



# News-Line

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

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*July-August 2019*

## **We Welcome Pastor Christopher Jacob Kurien**

From Beth Auman, Staff-Parish Relations Chair

In May our District Superintendent was asked if Pastor Koo and Pastor Lee-Koo would consider an appointment back to their home conference (Peninsula Delaware) to fill a sudden vacancy. After much thought and prayer, the Koos accepted the appointment to Christ United Methodist Church, in Salisbury, Maryland, effective July 1, 2019. On Sunday, June 23, we wished them well and thanked them for their service to Lincoln Park these last two years.

Also effective July 1, **the Rev. Dr. Christopher Jacob Kurien** will be appointed to Lincoln Park Community

United Methodist Church.



**One combined service  
and refreshments  
10 am, July 7**

Born to missionary parents in Kerala, India, Dr. Kurien received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Union Biblical Seminary in Pune, India, in 1985, and was ordained by the Church of South India (Methodist/Anglican and Presbyterian merged denomination). He served or founded several churches in India before coming to the US for further study.

Our new Pastor served a Clinical Pastoral Education residency in Houston before attending Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. He received his

*(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.

### **Breakfast Is Served Every Fourth Sunday**

Join us every fourth Sunday for a *free* breakfast, at 8:45 am, before our Contemporary Service at 9 am. We serve eggs, breakfast meats, cereal, pastries, fruit, and more. Hope to see you there!

### **COME AND ENJOY OUR SUMMER MINI- CONCERT SERIES**

**SUNDAYS AT 10:45 AM**

From Beverly Perella

Our concerts, at 10:45 am, started on June 16 and will continue through September 1. Concert performers will include our own members —

**Lindsey Villecco, Krista Gilham and Meigin**

**Chandler** — and members from the community- **Ron Bellamy** (solo bell ringer), **Robin Lilarose** (flute), **Jim Spangler** (trumpet) and **Dave Krall** (saxophone). Invite your neighbors and friends to join with us as we celebrate God's love through music.



### **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.

## **Bring the Kids for Vacation Bible School**

### **July 22-25, 6-7:15 pm**

From Beverly Perella, Christian Ed Coordinator

Where can you find a tropical island, a treasure chest, a treasure map, a pirate, a Tinkerbell-like character and a wonderful story? That's an easy answer.

Come to our Vacation Bible School, on July 22-25, from 6-7:15 pm. Parents are invited to join with us on Thursday, July 25, at 7 pm, for a closing program and an ice cream sundae party.

***The Great Treasure Hunt*** is designed for children ages 2 – Grade 4. Songs, stories, puppet shows, crafts, activities and snacks will entertain while presenting God's lesson of His treasures, here on earth and in heaven. In a time when "money, money, money" is what the kids hear almost daily, this is a refreshing approach to showing them that money and what it can buy is only temporary. What *is* eternal is God's love and His promise to love us here on earth and in our heavenly home. God shares His treasures with us.



Loving our neighbors and sharing with them is an expectation God has for all of us. As a way of doing this, we'll

be asking the children, their parents, and our church members to help. On the final evening, July 25, we suggest that the kids bring some new, inexpensive toys, games, puzzles, coloring books, etc., that will be shared with the children in organizations like Opportunity House, the Red Cross and others. (The Dollar Stores are a great place to find these items.) The congregation is asked to bring these items to church on July 21 and 28. If you prefer, a monetary donation will gladly be accepted.

Here's another request of our members. Please let us know if there are any families in your neighborhood with young children. We'll make certain they receive a flyer about *The Great Treasure Hunt*. VBS is not only for our own kids, but all of God's children. Let's share God's treasures with everyone!

## **From Our New Pastor, The Rev Christopher Kurien**

*Dear Friends,*

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! As I write this message to you in early June, Christy and I are spending the month preparing to move back to the Reading area. Some of you might be traveling over the summer and I pray traveling mercies for you and your loved ones. I want to take this first opportunity to briefly introduce myself and our family.

I grew up in a clergy household in southern India in the beautiful state of Kerala. I completed my Bachelor and Master degrees in India and was ordained in 1985. In 1986, Christy and I got married and a year later we were blessed with twin daughters, Susan and Elsen. In 1988, our young family first came to the United States for my doctoral studies in Chicago. We lived on the south side of Chicago for almost five years and at the end of our time there, our daughter, Ann was born. We moved back to India in the fall of 1992.

In the 1980s and 1990s, I served congregations in India, Chicago, and Detroit. Through a series of God's blessings, our family moved back to the

United States in 2001 to serve St. Matthews UMC in Reading, PA. Since that time, we've lived and served in a variety of ministry contexts in the Eastern PA Annual Conference.

*"Our return to  
Reading brings  
us great joy!"*

Wherever we've lived in PA, Reading has been a place we have returned to. Christy has taught math at Reading HS for over a decade, and our kids have friends from their childhood here. So, our return to Reading brings us great joy! Our kids are young adults living in various parts of the country. Susan is a clinical pharmacist at Massachusetts General Hospital living in Boston. Elsen is a professor of pharmacy at St. John's University and lives in New York, NY, with her husband Manu who's a professor of physiology at Columbia University. Ann graduated from Yale University with a Master of Divinity this past year and is preparing to go to law school. Our family enjoys traveling, hiking together, and actively engaging in our community.

We're excited to meet all of you and for this new season in our ministry together. Christy and I look forward to spending time and getting to know each of you individually.

Blessings,  
Pastor Chris



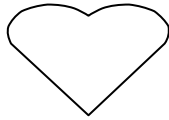
**From the Editor**

From Cheri Fallon

*We will miss  
your beautiful  
voices in our  
choir.*

*And, your  
family singing  
together  
touched our  
hearts.*

*Thank you!*



## Saying Farewell to Pastors

I am grateful for the presence of Pastors KyungMo and SunAe Lee-Koo at LP Church these last two years. They are both so smart, compassionate, genuine, and dedicated to serving God.

I like what they've done here at Lincoln Park:

- † the weekly emails with prayers and concerns that keep us in touch with one another
- † their efforts to visit each one of us at home,
- † the heartwarming slideshows of our church at work and play,
- † the Bible studies (which I, unfortunately, never made, but heard were so good),
- † their support of our Contemporary Service and Praise Band, with an eye to the future
- † the Young Mothers' Retreat, which my daughter Christy enjoyed. One activity she told me about was that they wrote out their goals for their children, and SunAe suggested they write them on the back of a framed first initial of their last name, as a reminder...
- † And, even, encouraging members to give Children's Sermons. (I reluctantly agreed — yikes, stage fright!) but I found I really enjoyed the preparations and the idea of having a tiny influence in the lives of our little ones!

The Koos always greeted us with warmth and caring. I felt that their emphasis was always on trying to help us be better disciples of Christ. We wish them well in their new appointment and will keep them in our hearts and prayers.

## Congratulations!

### Phillip Antunes...



...the son of **Gabi** and **Dennis Antunes**, graduated from Wilson HS and the Berks Career and Technology Center last

month. He plans to study at Reading Area Community College for the next two years and then finish at Penn State Berks with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Phillip says he discovered at BCTV that he enjoyed and had a aptitude for Mechanical Engineering. "This was the first class since Kindergarten that I really loved," he admits, "it's a great combination to be good at something that you also enjoy."

This summer Phillip will use his ME skills working at Alcon in Sinking Spring, a national company that focuses on medical (eye) and surgical supplies.

Since he was nine, Phillip has been practicing Taekwondo (four or five times a week) at Wyomissing ATA Martial Arts and has earned his third degree Black Belt.

Phillip's been an active participant in our Youth Group Summit. "It's very fun," he says, "the all-nighters were a blast and going to camp was great, too."

Congratulations, Phillip! We're proud of you at Lincoln Park Church.

### Adam Gehr...

Congratulations to Adam who qualified and attended the National Bowling Championships in Indianapolis in June. The son of **Dave** and **Debbie**, Bowling on the Wilson HS team, Adam was one of seven on the

team who went to Nationals.

Their team finished 23 out of 48 teams. He also bowled in singles and had a 242 in one of his games. Debbie says, "He only just finished 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, so he'll have three

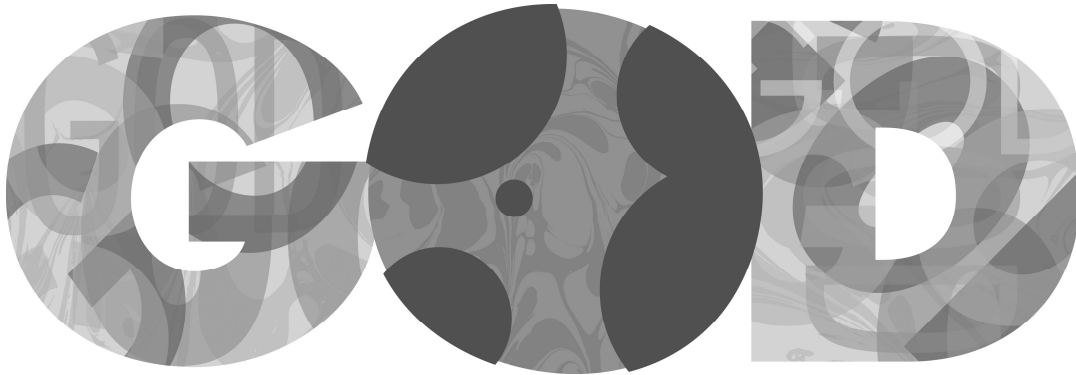
more years to give it a try."

Incidentally, Lincoln Park's Bowling Team placed in their league this year and gave their prize money to Adam to help with trip expenses.

**George Pyle, Dave and Debbie Gehr, Jim Eckert, Mike Brown, and Jack Villecco** are our LP Bowlers!



The Church Mouse is always interested in tidbits of news you might have about your family or members and friends of Lincoln Park Church. Please email [cherfallon@com-cast.net](mailto:cherfallon@com-cast.net), or call **Cheri Fallon, 610-678-8735**, if you have anything to share!



We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time. This is not just a fable or a nice story. It is true. If we abandon ourselves to God and forget ourselves, we see it sometimes, and we see it maybe frequently. God shows himself everywhere, in everything — in people and in things and in nature and in events. It becomes very obvious that God is everywhere and in everything and we cannot be without him. It's impossible. The only thing is that we don't see it.

—Thomas Merton

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*(Continued from page 1)*

Doctor of Ministry degree there in 2001. Upon graduation he received a transfer of orders to the Eastern PA Conference of the United Methodist Church.

There he was appointed as Senior Pastor to St. Matthews UMC in Reading until he left, in 2005, to become District Superintendent of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. After his term as District Superintendent, Pastor Chris was named Executive Director of Connectional Ministries for the Conference. Before his appointment to Lincoln Park, he was appointed to Lansdale First UMC, Lansdale, PA.

Pastor Chris's wife **Christy** is a math teacher at Reading HS and has commuted here through all of his appointments. They have three adult daughters, **Susan**, **Ann**, and **Elsen**, who's married to **Manu**. In his free time Pastor Chris enjoys traveling, hiking and genealogy.

**We welcome the Kurien family to Lincoln Park Church!**



**Watch your thoughts; for they become words.**

**Watch your words; for they become actions.**

**Watch your actions; for they become habits.**

**Watch your habits; for they become character.**

**Watch your character; for it becomes your destiny.**



## God Has Specific Work for Each of Us

From Shawnelle Eliason, submitted by Nancy Villecco  
From *2019 Daily Guideposts*, p.376-7, Monday, August 26

*We are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

The phone rang as I pulled bread from the bread box. It was my husband, Lonny. "Let's spend the lunch hour down by the river," he invited. "Crews are replacing the ties on the railroad tracks. Meet you in 15?"

I usually held a no-slack schedule for homeschooling, but the day called for grace. Warm sun. Cool breeze. And my two youngest sons were crazy about trains. Soon we sat on the grassy riverbank, eating honey-and-banana sandwiches from Superman lunch boxes made of tin.

"All this so the train can run," my 10-year-old Gabriel said. Lonny and the boys talked mechanical things, like how a big claw lifted old planks and about the machine that shot spikes into the new ones.

My focus was different. I noticed the flow of activity. It seemed orchestrated. The pulling up and putting down of railroad ties worked because each man behind a machine had a specific job, a part of the process. He knew what to do and

did it. Watching this brought a longing to my heart. God's Word tells us He has specific work for each of us - work He's predestined for each of us. His holy hands reach for ours. What a glorious thing!

The Lord Most High considered my abilities. My passions. My shortcomings and His own strength. He allows me to be part of His beautiful plan. No matter how grand or small, He calls me to do specific work-of-the-Spirit.

"What do you think?" Lonny asked, handing me half of his apple. I wasn't sure if he meant the machines, the day, or the beauty of our sons. But I thought about how much God must love me. "I think," I said, "that it's amazing."

**Lord, give me keen  
discernment and a  
willing heart.  
Amen.**



prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

## Flea Market Exceeds Expectations, Raising \$5,335



From  
Jerry Manhart,



Many thanks to all who helped make our Flea Market a success. After all income was counted and bills paid, \$5,335 was raised to help our church. All leftover food was delivered to New Journey Community Outreach, and Hope Rescue Mission took all un-

sold fleas. Remaining books were delivered to Berks Book Bonanza. Special thanks to **Carol Bashore, Cindy Kercher, Bev Ruffner, Jack Villecco, and Jim Gehman** for their leadership.



We were saddened to hear of the passing of **Betsy (Elizabeth) Buchanan** on May 15. Our hearts go out to her daughters and their families: **KC and Jason Dianna, Sam and Joseph**; and **Elizabeth and John, Megan, and Madeline**. Betsy was a Penn State graduate and earned her Masters in Education from Temple. She taught at Lincoln Park and West Wyomissing Elementary Schools until 2010. She was a very active member of our church over the years, most recently as Chairman of the Worship Committee and in the Bell Choir. She will be greatly missed!

We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to family and friends of **Sandra Glass**, who passed away on May 2. She was the wife of **Curtis** (for 58 years) and a devoted mother and grandmother. She worked at Sears for 25 years and in her retirement enjoyed playing golf, winning two Senior Ladies Championships at the Berkshire Country Club.

May God surround you with His love and peace.



## Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*August 15  
for our  
Sept-Oct Issue*

### Change of Address

Mary C Klein  
9 Heidelberg Dr # 93  
Wernersville PA 19565

♥ Dear LP Members,

I was glad to be visited by **Beverly Perella** with **Kaylee** and **Daniel** from our Youth Group. It's wonderful to talk to children of that age; you see and feel the excitement of life.

I also want to thank you for the cards I've been receiving from everyone. It's nice to know someone is thinking of you and makes the day so much brighter.

The teachers are also doing a terrific job preparing a lesson for each Sunday. There's nothing more rewarding than doing God's work.

**Pastor Koo** visited me and certainly renewed my spirits.

Thanks,  
**Gert Young**



*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

♥ Brenda and I want to extend our gratitude to the congregation for your thoughts, prayers, and expressions of sympathy at the loss of my sister. Your love and concern is been a blessing in a difficult time.

**The Rev. Larry Carl**



*Happy Anniversary!*

**Donald and Darlene Kauffman** recently celebrated their 73<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary! Woohoo!

**LP Serves Dinner  
at Opportunity  
House**

**Tuesday, Sept. 3.**



**Put This on Your Calendar!**

**Sunday, September 15**

**Presented by Our  
Nurture and Missions Committees**



# NEWS-LINC

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

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*Change service requested*



Worship with us: 9-9:55 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: The Rev Dr Christopher Kurien  
Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-334-4197  
Worship Leader: Mark Villecco  
Youth Leader: Kyle Robbins  
Secretary: Marilyn Seiders  
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