

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *March-April 2019*

Getting to Know You

From **Beverly Perella**, Christian Education Chair



Pictured: Kaylee Cipolla, Gert Young, and Daniel Antunes

This song title from the musical *The King and I* was what we had in mind when our youth visited some of our shut-ins on Sunday afternoon, February 10.

Three groups of youth (**Phillip and Daniel Antunes, Kaylee Cipolla, Madison and Matt Kauffman, and Ally Sutliff**) and adults (**Kyle and Chelsea Robbins and myself**) filed into the homes of five shut-ins (**Vivian Leber, Mary Klein, Elaine**

Meckes, and Emory and Ruth Towles.)

None of us knew what to expect; the results were heartwarming and meaningful.

Armed with tin hearts of Hershey kisses, peanut butter hearts, and Valentines, the youth chatted about hobbies,

school, family, and future plans. Our “mature” church members told stories about their lives, professions, and children. The youth were sometimes surprised by their tales. The visits ended with prayer, smiles, hugs, and good-byes.

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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 join in fellowship.



**Maundy Thursday Service:
April 18 at 7 pm**

**Be with Us
for Easter**

**Celebration of
Our Lord's Resurrection
April 21 at 9 am and 11 am
Preludes begin at 10:40 am**

The Berkshire Brass will again
be our guest musicians
at the Traditional Service.

Bring Your Baskets on Easter for an Egg Hunt Between Services

From KC Dianna

I'm asking for wrapped candy or monetary donations which will be collected in the Wagner Room during March. The egg hunt will be between services on Easter Sunday for all members, friends and visitors, all ages up to 12.

It's Time to Order Easter Flowers!

From Betsy Buchanan

You can order your lilies, daffodils, and tulips (\$7 each) to decorate our sanctuary for Easter. Order forms will be in the Sunday Bulletins the first three Sundays of March. Call **Betsy Buchanan**, 610-777-2501, or the Church Office, 610-777-1422, with questions. Please place order forms (with check or cash) in the basket in the Wagner Room **by Sunday, March 20.**

UMC Delegates Choose Traditional Plan

On Sunday morning, March 3, **Pastor KyungMo Koo** spoke to our congregation about the controversial decision voted upon at the UMC General Conference in February. Delegates from all over the world voted on proposals to change its current rules prohibiting the ordination of homosexuals and the performance of same-gender marriages by UM clergy. The vote (438-384) favored the Traditional Plan, reaffirming the current bans against ordination and marriage.

It was a very hard decision said Pastor Koo, *For some there's been disappoint-*

ment while for others there's relief. As always, UM churches welcome *all* people to their fellowship, sharing communion and lay leadership. Pastor Koo suggests "It's time to accept and to pray for our unity."

"So, what's next for our LPCUMC?" asked Pastor Koo, "What is the future of our denomination?" On March 16, 10 am-noon, all are welcome to meet with **Bishop Peggy Johnson**, at West Lawn UMC, for information and questions.

Then, on Sunday March 24, our **District**

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Music at Lincoln Park

READING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT AT LP

Sunday, March 17, at 3 pm

Makers of Music Makers is a tribute to music teachers who've shared their talents and teaching skills with many. A personal note: I get to play the piano with the orchestra for *Over the Rainbow*. Thank heavens I wasn't asked to play the bucket again! We do receive an offering, with half the collection going to the orchestra and the other half added to our Concert Fund. Let's fill the sanctuary!



THE YOCUM INSTITUTE FOR FINE ARTS PRESENTS ...

A NEW ADDITION TO OUR CHURCH

No, we're not talking about the birth of a baby, but we *are* talking about a new baby grand piano for Memorial Hall! This beautiful Pearl River piano is a gift of **Linda Lee's** friend, **Harold Steve**. Harold's grandmother, **Ava Reber** recently passed away at the age of 101, and this lovely instrument was in her living room in Mohnton. So Linda and Harold gifted us with this new addition. We are indeed most grateful!

Preparing for Young Mothers' Spiritual Retreat at Lincoln Park Community UMC



To be a mother is a holy vocation. To provide our children with well-being, it's not enough to offer material and physical feeding; we mothers are also responsible for raising our children through spiritual nourishment. However, to fulfill this task, mothers must be *spiritually charged* enough to share with their children. That is the main reason we're offering a spiritual retreat for young mothers.

Young mothers with babies and toddlers need special attention from the church family regarding their faith formation. Because their priorities lie with children and family, most of them find it difficult to attend adult faith formation programs, such as Adult Sunday School or other Bible classes. Therefore, one session a week for four weeks (each lasting two hours) will be appropriate for their spiritual retreat.

Why young mothers? Becoming a mother doesn't end at the delivery room. Rather, to give birth to a child is to begin an endless job; a *hands-full*

and *mind-full* job. That means there's no time for a break from motherhood. The endless business of forming a child makes mothers exhausted. Especially when a baby regularly wakes up in the night,

"To nurture young mothers is investing in the future, as mothers become loving conduits for their children to grow in faith."

doesn't eat enough, or is constantly crying, mothers need a break. Mothers are aware of their need for continual faith formation as they find their babies the fountain of prayer. However, they have all kinds of excuses that are accepted and justified, and therefore, such development is neglected until their children grow up. That means that the

church is consciously negligent of young mothers or new mothers' spiritual nourishment. We as the church are to be accountable for their continuous spiritual growth, so that they will impact their children without waiting for them to grow until kindergarten, where they may be educated by people other than mothers.

Therefore, a spiritual retreat for young mothers would address the dilemmas: the

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need for physical rest, concerns about the baby, and spiritual hunger. There will be a praying time, sharing time, drawing time, and a Q&A with a local pediatrician.

A big challenge for mothers is finding proper babysitting to join any faith formation or spiritual retreat program the church offers. To address this, I'm offering church members an opportunity to volunteer your time and energy for babysitting, so that mothers may have a carefree time in a safe, sacred space.

The church as a community can show affection and care for these mothers: by babysitting during the retreat for four Saturdays in April; by preparing snacks and materials for the class. Sign-up sheets will be at the back of the church.

Also, other volunteers are welcomed for photographing, clean-up, pedicures, and more. If you cannot physically help, you can all intercede for this special spiritual retreat. Please pray that we as the church can help young mothers find their vocation in being mothers in Christ.

To become a mother in a Christian community can be a profound opportunity to learn about God's loving care for people and God's dream for each of us. Thus, not only young mothers, but we also can be nurtured as a whole body of Christ. To nurture young mothers is investing in the future as mothers become loving conduits for their children to grow in faith.

Having said this, I ask for your support and prayer for the success of this **Young Mothers' Spiritual Retreat**. This retreat is not only for all mothers of babies and/or toddlers in LPCUMC, but also for young mothers in your family and among neighbors.

TWO LONG-TIME LP MEMBERS HEADED TO HEAVEN ON THE SAME DAY

WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND PRAYERS to **Mary Klein** and her sons, **Andrew** and **Kevin**, on the loss of their husband and father, **Donald R. Klein**, on January 29.



Donald and Mary were married for almost 67 years. Donald served in the US Army in World War II. He was an Industrial Engineer at Western Electric. Don was a Master Gardener and enjoyed the outdoors.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of **Bruce Meckes**, husband of **Elaine** and father to **Melissa** and **Scott**, also on January 29.

Bruce served in the US Army in the Korean conflict before working for Union Carbide and then the Victor Equipment Company. He purchased the family business, Bennett's Chocolates, and became "the candy man." Passionate about model trains, he took great pride in his basement layout. Bruce and Elaine knew each other their whole lives and were married for 63 years.

**Join Us for Supper
and Lenten Bible Study**

Thursday Evenings

March 14 through April 18, 6–8 pm

From Pastor SunAe Lee-Koo

Pastor Adam Hamilton's teachings on the *Final Words of Jesus Christ on the Cross* are inspiring and thought-provoking. We invite you to join our table fellowship (soup and salad) at 6 pm and then to encourage one another's faith journey by sharing our thoughts and feelings after the DVD (less than 15 minutes). The study will conclude during Holy Week with our Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) Service, April 18, at 7 pm.



Not a Safari, But...

From Beverly Perella, Education Committee Chair

I always feel that I'm on a big hunt, not for lions, tigers, and bears, oh my, but for **volunteers to staff our Sunday School program**. Our **Potter's Wheel Class** for Kindergarten through Grade 3 is small, but worthy of a great curriculum and enthusiastic teachers. As of now, we have two dedicated teachers who rotate Sundays, but our goal is to have at least four teachers. And don't say, *I did that before. It's time for someone else to step in*. Adding new teachers to the staff certainly is a goal, but there's much to be said about the experience of former Sunday School teachers, too.

There's a planned curriculum with many resources including DVD's with stories and music, crafts, activities, a suggested lesson plan, and take-home papers. So, it's not building a lesson from scratch!

Here are my favorite questions: Is God calling you to use your gifts with the children of our church family? Can you commit to one Sunday a month? Will you answer God's call? Let me know, 610-334-4197. I'll be waiting!

An Opportunity for Young Mothers to ReCharge

From Pastor SunAe Lee-Koo

For four Saturdays in April (6th, 13th, 20th, 27th) we'll offer at Lincoln Park a

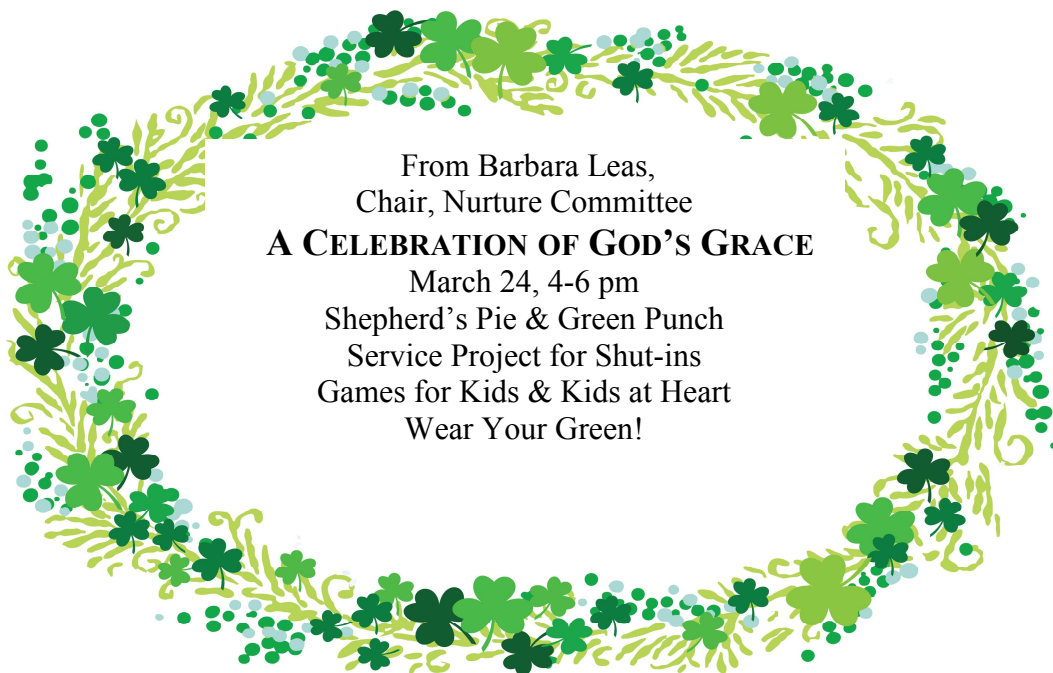


YOUNG MOTHERS' SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Young mothers, Come as you are and ...

SEE what our awesome God has planned for you
SHARE your journey – whatever you're concerned or joyful about
DO painting, drawing, writing, dancing, walking, and meditating
LEARN that God has a specific vision for you
BECOME co-walkers in the journey toward the Kingdom of God.

LPCUMC provides **babysitting** and necessary help to **care for babies and young children**. Check out church website, www.lpcumc.org, or email Pastor SunAe at sleekoo@lpcumc.org, if you have any question regarding this retreat.



From Barbara Leas,
Chair, Nurture Committee
A CELEBRATION OF GOD'S GRACE
March 24, 4-6 pm
Shepherd's Pie & Green Punch
Service Project for Shut-ins
Games for Kids & Kids at Heart
Wear Your Green!

Annual Flea Market Returns on Saturday May 18

From Carol and Richard Bashore

It's time to start rummaging through basements, closets, and attics. We'll begin collecting items on the 2nd Sunday of March. (You can remember that date as the beginning of Daylight Savings Time.) Please place your cleaned, unbroken donations in bags or boxes in either the Sunday School Room or in the breezeway between the two buildings. If the church is locked, and you have just a



small bag, you can drop it in the Church Office during the hours it is open. Please mark any container with the words **FLEA MARKET** so that there are no mix-ups during pricing time. If you'd like to help sort and price items see **Jerry Manhart** or **Cindy Kercher** for times.

Can You Help? Exercise is a Free Benefit

From Carol Bashore

I think I'm an anomaly within our congregation. You see, I love snow and enjoy shoveling. So I naturally signed up for the volunteer snow team at church as soon as I retired. For years it was fun and we had plenty of help, both young and old. However, with families moving away, and retirees traveling to warm weather in winter, our numbers have dwindled, making this job rather back-breaking. The eight remaining people (three females) are all in their upper 60's and 70's. This year, only three people were available during the week of Valentine's Day, and they put in over 20 hours of shoveling and ice chopping.

The church has two large snowblowers and several shovels. **We just need more manpower.** Although many of you have conflicting work schedules, we often clean snow on weekends and appreciate any time you could spare to help. **Jerry Manhart** leads this group and notifies us as to what time we'll meet to begin each snow removal job. Please give him your contact information if you think you're up for some invigorating exercise. Thank you.

Passing Along Our Blessings

From Sharon Hinck , submitted by Nancy Villecco

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17

My husband earns most of our income. In various seasons I've been a stay-at-home mom, worked in the arts, I've volunteered, and I'm an author. I understood there was value in giving or serving in those ways even if I didn't provide much financial support to my family. I tried to be satisfied with that. Yet each week when my husband wrote a check for the church offering, I felt a bit wistful.

One weekend I shared my feelings. That Sunday in church, as the offering plate was passed, my husband handed me the envelope with our gift so I could place it in the plate. I felt symbolically part of the offering, and it became our new tradition.

BLESSINGS FROM GOD

This week in church, as I tucked the envelope into the plate and passed it along, it hit me that Jesus does the same thing in our lives. Every gift we have — finances, time, health, relationships, talents- comes from Him. He entrusts each gift to us and allows us to give them back as our offering.

As Jesus views the many needs of the world, He could directly send provision to each person without our involvement. Yet often, He gives us the blessing of being part of His answer. We aren't the source of grace or wisdom, but He puts His resources into our hands so that we can touch them briefly and then pass them along. That idea can give us a new perspective on blessings that come into our lives. We can thank Him and then look for a way to share.

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.



Your Donations Help Our Neighbors In Reading

★ Your recent donation to Opportunity

House of \$827.50 plays a key role in making dreams a reality for those living in the Shelter, transitioning into homes of their own. Your gift means families can be assured of safe, affordable child-care for their children at the Second Street Learning Center. It means we can continue to provide services of the Children's Alliance Center for victims of child sexual abuse. And, your dedication to our mission provides US veterans housing and the opportunity to get back on their feet through Supportive Services for Veteran Families. We welcome you to visit us. Please call 610-374-4696, ext 231, to arrange a tour.



★ We are writing to thank you for your gift of \$822 to The Salvation Army of Reading. What a wonderful gift!

Each year, The Salvation Army provides services to a wide range of Reading and Berks County residents through emergency and family assistance, permanent supportive housing, the distribution of food and furniture, supportive services for the elderly, educational ministry to children and their families, plus spiritual counsel and pastoral care.

We serve our neighbors who would have no one to help them through devastating circumstances were it not for the Salvation Army and YOU. May God richly bless you.

Yours, in service to Christ

Katherine Alley
Chief Development Officer

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When the youth gathered back at church, they were excited about what they'd heard:

- *We have many engineers in our family...*
- *Let me tell you about my diaries for my great-grand children...*
- *Do you know anything about antiques? Let me show you some ...*
- *I'm always happy to get visits from my church family....Our life together was filled with opportunities, including model trains and chocolate.*



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*April 15
for our
May-June 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

From our mailbox...



Dear Church Members,

Thank you for your prayers and emails while we're in Tucson. Darwin continues to feel well. We've successfully completed several visits to transplant centers, AND several potential donors have stepped forward to consider interviewing, testing, and assessment by the various hospitals. We are indeed blessed!! One special angel from the LP congregation has appeared and is making a huge difference for us in southeastern PA, during our absence !!!!! Amazing things are happening. We thank you, Pastors and congregants.

Affectionately,

Donna and Darwin Stapleton

Hi Lincoln Park!

Thanks so much for another great lunch service. I hope you each enjoyed your time with us. God Bless You!

Change of Address

Matt and Pam Light
1115 Dogwood Dr

Birth

Congratulations to
Danielle Pasquale and husband
Justin Hallacher on
the birth of their daughter,
Rian, on February



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Superintendent, the Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, will preach here at Lincoln Park at both services, with opportunity for questions. Please join us!

In the meantime, don't let anything get in the way of loving your neighbor. Pray for our church and our denomination. Pray for all those who are in pain or feeling anger or grief. Be kind and loving toward those with whom you may disagree.



LP Serves Dinner at Opportunity House

Tuesday, May 7... Can you help?

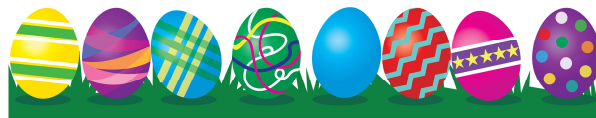
Sign-up sheets are in the Wagner Room.

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 am - Contemporary Worship
 10 - 10:15 am - Fellowship
 10:15-10:50 am - Sunday School for Adults, Youth, Children
 11 am - Traditional Worship

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