

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania

November-December 2017

You're Invited for Our Family Christmas Party

Sunday, December 3, 5-7 pm

From Beverly Perella
Come and enjoy the season with us! As in past years, we'll do some community service projects first, followed by a dinner. The main course and drinks will be provided. What can you bring?

- a side dish or dessert.
- cookies that we can package for the residents at Hope Rescue Mission in Reading.
- extra Christmas cards that we can address for our shut-ins and the men at the Mission



- toiletries for New Journey Community Outreach —shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, lotion, combs, deodorant, washcloths and hand towels.

The youth group Summit will present a Christmas program in the sanctuary after dinner.

So, set aside these two wonderful hours to join your church family in preparing for our Lord's birth. This simple evening is filled with laughter and fellowship.

Scatter Joy : Pack a Shoebox

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, participants since 2002 have filled over 1,000 shoeboxes for children in need in over 130 countries. Many of the children have never received a gift.

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at Lincoln Park Church

**Sundays at 9 am (Contemporary)
and 11 am (Traditional)**

Every Third Thursday Worship at 8 pm

IT'S THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE! During this casual monthly worship time in our Wagner Room, we'll sing, pray, hear devotions, and enjoy one another.

All Saints' Sunday, November 5, at both 9 and 11 am services

Sunday, November 26, at 8:45 am:

4TH SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND WORSHIP, for young and old alike. There will be **no breakfast on Sunday, December 24**, but breakfasts will return in January.

Sunday, December 10, 11 am: *The Song Heard 'Round the World*, a cantata for Christmas by Joseph Martin, will be presented by the Chancel and Bell Choirs. This journey of international carols and folk songs highlights the theme of unity and peace throughout the world. Bring family and friends.



Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve

Morning worship at 9 and 11am. **NO BREAKFAST** this Sunday.

7 pm **Family Candle Lighting Service** with children's pageant.

10 pm **Traditional Candle Lighting and Communion Service**. Vocal and instrumental preludes begin at 9:30.

No service on Christmas Day.

Sunday, December 31: Regular Sunday worship schedule at 9 and 11 am.

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 pastors. If you'd like to receive *News-Linc* in the mail, just notify our Secretary. Please join in at Lincoln Park!



Christmas Joy At Lincoln Park



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9 AM:

Annual decorating of the sanctuary. Everyone is invited, and needed, to help.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 5-7 PM: Family Christmas Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 11 AM: Christmas Cantata

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 5-7 PM: Live Nativity Scene, presented by our youth and other church members.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24: **Christmas Eve** (Morning Worship as usual)
Evening Candle Lighting Worship at 7 and 10 pm

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 not as fortunate as we are. For many years, through the Salvation Army's Adopt-a-Family Program, Lincoln Park Church has helped (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!

One way you can help decorate our beautiful church this season is by ordering red, white, or pink poinsettias. The cost is \$6 each, and they can be dedicated *in honor* or *in memory of* (someone) or *to the glory of God*.



Order forms (available in bulletins, Wagner Room, or Church Office) must be received by December 3. Please place your orders — accompanied by cash or check payable to LPCUMC — in the basket in the Wagner Room or mail it to the Church Office at 1 Carlisle Ave, Reading PA 19609. Call **Betsy Buchanan**, 610-777-2501, with questions.

Let Us Pray "Together!"

From Pastor Kyung Mo Koo



*Would you join me a word of prayer?
Let us bow our heads. Let us take a mo-
ment for silent prayer!*

These are the words we most frequently say or hear during church services. As Christians, we not only worship God every Sunday, but we also participate in fellowship activities, attend Bible studies, and join in various mission and ministry opportunities. Before, during, and after such worship, activities, or events, we always pray. Why do we pray? Why should we pray? Who should pray?

Every time we do God's ministry or attend any meeting, fellowship event, or Christian education opportunity, we expect God's intervention, guidance, protection, and provision. Unlike other social groups, we are looking beyond what we do. We expect God's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. For that reason, we pray and believe in the power of prayer. If we don't believe in God's presence and work, we don't need to pray.

But we do believe in God and His presence, power, and provision; so we need to pray before, during, and after whatever we do in the name of

God. Prayer is not a ritual like the national anthem before a ball game.

Prayer is asking for God's help as we carry out His mission and ministry.

The first thing I do every time I enter the church is pray. Before I meet or share anything with people, I meet God first. I intentionally take time to personally talk to and hear from God first. As a spiritual leader, I ask God to lead me,

**"Prayer is our major source
of spiritual power and the
proof of our intimate
relationship with God."**

guide me, and give me whatever I need to further His kingdom. We need that act of faith, too. So, I suggest that you not only pray before a meal or bedtime, but also try to pray first thing when you

come to church. Before you share a greeting or have fellowship with others, meet God first and take time to talk to God.

Although I am still new to Lincoln Park, I am leading worship, attending committees, and participating in breakfasts, luncheons, and other fellowship events enough to share my observations with you. Because I am new, I can see things you may have become accustomed to, ignored, or don't recognize. With respect to prayer, I was surprised

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by the culture that Lincoln Park is much too dependent on the pastor. The majority at Lincoln Park seems to perceive the pastor as the one in charge of every prayer. Surely, the pastor should be a person of prayer in his/her own journey of faith and should guide others to pray; however, it is a misunderstanding that the pastor is the only one who can or should pray at every meeting, event, or fellowship. The pastor's exclusive duty and role for the church is Word and Sacrament. Prayer is not in that category.

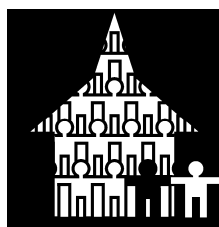
One of the biggest differences between Catholic and Protestant churches is the "priesthood of all believers." We don't need a priest to act as an agent when we confess and talk to God. The pastor is not a mediator between God and you; God desires to communicate with you personally, so you can talk to God anytime, any place, and on any occasion. I came here not as a professional praying person, but as a helper who can shepherd Lincoln Park to become a praying congregation. Remember, Jesus did not teach us how to preach, but how to pray.

My suggestion for you is that you try to lead a prayer, especially if you are a chairperson of a committee or a leader at any gathering. If it is new and hard for you, write down your prayer. If you're asked to lead and pray for the group, do not fear or turn it down.

Our church staff and praise band team have begun to pray together before services every Sunday. We need to encourage and support each other, be one body of Christ, and ask for God's help before we worship His name and glory. For Christians, whether clergy or laity, prayer is our major source of spiritual power and the proof of our intimate relationship with God.

I encourage all Lincoln Park members to pray in private, as well as in public. The pastor is not the designated one to pray.

Each and every one of us is God's child, whom He delights in and wants to hear from. Each one of us has the right and privilege to pray to God directly. So, let us pray "Together!"



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

A **NEW MEMBER CLASS** will be held **November 19, 3-6 pm**, in Memorial Hall. If you're interested in becoming a member of Lincoln Park Community UMC, a sign-up sheet is on the table in the Wagner Room.

Worship Leaders Attend Conference with Praise Team Members

From Rebecca Chadwick and Mark Villecco

Mark and I were fortunate to attend *Experience Conference* in September, along with two Praise Team members, **Jonathan Chadwick** and **Lindsey Villecco**.

Experience offers quality workshops for leaders, pastors, instrumentalists, vocalists, sound technicians, and other praise team members. Over 1,500 people attended this year, gaining access to the most current music and trends in Christianity today.

Throughout *Experience 2017*, we “experienced:”

- Five general sessions featuring compelling pastors, worship leaders, and inspirational speakers, plus seven artists and bands at the forefront of Contemporary Christian Music, sharing stories and new music.
- A night of *Worship in the Round* - no projectors, lighting effects, backing tracks - just a keyboard, a few acoustic instruments, and over 1,000 voices praising God!
- Five breakout training sessions with classes and guidance, including:
 - ✦ running effective rehearsals
 - ✦ crafting inviting sound, and
 - ✦ using the latest technology.

We shared stories with worship leaders from around the country -- our accomplishments, struggles, and insights.

We discussed keeping the focus on God amid the challenges and about creating unity within our team, church, and pastors. Finally, we were encouraged to spend time alone with God during our weeks, so that on Sunday mornings we’d be overflowing with worship!



From Lindsey Villecco

I’m so thankful for my involvement at the Experience Conference 2017. I learned cherished things: not only about techniques and skills, but also about drawing closer to the Lord.

I took away that if you’re spending more time with your craft than with Jesus, there’s a problem. I was reminded to focus on the Lord and grow closer to Him, and that the goal of a church needs to be about praising God. My goal will be to get people singing and praising the Lord.

It’s important to know your congregation so you can sing words to the people who need them, based on their struggles at the moment. God wants and enjoys NEW songs – and I heard new songs great for congregational singing. I learned that the best worship is modeled by what the angels do: “Sing to God about God.”

On *Passing the Peace*

From Pastors Kyung Mo and SunAe Lee Koo

Passing the Peace is a universal Christian term, practiced since ancient church times. Today, the UMC uses *Passing the Peace* in the UMC *Book of Worship*, in the UMC *Hymnal*, and in many resources on its official website:

<https://www.umcsc.org/PDF/WorshipNutsandBolts2.pdf>;
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>).

Accordingly, the root of passing the peace is found in the Bible. As we say to one another, *Peace be with you*, we remember the greeting Jesus himself used with his disciples (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26), as well as his teaching for us to become peacemakers (Matthew 5:9; 2Cor. 5:20). Since the apostle Paul used in his letters *Grace and peace be with you* (Romans 1:7; 1Cor. 1:3; 2Cor. 1:2), the early Christians have used *Peace be with you* as a Christian exercise to become peacemakers - followers of Jesus, the prince of peace. Therefore, Christian churches, regardless of denomination, have traditionally maintained this unique greeting in the order of Christian worship as *The Peace* or *Passing the Peace*.

Passing the peace might feel strange to some Christians, and some have abandoned the practice, opting instead for a more colloquial greeting, *Hi, how are you?* However, every act in our worship is



not just a simple ritual, but an expression with profound meaning, which can be a means of grace; passing the peace is certainly one such expression. Therefore please choose during this time not to fall back on the greeting: *How was your week?* but to share the peace of God, since we identify with Jesus who gave us his life to make peace with humanity (1 Cor. 1:20-21).

During the passing of peace, we may leave our seats, turn to neighbors, grasp hands, and speak the words, *The peace of the Lord be with you* and receive in return, *And also with you*. By the weekly exercise of passing the peace, when we extend our hands to one another, we acknowledge the peace that comes from the forgiving grace of God, and confirm our vocation to be peacemakers, just as Jesus Christ our Lord breathed upon the disciples, "Peace be with you."



From **Kyle Robbins**, Youth Leader

Here are some upcoming events:

NOVEMBER 3 - Reverb. This all-night event takes place in Allentown. The youth will see a hockey game, hear a Gospel presentation, go bowling, and end the night at a indoor turf field. The cost is \$40 per student.

NOVEMBER 5, 12, 19 - Meetings as scheduled with both Sunday School and Youth Group.

NOVEMBER 26 - No groups (Thanksgiving holiday)

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:10-10:50 am, Youth Room

UM YOUTH GROUP
for Grades 6-12
Sundays, 6-8 pm

Please join us! Bring friends!

DECEMBER 3 - Family Christmas Party, a tradition as long as I've been at LP Church, is a great time of fellowship and Christmas spirit. Our youth will lead the short service after dinner, including short Christmas miracle stories, prayers, and songs.

DECEMBER 17 - Our youth and church will present a
LIVE NATIVITY, 5-7 pm.

DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE
NO Youth Group.

DECEMBER 31 - 12:30-3 pm. (please note the change of time. We'll play some games and do a Christmas gift exchange. Everyone should bring a gift worth less than \$15.

From Beth Auman

BOOK CLUB will meet November 27, at 2 pm, at the home of **Marian Longenecker**. The selection for November is *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain. Please come and join us for a lively discussion and light refreshments.



Final Notice!
Sunday, November 5, 3 pm
Cliff and Wendy Flick in concert
LD Church
Fred Waring &
the Pennsylvanians

Silent Auction



Bidding ends at 12:30 pm on November 5. Thanks to **Beverly Perella, Lou and Jerry Manhart, Betsy Buchanan, Carol and Rich Bashore, Roe and Jim Gehman** for their efforts on this fundraiser.

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Brochures in the Wagner Room give ideas on buying and packing your box. Also, at samaritan-spurse.org, you can read more about the program, print labels that allow you to track your box and the country it goes to, and even pack a box online for \$25.

This ministry provides not only smiles and gifts, but also reading and follow-up to introduce children to Jesus. If you have extra shoeboxes, please bring them to our Wagner Room for others to use, and plastic containers can also be substituted. Boxes are due in the Wagner Room by Sunday, November 19. Give your \$9 donation online to track the destination of your shoebox! The amazing journey of a shoebox begins with you!

From the Editor

Beverly Perella, our talented Music Director and Coordinator of Children's Ministries, says she will not be able to continue her leadership of our annual Flea Market and Autumn Auction, which she has been doing for many years.

It reminds me of how thankful I am for Bev's service to Lincoln Park Church. She contributes so much to many ministries here, always so capably and without complaint.

Thank you, Bev!

Advent Is for Filling Up On Hope

From Erin Keeley, submitted by **Nancy Villecco**

From *Guideposts Mornings with Jesus*, 2017, December 3, p. 337

*We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,
a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,
where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf.... Hebrews 6:19-20 (ESV)*

A hush fell as the lights dimmed to near darkness and the speaker described the condition of the world the Baby Jesus would be born into.

God's people had long been oppressed by the Roman government. Those were dark days back then, full of hopelessness for the Israelites. The somber mood in the worship center deepened the sense of hopelessness. It seemed we could feel a fraction of what the Israelites had felt.

And then into the darkness a small flame erupted. The flicker of light came from the Advent wreath at the front of the church, a tiny glow that shattered the darkness. Darkness cannot exist where light is, and when darkness is extinguished, hope is born.

How fitting that hope is the theme for the first of the four weeks of Advent. Hope comes first, hope for the peace

and joy and love we cannot find on our own and never in real and lasting measure apart from Christ.

Each year as December rolls along, my spirit simply wants to be quiet and digest Advent's themes, the realities of each of the weeks, instead of hurrying through the chaos. I long to reflect and finish the year with the messages of Advent on my heart.

Advent is for filling up on hope; what a refreshing thought!

As today's verse says, Jesus is the forerunner of our lives. And with Him in the lead, we can welcome the days ahead full of hope.

FAITH STEP: Remind yourself of HOPE with these responses to Jesus for being our great hope:

HALLELUJAH
OVERFLOWING IN
PRAISES
ETERNAL



We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to family and friends of **Todd Beamesderfer**, 46, who passed away on October 3. The son of **Donald** and **Gloria Beamesderfer**, Todd was active at Lincoln Park, most recently as Chairman of Trustees, as a member of the Praise Team, and a participant on mission trips. "Todd never failed to give a helping hand, a laugh, and a smile," says **Lindsey Villecco**.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*January 2
for our
Mid January—
February issue*

From our mailbox...

♥ Balloons, cupcakes, flowers, a manicure and pedicure (each a “first” for me) but the best part of my 100th birthday was being with family and friends. After dining with my six nieces and nephews, I was greeted with love from even more family and special friends.

I feel very blessed that I’ve been able to call the Highlands home for so many years. The friends I’ve made here are some of the finest people I’ve ever met. Looking back, I am flooded with memories which I’ll always treasure whether they be sad, funny, or heart-warming.

Please accept my sincere thanks for the beautiful cards, gifts, and your presence in making my 100th birthday just what I wanted it to be! My heart is full of warm feelings for every one of you.

With much love,
Thelma Godshalk

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, Beverly Ruffner, Marilyn Seiders, Mark Villecco

♥ Thank you for my beautiful flowers and cards. I never received sunflowers before. They really highlighted my room at a time when I needed it most. Now I’m ready for my next challenge. God is with me. He walks with me every day. Thank you,

LP Serves Dinner at Opportunity House

Tuesday, Jan 2

Can You Help?

Sign-up sheets are in
the Wagner Room.



Change of Address

Mr & Mrs Mark Steinmeyer
1358 W Wyomissing Ct Apt E
West Lawn PA 19609-2353

Elizabeth Stoud
4703 Snow Hill Rd
Salisbury MD 21804-1517

Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"

—Corrie Ten Boom

NEWS-LINC

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

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Change service requested

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

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 Pastors: KyungMo Koo, SunAe Lee-Koo, 610-670-1022 Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-334-4197 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
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