

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania

November-December 2019

Family Christmas Party December 1, 3-6 pm

From Barbara Leas, Nurture Committee Chair



Join us for a pot-luck supper, with fried chicken provided, and games for kids and adults. We'll wrap books for schools in Reading while children shop for Mom and Dad. We're asking for donations of cookies that we can pack up for Hope Rescue, Opportunity House, and Mary's Shelter. And, perhaps Santa may make an appearance!

Step Up for Our Autumn Auction

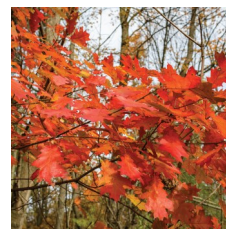
From Carol Bashore

It's time to browse through our Wagner Room, choosing the treasures, services, and opportunities you like. Members and friends have donated valuables, gift baskets, services, tickets, art work, crafts, and more for you to bid on in the weeks leading up to November 17. The necessary dates to remember are: **NOVEMBER 3:** Items will be on display in the Wagner Room. The auction begins for viewing and silent bidding.

NOVEMBER 17: The auction will close following the second church service at 12:30. The last and highest bidders' names will be circled, and they will win. They may pay and pick up the item at that time or shortly after. Items that have not received any bids may be picked up by the donator.

Please help us make this event a successful and fun fundraiser for our church.

Questions? Contact one of the committee members: **Carol Bashore, Cindy Kercher, Lou Manhart, Jack Villecco, and Kris Wright.**





at Lincoln Park Church
Sundays at 9 am
(Contemporary)
and 11 am (Traditional)

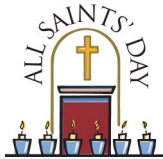
Announcements will begin at 10:55 followed by the Prelude

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!



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY is November 3.
We'll remember members and loved ones
who have passed away in the last year.

FAMILY SERVICE AT 7 PM

with a Christmas Pageant and Candle Lighting

TRADITIONAL CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE
AT 10 PM Preludes begin at 9:30



Office
Hours

Church Secretary, **Marilyn Seiders**
Monday & Wednesday 10-1 pm; Friday 1:30-3pm



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 **Beverly Perella**, Music Director

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

At 9 am: The Praise Band will present contemporary Christmas music.

At 11 am : Christmas music by the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir, and Instrumentalists. This concert, which includes narration, has three musical parts: the preparation for Christ's birth, His birth, and the joy and praise following His birth

At 3pm: Annual *Sing Messiah* concert, directed by **Brian Gibson**. Come to sing or simply to listen. It's a wonderful way to prepare for our Savior's birth. An offering will be received.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

At 9 and 11 am: The Cherub Choir will sing at both services.

At 3pm: *Music of the Season* by the Wyomissing Band. The Director and members loved the warm welcome they received here during the summer and suggested they return with their Christmas program. Of, course, we said *Yes!*

Let's Reach Out to Our Neighbors this Christmas

From **Carol Bashore**, Missions Committee Chair



Once again the Missions Committee will reach out beyond our doors to invite community and friends to join us in worship and celebration. Another door flyer is being made, with dates and times of special activities during the Christmas season. The committee will distribute the flyers throughout Lincoln Park, but, with everyone's help, we'd love to reach beyond the local neighborhood. Therefore, we hope you'll take a few flyers home and pass them out in your neighborhood or to your friends and relatives. You can pick them up at church at the front of the Wagner Room, after Thanksgiving. We appreciate your help in reaching out and welcoming new friends.

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in our Lord's name! So much could be said about this time of the year.

On November 3, we'll remember some of our saints who have gone to be with the Lord. We pray for God's continued comfort and peace for those mourning the loss of a family member or friend during this season.

Every November, we honor National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week before Thanksgiving. It's a time for thinking about what we're thankful for, as well as for sharing compassion with our homeless neighbors and for working toward a world where no one has to experience hunger and homelessness.

On December 1, the first Sunday of Advent, we begin a season of preparation for celebrating the birth of Christ. I hope in the midst of preparing, we try to keep the main thing the main thing because *Jesus is the reason for the season*.

In January 2020, we begin our Platinum Jubilee year: It will be 75 years

since the founding of Lincoln Park United Methodist Church. We are planning for a whole year of celebrations. On page 6, you can read about some of our plans for the coming year.

These are exciting times for our congregation. Please consider being part of the planning committee or an event that interests you. Would you kindly email or call me with any ideas you may have for us to further consider?

Six of us recently participated in our joint Charge

Conference, at Lima UMC, Media. In a video call, the General Secretary of *Discipleship Ministries* reminded us that we, as a congregation, need to grow in our "intentional discipleship-making process." Our Church Council will be discussing this in coming months.

Confirming young people is one of our intentional disciple-making ministries. I've announced during Sunday services that Confirmation that will take place during the Easter season. If you think your children or grandchildren are ready to be part of this class,

(Continued on page 5)



The Rev Kurien, Jack Villecco, Roe Gehman, Bev Perella, Jim Gehman, Linda Lee, The Rev Dawn Taylor-Storm, District Superintendent

Operation Christmas Child – The Power of a Simple Gift

From **Jim Eckert**, Missions

Since 2002, generous participants at our church have filled nearly 1000 boxes with small gifts for children, many of whom have never before received a gift. Check in the Wagner Room for brochures explaining the ministry, suggested gifts, and instructions for preparing the box. WE HAVE SHOE BOXES FROM SAMARITAN'S PURSE THAT MAY BE USED TO PACK GIFTS (you'll have to fold one yourself!). Note that you may use a shoe box or a plastic container like a shoe box.



This ministry not only provides smiles and gifts, but reading materials and follow-up (by Samaritan's Purse ministry founded by Franklin Graham, son of Billy) to introduce children to Jesus Christ - in over 130 countries. **Over 168 mil-**

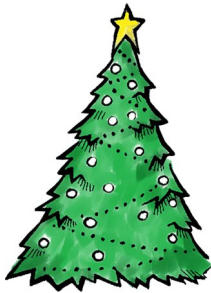
lion boxes have been distributed over the years by this ministry. An

online feature allows you to trace where your box goes.

Boxes are due in the Wagner Room by Sunday November 24.

Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family Angel Tree

From **Jim Eckert**, Missions



The Angel Tree will be up this season on the Sunday following Thanksgiving – November 28. Gifts will be collected up to Sunday, December 15. Distribution by Salvation Army ends Saturday December 21. We plan to assist about two families, totaling around 10 folks. The Salvation Army is currently vetting families for participation, so check bulletins and announcements as the season progresses for further information.

(Continued from page 4)

would you please bring their names to my attention as soon as possible? The criterion is that youth who are able to engage in faith conversations should be part of the Confirmation Class. Generally speaking, 7th or 8th grade is a good time to begin this process.

Let me also share with you that we have a great group of young people in our church, and I am very proud of them. They've recently elected their officers for the coming year, and we congratulate all of them.

May we continue to experience God's goodness and love in all that we do as disciples of Jesus.

LP Church to Celebrate 75th Anniversary

From The Rev Christopher Kurien and Cheri Fallon

A *Platinum Jubilee* is in the works to celebrate 75 years in the life of LPCUMC. Pastor Chris has “prayerfully considered” this milestone and come up with meaningful ways to mark this event throughout 2020. Already, a Jubilee Committee is being formed, and you’re invited to be part of it.

Here are some of his suggestions:

HONOR OUR HISTORY

- Invite former Pastors to speak on given Sundays in 2020, and to be present on Anniversary Sunday in September.
- Create an archives display for Jubilee events, and a permanent one in our buildings. (including portraits of former Pastors)
- Create recordings of our seniors sharing memories and experiences, to be played through 2020 on Sundays and coffee hours.
- Create a commemorative book (with ads to support costs and a special endowment fund for mission outreach.)
- Take a picture of our whole congregation on Anniversary Sunday.

PLAN EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

- A Platinum Jubilee concert

- A banquet to benefit a new scholarship fund.
- A special, free meal for the community
- A spiritual journey with youth and others to the Taizé

Community, France

- An evangelism training event for our church and others (through a DeWees grant.)

OUTREACH AND INITIATIVES

- Fund the drilling of 10 or more wells in world villages without running water.
- Create an endowment to provide scholarships for two students from area high schools who will attend RACC or Albright, and scholarships to our own youth pursuing higher education.
- Establish a prison ministry team to visit inmates and others just released.
- Establish four service awards for volunteerism, to be announced on Anniversary Sunday annually.
- Find a special way to bless shut-ins through the year and begin a food ministry for those who’ve been hospitalized and returned home.

May this Jubilee Anniversary of our beloved church spark a bonfire of good fellowship and good works in the world!



LP Serves Dinner at Opportunity House

Tuesday, November 5 and Tuesday, January 7. Can you help? If so, please, sign-up in the Wagner Room.



From Beverly Perella, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Sunday, November 15 —**COMBINED MEETING** with our Youth Group to pack Christmas shoe boxes for children overseas.

PIZZA PARTY follows.

NOTE: Until early November, we'll collect money to buy items for these boxes. The money will be divided among our kids, and our children will be encouraged to purchase items for these boxes. (The Dollar Store is great for this.)

Sunday, December 1- FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY- 3-6 pm

Friday, December 13- FAMILY/CONGREGATION CHRISTMAS CAROLING- Meet at the church at 5:30 for pizza, followed by caroling.

Christmas Eve, December 24- CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & FAMILY SERVICE.
Rehearsal schedule to be shared later.

Next Activity-Valentine's Party for our members at Phoebe Retirement Home

Keeping Us Safe at Lincoln Park Church

From Bob McFeaters,

To prepare and plan for the possible (but hopefully unlikely) threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter event at LPCUMC, we will proactively offer an instructor-led class known as ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate.)

The training is in two parts. First, each person taking the training must pass the e-learning class *before* the hands-on training. The online class cost is \$30 per person. If you desire, the church will reimburse the cost. To begin,

Go to the ALICE web site for info <https://www.alicetraining.com>.

Next click on the red box *Houses of Worship*.

Then click on *Congregants (Individuals & Families)* and order e-learning.

After completing the computer-based training, you must print and provide a copy of your certification to the instructor at the hands-on training. This second, hands-on, part of the training will be taught by **the Rev. Mark Beideman**, Certified ALICE Trainer. It will be held after church on **Sunday, November 17**, at 1 pm. Lunch will be provided, and the training should last about three hours.

Training as many congregants as possible – and not just our leaders – is paramount. In the event of a shooting incident, the more trained people the better.

If you're interested in taking this training or would like more information, please contact **Bob McFeaters** by email: rgmcfeaters@comcast.net or by phone: 484-772-6289 (you may need to leave a message).



From Youth Leader **Kyle Robbins**

Jordan Krick, Madison Kauffman, Daniel Antunes, Emma Chandler, Kara Brown, Kaylee Cipolla - Members-at-Large

Here's what's happening in the next two months:

November 9- **Creative Arts Conference**. This is something we've taken students to in the past for a great experience. It's slightly different this year than last, but our students are looking forward to both painting and worship. November 10 - We'll partner with the younger kids in our church to pack boxes for **Operation Christmas Child**.

December 1 - **Family Christmas Party**; December 13- **Caroling**

December 15- **Youth Christmas Party** - The last couple years it's been a highlight! We encourage students to bring a friend, a white elephant gift, and the most ugly sweater they own!

This fall we've created a Youth Council with the goal of fostering greater leadership both within our ministry and in the church:

Devin Krick- President

Matt Kauffman-Vice President

Emma Detwiler- Secretary

Meigin Chandler- Treasurer

Adam Gehr - Assistant Treasurer

Annual Conference Proves to Be Spirit-full

From **Michelle Ringler**, Lay Member to Annual Conference

As I sit down to write, I wonder what the Lincoln Park congregation expects to learn from this report. Is the congregation expecting facts? I can review elected delegates and resolutions. I can promote the epaumc.org website and live video. Does the congregation expect a report card? I can compare our church to others at conferences. I can give out gold stars for outstanding service and generous giving. Maybe the congregation expects to hear that Lincoln Park is a successful church. I can run the numbers: We have four buildings, over 200 active members, and a healthy church budget.

After some thought, I realize that Annual Conference is not about expectations, facts, or report cards. For me, it's about the Holy Spirit and how it is alive

and strong in the Methodist Church.

There are many spirit-filled messages and ceremonies at Conference. There are also many spirit-filled individuals who dedicate their lives to growing and sharing the Spirit.

They show us how to grow, by creating new churches in community centers and college campuses. They show us how to share, through prayer partners and youth mentors.

They also show us how to find comfort in the Spirit in times of conflict. Right now, the Methodist Church is strong, but divided, over the Traditional and One Church Plan.

There is fear, but also comfort, in knowing the spirit does not choose sides and will provide for all of us.

Thank You!
**Every One of Your Contributions
At Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church
(LPCUMC) Makes a Difference**

From Jack Villecco, Stewardship and Finance Chair

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 Common English Bible (CEB)

⁶ What I mean is this: the one who sows a small number of seeds will also reap a small crop, and the one who sows a generous amount of seeds will also reap a generous crop.

⁷ Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver.

These verses were the reason for the decision not to use Commitment/Pledge Cards at our Commitment Sunday worship services this year. Another reason was to honor you for your historical record of meeting the financial needs of our ministries for the past several years.

The **2019 Budget Year** will soon be closed. Before we finish our Christmas celebrations, **2020** will be here. Your offering envelopes for 2020 will be available in November 2019. Please continue, or increase, your generous contributions into the New Year.

To reduce the number of checks you write, try our **Electronic Funds Transfer**. On your computer or phone, go to www.lpcumc.org and select **online giving**. You'll see an explanation of Electronic Giving, a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and the answers. Click on the **Donate Now** button to set up your electronic regular and/or special giving.

Lastly, if you are over 70 ½ years old

and must take a **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)** from your traditional **IRA**, you can get a tax break. You may use a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** to transfer up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as **Lincoln Park Community UMC**. Any amount processed as a QCD counts toward your RMD requirement plus reduces the taxable amount of your IRA distribution. This will lower both your **adjusted gross income** and taxable income, resulting in a lower overall tax liability. It also helps with your contributions to LPCUMC during 2020.

You will soon be receiving your giving statement for the 3rd quarter 2019, year to date. Please check to see that it agrees with your personal record of giving. If not, contact the church office ASAP.

Thank you again for your faithfulness to LPCUMC and its ministries locally and around the world.

Celebrate Your Good News!

From Rick Hamlin, submitted by **Nancy Villecco**
From 2019 *Daily Guideposts*, October 14

At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus, praising God.
Luke 18:43

On my morning jog, I often see the same people: folks heading to work, taking their kids to school, walking their dogs, or going for a run. Mostly, I don't know their names, just recognize their faces. Sometimes they or I say something in passing. *Morning.....Beautiful dayHow ya doing?* But, I was stumped by the comment one fellow made as he walked by: *Six years, and it's finally gone."*

Great, I said, perfectly clueless. What is he talking about? But after I passed him, it became clear. That was the guy who used to walk with a cane. He always had a very jaunty walk, confident, a sure step in his business suit, and I'd wondered about the cane. He hardly used it. I guess I'd mentioned in passing, *You're walking well*, or something like that. And now he just told me he didn't need the cane anymore.



There was so much I didn't know. The years of physical therapy, the accident or illness that led to the cane, the reason for his improvement-- it was all a mystery. But he wanted to share the good news with me.

When Jesus healed the lame and made the blind see, He often told them not to share the good news— advice they mostly ignored or found difficult to follow. And for good reason. When your life has been turned around, you want to celebrate. It can be a moment of praise and thanksgiving.

Next time I passed the man I told him, *Congratulations!* Thanksgiving grows when it's shared, even with perfect strangers on a morning jog.

Help me, Lord, to see Your good news and celebrate wherever it's seen.



**From Bev Perella,
Children's Ministry Coordinator**

Krista Gilham and Pam Light assisted by **Barb Leas** have volunteered their creative talents to teach the Sunday School class for Kindergarten - Grade 5.

A grateful thank you to them!

Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*December 30
for our
Mid-January-
February Issue*

Thank You!

Dear Friends at LP Church,

Your supportive prayers and cards of encouragement for both Gene and me during this new phase of life have been so encouraging and meant so much to us. Thank you for both. We continue to hold you in our prayers as well. We love staying in touch. Fondly,

Gene & Betty Frederickson

To LP Church,

Thank you for the lovely flowers and many cards sent to recognize my recent birthday. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

Jeanne D Perkins

Hi Lincoln Park,

Thanks for another great lunch service. Our clients just love it when you are here! God bless each of you,

**Denise, New Journey
Community Outreach**

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

Births

Congratulations to **Heather** and **Kevin Enright** on the birth of their son,

Finnian Joseph, on August 21. He weighed almost 9

lbs. His proud grandparents,

Earl and Linda Hope, great-grandparents, **Betty and Richard Larsen**, and brother **Liam** welcome him to the family.

Congratulations to **Tara and Ryan Phillips** on birth of twin sons, **Peyton** and **Nolan**. Their proud grandmother is **Pam Stantitis**.

Best Wishes to **Jennifer** and **Matthew Lundquist**, whose daughter, **Lucy Annabel**, was born on September 21. She weighed 8lbs 11oz and was 21 1/4 inches long. Lucy's proud grand-parents are **Rich** and **Beth Auman**.



We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to **Beth** and **Richard Auman** and family on the loss of Beth's brother . May God surround you with His love and peace.

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
Pastor: The Rev Dr Christopher Kurien
Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-334-4197
Worship Leader: Mark Villecco
Youth Leader: Kyle Robbins
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