, in the office for the flea market, and much more before she moved to live closer to family. Peace be with you!



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*February 15
for our
March-April
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.

Our staff-

Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678-8735

Staff: Nancy Artz, Bunny Carlson, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria

Change of Address

Ms Danielle Hallacher
506 Springside Dr #2
Reading PA 10607-1037

From our mailbox...

♥ We, the staff of Lincoln Park Church, wish to thank the congregation for our generous Christmas gifts. May God bless you all in this New Year!

♥ Dear Lincoln Park Friends,
This is to thank you so much for the monetary donation and bags of groceries you gave us recently. Every donation helps us to continue our mission of feeding the hungry of downtown Reading.

All of us at NJCO (New Journey Community Outreach) wish you a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year. Thank you for being such a generous and devoted friend!

Susan Summer, NJCO Volunteer

Births

Congratulations to **Grace (Blakely)** and **Jim Rebesco** on the birth of their daughter, **Fiona Marie**, on December 17.

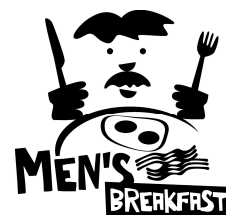
Her proud grandparents are **Tom and Pamela Blakely**. Welcome to the world, precious baby!



**LP Serves Dinner at
Opportunity House
Tuesday, March 7**

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

From Pastor Dave
McMillan
Please remember our
Men's Breakfast the
first Wednesday
morning (8 am) every
month at the Deluxe
Diner on Old Lancaster Avenue. Join us
for a brief
devotion, food, and fellowship.



NEWS-LINC

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church
1 Carlisle Avenue
Reading, PA 19609

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Reading, PA
Permit No. 233

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
 Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Kris Fedeli
Office phone 610-777-1422; Fax line 610-777-4309
Voicemail: Pastor Dave 12, Church Office 10, Beverly Perella 16
Web: www.lpcumc.org
E-mail: info@lpcumc.org (Secretary and Church), dmcmillan@lpcumc.org (Pastor
 McMillan) For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.