



Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *September-October 2019*

**Entire LP Community Invited for
Church Picnic and Anniversary Celebration
September 15, 3-6 pm**

From Carol Bashore & Barb Leas

**Great (Free) Food
Christian Ventriloquist
Bounce House
Live Music**

This year the Nurture Committee and Mission Committee collaborated to create an extra-special event. While we'll still celebrate our Church Anniversary with our Annual Picnic, we'll also **invite the entire Lincoln Park Community** to join us from 3-6 pm.

The Mission Committee's goal is to reach beyond our doors to share our faith and fellowship. We hope that our extended invitation will attract neighbors to enjoy both our friendship as well as what our church has to offer.

To share our Christian love with others we need **your** presence for the afternoon. Not only will you have a great time, but you'll have the opportunity to meet and connect with new people.

Your mission is simply to share a warm welcome. If you have friends beyond the LP community who are looking for a church family, please invite them to come, too.

Along with a great assortment of food, there will be so many activities to enjoy. We've booked a world-known Christian ventriloquist who

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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.

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.

13TH Annual SUMMER MINI-CONCERT SERIES ENDS CHRISTMAS MUSIC SCHEDULED

From Beverly Perella, Music Director

We'll long remember the excellent musicians who kindly shared their talents over 13 weeks summer. As far as I know, we're the only church in Berks County to offer such a program. My mantra has been that music is one of the greatest gifts from God, and you, my Lincoln Park family, accept that belief, too, as shown by your love and support.

This year we'll offer a **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** by the Wyomissing Band on **December 15**, at 3 pm. The band was so pleased by the warmth and praise they received at our church mini-concert, that their Music Director **Jen Redkay** emailed me the next day to say they'd like to return for a Christmas Concert. Of course, we'll invite the public to join us. So, mark your calendars now for December 15 and invite your friends and family. And, we've scheduled our **CHRISTMAS CANTATA** for **December 8**. What a joyous Advent it will be for us.



The **CHANCEL CHOIR** (7:30 pm) and the **BELL CHOIR** (6:30 pm) will return on **September 11** for weekly (Wednesday) rehearsals. As I do yearly, I'm begging for new members! Do you have a musical gift to share?

The **Cherub Choir** will practice Tuesdays, at 6 pm, beginning **September 17**.

***Please Join Us on Sunday, September 15
For Lincoln Park Church's Anniversary***

Worship at 9 and 11 am

The Rev Clifford Flick and his wife **Wendy** will be with us. Celebration on the Church Lawn 3-6 pm, featuring a Christian Ventriloquist, Bounce House, Games, Great Food, Art Bus, Live Music, and Fun for all ages.



Sunday School Begins September 15

From Beverly Perella, Children's Ministry Coordinator



Children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 will gather for Sunday School on September 15, at 10:10 am.

Every year there is the question as to when is the best time for Sunday School for this age group. Our decision for continuing it at 10:10 is based on the fact that children in this age bracket learn bet-

ter in a group setting. They can interact, share ideas, and participate in group activities.

Thus, we're asking parents to commit to our Sunday School program by either staying after the Contemporary Service or by arriving 50 minutes earlier than the time for our Traditional Worship. Our Nursery Staff will continue to prepare weekly lessons with the curriculum from Cokesbury Press. These lessons will be offered at 9, 10:10, and 11 am as needed.



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.

From Our New Pastor, The Rev Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in our Lord's name!

The summer season is soon to end. It has been a busy summer for Christy and me with our move to a new home, settling in, and getting to know our new church family.

It has also been a wonderful two months with many of you reaching out to us with your love and appreciation. We have treasured your prayers and support. I have been especially encouraged by your faithful attendance and by the many visitors who've worshipped with us in the past weeks. I am also delighted that some are coming back to worship with us regularly.

We thank God for leaders such as **Mark Villecco** and the Praise Team who do an excellent job leading our Contemporary Worship experiences. We also uplift our youth who had a great experience with the Philadelphia project this summer under the leadership of **Kyle Robbins**. I am also grateful for the wonderful team of volunteers led by **Bev Perella** for their excellent work in offering a great VBS ministry to the church family and community. The Mini-Concerts over the summer months have been exceptional. There are many others who have contributed greatly to the life of our congregation and I am grateful to

*"I have been
praying about
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love of Christ in
our community."*

God for you all.

I would like to thank all those who are giving their time, resources, and effort to make this year's Anniversary Sunday a success. I especially thank **Barb Leas** and the Nurture Committee for their leadership.

The Rev. Cliff Flick and his wife **Wendy Flick** will be with us on our *Anniversary Sunday, September 15*.

Please join us that Sunday for worship, followed by a great picnic and music in the afternoon! We offered special *dedication prayers* for students and teachers on *September 1*. I pray for God's blessings upon our children and teachers and all

those involved in education ministry as they start another school year.

In other news, the Pastor's Office has moved back to the current Library from the second floor of the Church Office building. I truly appreciate the hard work of our Trustees, led by **Richard Bashore** and **Bob McFeaters**, who have helped to make this decision and all the volunteers who have worked along with them to move the office. **Jim** and **Roe Gehman** have also helped to paint the walls in the office. **Carl Madeira's** meticulousness in caring for our facilities is so valued, and I am grateful. Let me also express my thanks to **Marilyn Seiders** who coordinates everything with such care in the

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A C E L E B R A T I O N !



will provide a meaningful, yet comical stage show that you'll be talking about for days. That will take place from 3:30 to 4:15.

We'll also have a Bounce House and an

Art Bus for the kids, plus games for all ages, including a Lincoln Park trivia test. Live music will begin at 4:30 and continue until 6 pm. Food will be by buffet line after the show.

Hot dogs and water will be provided by the Nurture Committee, available as soon as you arrive. The remainder of the food and drinks are from congregation donations, so surprise us with some great selections. ***Our hope is to have so many people that we run out of food and have to run out for pizza!***

Also if we have more people than chairs, it may be a good idea to throw a lawn chair into your car. We'll be gathering on the front lawn. In case of bad weather, it will be held downstairs. Come either way because the show will go on and WE NEED YOU. Contact any Mission or Nurture Committee member for more information.

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Church Office. As I write this article sitting in my new office, let me say, everything looks beautiful and thank you everyone for all your great work! We have so many dedicated volunteers in our church!

I have been praying about reaching more people with the love of Christ in our community. Some of you have invited your friends, neighbors, and relatives to join us for our worship experiences. Sharing God's love with others in this way will allow us to continue building a wonderful church family. We as a church have shown our radical Christian hospitality to everyone, especially to visitors when they have come to our church. Many who have visited have mentioned to me that we are a welcoming and hospitable congregation. I am so proud to be serving a congregation so committed to radical Christian love!

May God continue to bless us all that we may be a blessing to others.

On a Birthday We Say *Thank You for Being Born*

From *The Newsletter Newsletter*

Birthdays are unique because they celebrate who someone *is*, not what they've *done*. Henri Nouwen wrote, "It is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion, or a victory. Because to celebrate a birthday



means to say to someone, 'Thank you for being you.' ... On a birthday we do not say, 'Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished.' No, we say, 'Thank you for being born and being among us.'"

To rejoice over someone purely for who they are is an echo of God's joy over us. Some families celebrate "baptism birthdays" (anniversaries) by lighting candles, sharing scripture and prayer, perhaps looking at photos and recounting stories of that milestone event that marked the beginning of their faith life.

On a birthday, said Nouwen, "we lift someone up and let everyone say, 'We love you.'" In baptism, God lifts us to his very heart and declares,

"You are my precious child. I love you."

2019 Mifflin Library Garden Tour

From Jean and George Weikel

We are grateful for all of you who supported this year's Garden Tour on June 22. The Good Lord blessed us with a beautiful sunny day for the tour, after plenty of rain the previous week, which produced lots of full blooming flowers in my gardens.

The Library sold 63 tickets for the Tour which raised \$1,127.50 to be used toward operation and maintenance of the Library. Our gardens and property were one of five stops on the Tour. George and I really enjoyed the conversations with all those who visited our gardens. Preparation for the Tour took a lot of extra care and gardening which is one of my (Jean) passions, so for me it was very much enjoyed.



Over the summer, we took students to The Philadelphia Project. While at the project, our students had the opportunity to serve on the Mercy Ministries Track where they...

- Assisted in feeding the homeless and helping with a food pantry
- painted a room in a home, and
- cooked food for a community BBQ.

When we returned from serving throughout the city, our youth were able to experience worship with about 100 other students and hear a message about the powerful statements that

From Kyle Robbins, Youth Leader

were made in the Bible through the burning bush and the *I AM* statements made by Jesus.

The students who went on this trip all agreed that this was a major highlight of their summers and a major stepping stone in their spiritual development.

We also had a couple of events that were well-attended not only by our students, but also the friends of our students. We had a pool party and a movie night with a campfire. Thank you to the **Kauffman** family for hosting our students on both occasions.

In August, we had a Back-to-School Celebration. Our students invited friends and members of the community to come and play various water games.

On September 15, our students will be celebrating our church anniversary along with church members and

We will be having a major fundraiser — a **SPAGHETTI DINNER, ON OCTOBER 5**. The youth will begin selling tickets in September. This fundraiser is to offset the cost of our summer missions trip. It would be greatly appreciated if you would attend! If you're not available on that day or not a fan of spaghetti, please feel free to make a donation.



Loving, Caring, Sharing at Vacation Bible School

From Beverly Perella, Children's Ministry Coordinator



The Great Treasure Hunt in July was a smashing success, including 26 children, 12 staff members and actors, 16 youth. The kids enjoyed videos, songs, dances, games, snacks, treasure hunts, and crafts. They heard Bible verses and learned the three important things that God expects of us -- to love, to care, and to share.

And share we did! We delivered toys, coloring books, crayons, school supplies, and books to three local charities- Opportunity House, Mary's Shelter, and Women in Crisis (now known as Safe Berks.) Each delivery was met with big smiles and sincere *thank yous*. Our second project of sharing was not local; we donated through the Heifer Project 12 flocks of chickens to 12 different families in the country of Bangladesh. Our goal was six and we doubled it!

But it was Pirate Pete (**Jack Villecco**) and the beautiful Merrybell (**Meigin Chandler**) who taught us the true value of loving, caring and sharing. Pirate Pete believed that money, money, money was the only thing that mattered. But by the end of VBS, he was beginning to understand that friendship, helping others near and far, and sharing all that we have are much more important than having lots of money. Pete actually found that he liked having friends.

After four nights, the children, staff, youth, and parents bid farewell to the Great Treasure Hunt with the greater understanding that we are God's treasures on earth, and He expects us to love, care and share!

Proof of God's Love Here on Earth

From Sabra Ciancanelli, submitted by Nancy Villecco

God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:6 (KJV)

My oldest was in my belly the year 9/11 became more than a number. The day we watched in horror as one plane struck and then another. My husband and I were both released early from work. At home we glued our eyes to the television, bracing for another attack when we learned about the Pentagon and the crash in Pennsylvania.

The satellites went down, and I put my hands on my stomach as if I could protect the growing baby from the news that advised us to stock up on supplies, water, and other non-perishable goods. I lay in bed awake that night, looking into the darkness, afraid of what the world had become and wondering what on earth that meant for us and the baby I was carrying.

My sons ask *Where were you? What happened exactly? Why on earth did they do it?* They ask about the heartbreaking posters of the missing that were everywhere. I tell them prayer was on everyone's lips and



radiating from our hearts. Prayer that somehow healing could come, that we were protected and loved, and that through the grace of God we'd get through this.

I tell them the answers to prayer came again and again in every kind deed, every selfless act. How even the next day strangers asked me about the baby growing inside me and meant it. Coworkers banded together in efforts to send supplies, start prayer chains, and find ways to help. I tell them that what happened after 9/11 is proof of God's love right here on Earth and the power of the human spirit, selflessness, and courage.

Heavenly Father,

On this day of remembrance, heal our aching hearts with Your infinite light, which will always outshine darkness.



Maria Shriver (journalist and daughter of Eunice Kennedy Shriver) lost one of her younger cousins this summer — Saoirse Kennedy Hill. After the tragic loss, she posted on Instagram some words that I've been carrying around in my purse and in my heart.

Why did the words touch me so? First, I always struggle with which words to say or write to people when they've suffered a loss — especially a tragic one. Shriver, in the first three sentences, expresses her sympathy with compassion and eloquence:

A brave young woman left our world yesterday. She left a gaping hole in the lives of those who loved her dearly. May God bless her. May God bless her parents during this unbearable hour and give them strength to make it through, she says.

And then in the second part, Shriver reminds us of how precious life is:

Life is fragile and heartbreaking. It turns upside down in a minute. Love your children, hold them tight. Love your family, hold them close. Love your friends, keep them near.

Finally, Shriver reminds us to be kind and caring to one another:



From the Editor

From Cheri Fallon

Be gentle with others, as so many are fragile and struggling. Actually, I think it's best to assume everyone is struggling, so treat everyone with love, tenderness, and compassion.

We never know what the driver who cut us off in traffic is hurrying to, or what a rude stranger has going on in his life, or even what the grouchy friend, family, or church member is struggling with.

Her last line I need to repeat to myself and to you:

Actually, I think it's best to ASSUME everyone is struggling, so treat everyone with love, tenderness, and compassion.

It's not always easy, but it's something to strive for!



We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to **Chad** and **Rebecca Chelius** and family on the passing of Chad's mother, **Robin**.

...And also to **Gordon** and **Janet Holmes** on the loss of Gordon's sister, **Betsy**.

May God surround you with His love and peace.

Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*October 15
for our
Nov-Dec 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.

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OOPS!

In our last issue **Gert Young's** name was cut off a lovely note she wrote about visits to her home by **Beverly Perella** and some of our youth. Sorry about that!

LP Serves Dinner at Opportunity House

Tuesday, November 5.
Can you help? If so,
please, sign-up in the
Wagner Room.



Birth

Congratulations to **Jeffrey and Natalie Madeira** on the birth of their son, **Phoenix Walter**, on July 18. He weighed 8lb 13oz. His proud grandparents, **Carl and Nancy Madeira**, and sister **Eva** welcome him to the family.

Also, congratulations to **Bob Robertson** on the birth of his 10th great grandchild!

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who sent me a get well card while I have been recovering. It meant a lot to me!

Nancy Vilecco

JEANNE PERKINS CELEBRATED HER 100TH BIRTHDAY on August 25 with three generations of family from near and far at the Highlands. Best Wishes! You are a blessing to us at Lincoln Park UM Church!



NEWS-LINC

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

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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
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