

# News-Line

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*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter*  
*Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania* *Winter 2019*

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## Congregation Meets for Lunch and Much More

From Cheri Fallon, Jack Villecco, and Pastor SunAe-Lee Koo

Many of us gathered for a delicious “covered-dish” lunch, a dedication of the Davidheiser Memorial Kitchen, and an informational meeting on Sunday, January 6. We knew in advance that the topic of the meeting would be the United Methodist Church’s upcoming General Conference (February 23-26). In St Louis, Missouri, 864 delegates from around the world will discuss and vote on a controversial issue: church unity and homosexuality. The vote could have serious repercussions for many UM churches.

**Jack Villecco** and **Richard Auman** led the program, explaining the situation to about 60 people. I’ll try to recap what we learned.

Perhaps you’ve heard of the *Book of*



*Discipline* for The UMC worldwide. It contains some rules that have been challenged (since 1972) regarding human sexuality. The current Book of Discipline states in 304.3:

- *The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore,*
- *self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers or appointed to serve in the UMC.*
- 161C states: *the marriage covenant is shared fidelity between a man and a woman.*
- 341.6 states: *ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not*

*(Continued on page 7)*



## 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.

### **How Will I Know?**

From Richard and Carol Bashore

If services need to be cancelled, an e-mail will be sent to members whose e-mail is on file with the church. For those who don't receive church e-mails, please check the church website at [www.lpcumc.org](http://www.lpcumc.org) to see if services are can-



*God ... does great things beyond our knowing. He says to snow, 'Fall to the earth'; likewise to his heavy, drenching rain. He shuts up all humankind indoors, so all people may know his work. Job 37:5-7, NABRE*

Now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We're granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It's like a surprise Sabbath — the gift of grace-time — when no one's expected to get out the door or the driveway. Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shuts us all indoors so we pause and remember his work — his

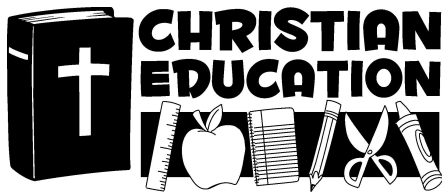
### **Welcome Newcomers!**

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, Marilyn.



## **Re-organized Christian Education Committee Meets Saturday, February 2, 10 am**

From Beverly Perella, Christian Education Chair



We're pleased that attendance in the pre-school, elementary, and secondary age classes is increasing. It's the perfect time to share ideas about the present and future of our Sunday School program. Beginning February 2, this group will meet quarterly to plan for our Christian Education

program. Child care will be available. If Saturday is not a good option for meetings,

### **We Love Music at Lincoln Park**

We want to thank our church musicians for their beautiful, inspiring contributions to the Advent and Christmas seasons. Our church is blessed to have such great, dedicated musicians within our own family.

Also, we're grateful to have a Concert Fund that gives us the opportunity to invite additional musicians from the community. As always, we would welcome new members to our program, be it in the Cherub, Chancel and Bell Choirs, or the Praise Team. There can never be too many people



*There's a Place for You!*

From Pastor SunAe Lee-Koo  
Meet us in Memorial Hall for our  
**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY, 10 am**  
Our Topic:  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

***Our Cherub Choir will sing on January 27 and February 24.***

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### **Thank You from Your Lincoln Park Staff**

We not only appreciate your generous Christmas gifts, but also your continued encouragement, support, and love.

**Pastors KyungMo and Sun-Ae Lee Koo, Beverly Perella, Mark Villecco, Marilyn Seiders, Kyle Robbins, Carl Madeira, Kathi Ernst, and Kris Fedeli.**

## After Sermon Series, and Then What?

From The Rev KyungMo Koo



I hope you enjoyed the wonderful Advent and Christmas season with your family, friends, and church. I pray that you and your family are healthy in body and spirit, and that your prayers will be answered in this New Year. I also have great expectations for our loving God to continually bless Lincoln Park as we strive to do our best in Christ. January is always a good time to look back on what happened last year and plan for what we're looking forward to with hope and excitement.

For three Sundays last fall, I delivered a sermon series about Lincoln Park. As new spiritual leaders, SunAe and I had faithfully visited almost the entire congregation, in their homes or ours, or at the Church Office (99 families and 192 people so far). We also attended all our church's worship events, concerts, picnics at parishioners' homes, fellowship breakfasts, lunch gatherings, committees, and meetings. We intentionally took only one Sunday off for vacation because we wanted to be entrenched in the church's daily happenings.

We listened, watched, experienced, heard encouragement, received feedback,

sometimes felt disappointment, and sometimes found hope. Because you have all been part of Lincoln Park for so long, SunAe and I realized that you may not see some of the things we have seen.

As most of you know by now, I have written in my daily journal for the last 35 years every night, and many of my entries this past year include what I've seen and learned at Lincoln Park. The sermon series in the fall was a reflection of what I observed, experienced, and reflected

upon through these entries. It was an opportunity to honestly evaluate where we are now as a church, and move forward to restore, recover, and revive our church.

If I did not see hope for a greater future here, I would not have spent time and energy telling you where and how we can be better. I know some things were harder to hear than others, but I also believe that it was a necessary, albeit uncomfortable, reality check to be-

*(Continued on page 5)*

**"Let God be our  
vision planner, and let us  
be the vision carriers for a  
brighter and glorious fu-  
ture at Lincoln Park."**

(Continued from page 4)

come more forward-thinking and forward-acting for our church's future. I truly hope that this series provided you with a fresh perspective for Lincoln Park.

During this series, I also shared two visions that I believe God has for Lincoln Park. The first is that Lincoln Park will be an outward-focused congregation. Lincoln Park does an excellent job with inward ministry. Now it's time to balance out. Let us turn our eyes beyond our doors and reach out to our community with acts of love and the message of salvation in the name of Jesus Christ!

The second vision is that Lincoln Park will not be content with *Banker's Stewardship* but become a more disciplined congregation of *Christian Stewardship*. We are the body of Christ, not just any other social organization. Thus, I believe Lincoln Park can become a place that testifies to our faith in God's provision and our financial discipline based on the Bible. Godly financial integrity means not only collecting, managing, or saving, but also spending in a biblical way. Our money is not what we save, but what we spend.

### WHAT ARE OUR NEXT STEPS?

We must have a follow-up plan of action to make our visions become reality. I would like to share a few focal

points of the pastoral plan for 2019 based on these visions and the sermon series:

- † **First**, we need to **invite family, friends, and neighbors to our church** as often as possible. If you truly enjoy Lincoln Park, its people, its fellowship and hospitality, and its message each Sunday, it should be a natural and spontaneous act for us all to invite anyone around us to church. Don't worry about whether they'll come or not; our job is to invite, and God will take care of the rest.
- † **Second**, I continually encourage and ask for **more members to step up for God's mission and ministry**. Not just certain people changing hats each year; rather, more new committee chairs and members, lectors, Sunday School teachers, children's sermon teachers, Breakfast Sunday volunteers, devotion leaders for Men's Breakfast, and helping hands for the many fellowship events to come. Each and every one of us is called to serve, not to be served.
- † **Third**, we need to **strengthen and support our Contemporary Service and Praise Band**, not as a style of worship but as our future. We must seek the best way to encourage them spiritually and financially so they

(Continued on page 6)

## Church Kitchen Consecrated in Memory of the Davidheisers

From Cheri Fallon

**Harvey and Evelyn Davidheiser** were remembered on January 6 in a Service of Consecration for our refurbished Church Kitchen. They were faithful members at LP Church for many years, always ready to serve, always ready to greet you with enthusiasm.

Harvey (1918-2007) served in the Army Signal Corps in the 40's and was a self-employed freight broker for 30 years. Evelyn (1921-2017) was a Penn State graduate and a Home Economics teacher.

Our kitchen has had a number of improvements through the efforts of **Cindy Kercher, Michelle Ringler,** and **Andy and Diane Boyd.** An up-right freezer was purchased to replace smaller ones. Two fire resistant walls near the oven now improve fire safety. A closet adjacent to Memorial Hall was converted to storage, so countertops may be clear. A hot dog roller machine was purchased.

Bless our Church Kitchen — may it



*(Continued from page 5)*

may become great instruments of evangelism to the younger generations and non-believers.

† **Lastly**, 2019 should be a year of **building up our Children's Ministry** – part of this means rearranging and strengthening our Nursery Program, Potter's Wheel, and Sunday School classes. Pastor SunAe and I are also praying and preparing for our Bible Study for young mothers (we'll share more details as we finalize our plans).

God's vision is deeper, richer, and fuller than our own. It surpasses our personal preferences, tradition, and culture. It involves a picture grander



**LP Serves Dinner at Opportunity House**  
**Tuesday, March 5**

(Continued from page 1)

*be conducted by our ministers...and shall not be conducted in our churches.*

A recent update from our **Bishop Peggy A. Johnson** states that these rules have been debated and voted on repeatedly since 1972 but have remained the same, although additions have been included, like: *We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbians and gay members and friends.*

In 2016, the UMC Bishops organized a diverse group of lay people and clergy as the *Commission for the Way Forward*, to prayerfully study the issues and develop recommendations. In February 2018, the Commission presented three possible plans to the Council of Bishops:

**TRADITIONAL PLAN**...affirms the current rules and philosophies in *The Book of Discipline* about homosexuality, including the ban on same-gender marriages/unions and ordination of homosexuals.

**ONE CHURCH PLAN**...removes all of the restrictive language in the *Book of Discipline* about homosexuality, ordination, and same-gender marriages. It also protects the rights of clergy who feel they cannot perform these marriages or ordain LGBTQ persons.

**CONNECTIONAL CONFERENCE PLAN**...replaces the current five US (geographical) jurisdictions with three

branches: Traditional (Conservative), One-Church (Unity in Diversity), and Progressive (Liberal). Each would have its own Book of Discipline. The three Conferences would have one core of shared doctrine and services.

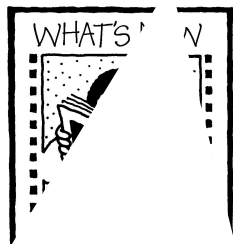
Much more is available about these three plans and upcoming General Conference on our Conference website: [www.epaumc.org](http://www.epaumc.org) or [UMC.org](http://UMC.org)

### WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

- First, pray for the future of our church as a denomination, especially from 2:23 to 2:26 am or pm daily, using resources from [UM-Prays.org](http://UM-Prays.org).
- If possible, engage in a weekly Wesley Fast (after dinner on Thursday until noon on Friday.)
- Study Scripture, books, and articles on this subject.
- Discuss the issues with our pastors, leaders, and friends at church.
- Form your own opinions.
- To be heard *before the February 23 General Conference*, contact the delegates from our Eastern PA Conference. The most local are from West Lawn UMC:

**The Rev Jeff Raffauf,**  
[jeff@westlawnumc.org](mailto:jeff@westlawnumc.org);

**Mrs Judy Ehninger,**  
[judy.ehninger@gmail.com](mailto:judy.ehninger@gmail.com)

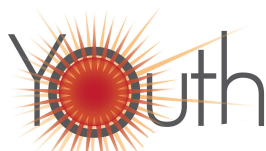


From Jan Ferree

*Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey  
Through His Son's Addiction*

**Susie Romig** has generously donated this book to our Church Library. Thank you, Susie! This true story of David Sheff's struggles to save his son, has recently been released as a movie. Addiction is a big problem in our society.

Check this book out!!



From Kyle Robbins, Youth Leader

### PARENTS APPRECIATION NIGHT

We'll show parents our year-in-review video, host a meal for our families, and, as a ministry, use this as an opportunity to say *THANK YOU* to our parents. We'll also announce the dates for camp and other upcoming events!



Dear LPCUMC,

Thank you so much for the beautiful sendoff you gave my family and me. We appreciate your cards and gifts very much. It has been a chaotic few months for us between the two homes, the start of school, and transitioning to a new way of life. However the house in Wyomissing now belongs to someone else, and the home in Indiana is under full renovation, so there is an end in sight!

Our new address is  
955 McKnight Rd  
Indiana, PA 15701

Our email is the same as always: [bbchadwick@msn.com](mailto:bbchadwick@msn.com), and our phone numbers also remain the same. We'd love to hear from you and look forward to visitors, so please feel free to contact us!

We miss our church family very much and know that we'll never find another place like Lincoln Park. We continue to pray for you daily and ask that you do the same for us.

Peace and blessings to all!



## Do Everything in Love

From Roberta Messner, submitted by Nancy Villecco

*Do Everything in Love* 1 Corinthians 16:14 (NIV)

A barista at my local café is truly love made visible. I take such delight watching Kristi interact with folks at the drive-through. She'll be hanging out the window, all smiles, as she inquires about the pets and children in the back of a truck or the camping gear strapped to the top of a station wagon.

One morning I could stand it no more. *You must really enjoy what you do*, I said. *You never fail to make every person in your path feel cared for.*

*I'll let you in on a little secret*, Kristi told me. *When I'm working that intercom, I ask all the customers, "How are you?" and if they don't answer or just say, "a chai tea latte," then I'm extra nice to them when they pull up to get their drinks. That's what keeps me happy all day long.*

Kristi's response got me to thinking about others in my own path who leave the world better than they find it. Joe at the shoe-repair shop who stretches my flats to accommodate the tumors on my feet. Because of Joe's genuine caring, my feet don't hurt as much as they used to. Nor my heart.



Q: What did the French chef give his wife?

A: A hug and a quiche

Q: What did the paper clip say to the magnet?

A: "I find you very attractive."

Q: What did the pencil say to the paper?

A: "I dot my i's on you!"

## Introducing Your Church Lay Leaders for 2019

Church Council Chair	Linda Lee
Secretary	Kris Wright
Lay Leader	Jim Gehman
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Michelle Ringler
Alternate Lay Member to Conference	Jerry Manhart
Trustees Co-Chairs	Bob McFeaters, Rich Bashore
Finance Chair	Jack Villecco
Church Treasurer	Cindy Kercher
Financial Secretaries	Richard & Carol Bashore
Nurture Chair	Barb Leas
Missions Chair	Carol Bashore
Nominations & Leadership Development Vice Chair	Roe Gehman
Worship Chair	Mark Villecco
Staff Parish Relations Chair	Beth Auman
Christian Education Chair	Beverly Perella
Endowment Chair	Rich Auman
Church Historian	Carl Madeira
Native American Ministries Representative	Loreen Miller, Jack Villecco
Newsletter Editor	Cheri Fallon

This list and more, including our Staff and Committee Members, appears in your blue 2019 Directory.



**WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND PRAYERS to Lou and Jerry Manhart** on the passing of their sister-in-law in October.

To the family of **Mary Troutman** who passed away November 4. Her son **Michael** and daughter **Lisa** had also lost their father Louie earlier this year.

And to **Gene Kohl** and **Deborah Humma**, on the loss of their parents: **Gene** (on January 10) and **Jacqueline Kohl** (on January 3.)

May God surround all of you with His love and care.



## 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 Kotzer, Beverly Ruffner, Marilyn Seiders, Mark Villecco

### Birth

Congratulations to **Kathy Hogg** on the birth of her great-granddaughter, **Reagan Sara Almquist**, on December 27. Welcome to the world, pre-



### Baptism

**Daniel John Villecco** was baptized in our church on November 18. He is the son of **Mark** and **Shannon** and grandson of **Jack** and **Nancy**. May Daniel continue



Happy Birthday to **Gloria Beamasderfer**, who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in December. You are a blessing to us at LP Church.



### Wedding

**Jennifer Hope** and **Donald Gracia** were married November 30, at Bear Creek Mountain Resort. Jennifer is the daughter of **Earl** and **Linda Hope** and granddaughter of **Richard** and **Betty Larsen**. Jennifer and Donald live in Mira Mesa, CA, and work in immunology research



A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: *I make God visible*. But others who see us together can say: *They make God visible*. [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch.

# NEWS-LINC

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

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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: KyungMo Koo, SunAe Lee-Koo  
Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-334-4197  
Worship Leader: Mark Villecco  
Youth Leader: Kyle Robbins  
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