

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania

Winter 2018



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

UM YOUTH GROUP
for Grades 6-12

Over the next two months we'll do a lesson series on the disciples.

From **Kyle Robbins**, Youth Leader

JANUARY 18 - Winter Jam is an incredible evening of live concert by the top artists in Christian music, plus worship and ministry, to encourage believers and share the good news. It was begun in 1995 and has become the largest annual tour in the world. **This big worship event is coming to Santander Arena in Reading.** Cost: \$15.

FEBRUARY 11 - Family Appreciation Night. Parents and youth will share a meal and recap the last year of ministry.



**Reading Philharmonic
Orchestra**
in concert at our church
Sunday, March 18 at 3 pm



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 join in fellowship with one another.



A Dilemma

Sunday, December 10, was the peak of my musical church career! That's a strong statement to make, but the cantata itself with its cry for peace, the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, instrumentalists, and narrators were all in complete harmony. Their music was exquisitely performed, and the beautiful message prepared us for Advent, Christmas, and beyond.

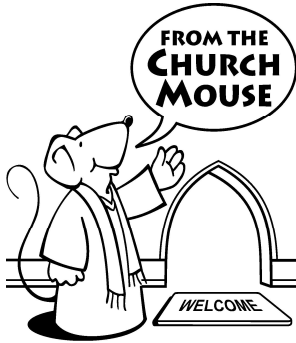
I was overwhelmed at everything, and this was truly the first time I was able to play, listen, worship, and enjoy. We had 19 voices in the Chancel Choir, everyone related in some way to our church fam-

ily. The choir with its superb balance between all four voices was the dream of every director.

Now here is my dilemma. With a congregation of our size, why can't we attract more members to sing with us on a regular basis? I understand and recognize that not everyone is able to sing weekly, but we are flexible. We are a warm welcoming group, and laughter and a relaxed atmosphere fill our rehearsals. So, I ask you again, as I have done so often, to offer your gift of music to our congregation. Pray and listen. See if God is calling you to be with us in the Chancel Choir.

Our Lincoln Park church staff would like to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas gift. You helped make this Christmas season so meaningful. We as a staff are truly blessed. Thanks for your thoughtfulness and compassion.





From the Editor

Many Lincoln Park members, their children, and grandchildren have participated in mission trips over the years. I always enjoy hearing about them and hope you do, too.

Emily Martin, granddaughter of **Bill Lape**, began a two-year “adventure” in the Dominican Republic this fall. After graduation from Baylor University with a degree in Marketing and Corporate Communications in May, 2017, she took a job with Makarios International as a missionary.

Emily and sister **Katie** lived with their parents, **Ron** and **Jane (Lape) Martin**, in Singapore from 2004-2011.

In those years, “the girls pretty much grew up as expat kids,” says Jane, before moving to Texas for high school and, later, Baylor University (Katie’s a junior now).

Jane gives this account of how her daughter came to work in the Dominican: “Emily was involved with Young Life during high school in Singapore and Texas, and helped establish it at Baylor. [Young Life is a non-profit, global organization that aims to introduce adolescents to Christ and to help them grow in faith.]

A Fun Fact about Emily

She also worked for Joanna Gaines (from *Fixer Upper*) at her Magnolia Market store in Waco.

Emily spent two weeks in the Dominican Republic on a church trip, and later two months as a summer intern with Makarios before graduation. In the Dominican, she’ll be the Group Ministry Trips Assistant and Communications Liaison at Makarios International, a school near Puerto Plata.

Emily spent last summer fundraising and officially moved to the DR on October 1. She’s been living with a host family (a single mom and her two children). They often have no water to shower, and the power goes out often during the day. Most Dominican people only speak Spanish, so Emily needed to take some intensive

(Continued on page 6)

SunAe Lee-Koo's Pastoral Wish : New Clothes for a New Year

From Pastor SunAe Lee-Koo



When we identify ourselves as Christ-followers (Christians), we follow Christ's footsteps. In Christ, with Christ, through Christ, we not only receive God's love but also are empowered to live like Christ, imitating the love of Christ. In fact, the Bible teaches us that love is to be our clothing (Gal. 3:27).

One of the many aspects of love is binding the broken. The most sublime and perfect example of the love of Christ can be understood as a reconciliation, for Jesus Christ came to us to be the bridge builder (Mediator) between God and us (1 Tim. 2:5). In this sense, Christian love is a binding love; binding the broken in the name of Christ through the grace of God.

On the contrary, breaking divisiveness in the name of self-centered myopia is not of God.

The Hebrew word *Satan* means *adversary*, and its translation to Greek gives us the word *Diabolos*, from the root *diaballo*, "to divide or separate." Hence, the meaning of Devil (*Diabolos*) is "He who places division," and its derived meaning is "slanderer." Accordingly, someone who causes divisions and has

no love that the Bible speaks of; someone who divides or stirs up divisions in the church is not from God either.

Love is the antidote against the work of the devil who divides. When we prevent any enemy's scheme of breaking our unity through seemingly valid claims (some truth, but without love), our weapon is the love that binds.



Through Paul's exhortation that we clothe ourselves with love that binds, we are given the right way to fight spiritual battles against our enemy. Compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and forgiveness (Col. 3:12; 1Cor. 3:4-7) are not just different names of love, but of spiritual armor. If we witness that one of us fol-

lows the enemy's scheme and plants an idea of division among us, over different worship styles for example, we need to wear the spiritual armor of compassion against the hurting spirit, kindness against the blaming spirit, humility against the judging spirit, meekness against the egoistic spirit, patience against the upsetting spirit, forgiveness against the angry spirit... with such

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

spiritual armor, we can beat the dividing spirit in the church/among us.

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Rom.12:21). No one can perfectly describe a Christ bearer’s life, but anyone can discern what is *not* the life of a Christ bearer.

We, as bearers of Christ’s love, are the witnesses and recipients of God’s gift: Christ who is love. So when we are clothed with love, possessing the different virtues of Christ’s character, we become a small gift to others from God. The characteristic of Christian life is to become a gift. Unlike worldly material gifts that can be sent forward to someone unused, God’s gift can be sent forward only when we are used. If we are not given to other people like Christ was given to us, then we are meaningless gifts.

Think of gifts on the shelf of a gift shop! If it isn’t purchased and given to a special recipient, then it is not a gift, but a mere decoration. A gift is to be given. We, as Christians who have received God’s gift of salvation, the gift of love, should give it to others, rather than leaving it on a dusty shelf. If I call myself a Christian and go to church every Sunday, but no one around me feels any binding love through compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and forgiving spirit, then I am a self-defined gift kept on a shelf; I am but a decoration. If any

of us feels like a decoration, it is time to wear love and live in Christlikeness.

If we want to wear these spiritual clothes of love that binds, we have to take off clothes of contention, hatred, short temper, resentment, and unforgiveness. If we cannot take these off all at once, at least we can *will*. We need to will, because whatever divides and separates us from one another is not of God, but of the devil. Previously, we may have lived indifferently. However, here and now as we open another calendar year, we need to decide which clothes we want to and will intentionally wear.

What to Wear in 2018

compassion

against the hurting spirit

kindness

against the blaming spirit

humility

against the judging spirit

meekness

against the egoistic spirit

patience

against the upsetting spirit

forgiveness

against the angry spirit

Giving Up for Lent?

Rather than sacrificing something for Lent — especially something easy and spiritually insignificant, like chocolate — Patty Kirk, in *Guideposts* magazine, suggests finding new ways to indulge in God's presence. Surely one can do this by having extra devotions or attending Lenten worship services. But Kirk offers these ideas:



February 14

- † Spend time outdoors, sensing God's magnificence.
- † Spend time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus' promise that when you care for others, you care for him (Matthew 25:31-46)
- † Pray for the "little things," coming before God in childlike trust and feeling peace.
- † Watch attentively for God's answers to prayer, and receive them as reminders of his presence.
- † Turn anxiety into prayer. As you frame concerns as prayers and entrust them to God, you "sacrifice" the tendency to wallow in worry.

(cont. from p. 3)

language training.

Jane and Ron appreciate your prayers for Emily. You can follow her blog about her experiences at emilyemartin@wordpress.com.

With Emily away and Katie at school in Texas, Jane says, "Ron and I relocated back to Singapore as "Empty Nesters" in 2016 for Ron's job at Emerson Automation Solutions. I keep busy by traveling between Singapore, Texas, and Pennsylvania to see my Dad."

In case you'd like to donate to this cause, you can send a check to Makarios, 1801 E. 51st St, Suite 365-3000, Austin TX 78723. Leave the memo line blank, and include Emily Martin's name as a missionary preference.

MAKARIOS is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty in the Dominican through Christ-centered education, community programs, and empowering relationships. They offer health and education programs, plus medical and dental clinics.

They have classrooms from Pre-K through 8th grade and will add a grade each year as current students progress. After students complete the program as teenagers, they receive vocational training and help finding employment.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*February 15
for our
March—
April issue*

From our mailbox...



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 to my church family for your prayers, concerns, cards and flowers during my recent knee surgery and recuperation.
Pat Owens

Change of Address

Mr & Mrs Steven Hagee
845 W 19th St #1
San Pedro CA 90731-5313

- ♥ Dear Friends, On behalf of New Journey Community Outreach, thank you so much for the food you recently donated. We really appreciate your continuing support for feeding the hungry and homeless in Reading! God bless you,
Susan Summer

**LP Serves Dinner at
Opportunity House
Tuesday, March 6
Can You Help?
Sign-up sheets are in**



- ♥ Dear LP Family,
Your gift of delicious cookies is a blessing to those seeking refuge and life restoration at Hope Rescue Mission. Thank you for your kindness and love in the Lord toward many in need! Blessings in Christ, Robert Turchi



Bill Lape and Betty and Jim Garraway recently celebrated their 80th birthdays.

Best Wishes! You are a blessing to us at Lincoln Park UM Church!

**"Laughter is the sun
that drives winter from the human face."**

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 Pastors: Kyung Koo, SunAe Lee-Koo
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
Office phone 610-777-1422; Ext: Kitchen 17; Ed Bldg 15; Nursery 14
Fax line 610-777-4309
Voicemail: Church Office 10, Beverly Perella 16
Web: www.lpcumc.org