

# News-Line

*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter  
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania  
January-February 2020*



Pictured: Matthew, Madison, Jackie & Mike Kauffman, Keith, Hana, Jake & Maria Neff, Rachel Duda, Kweku Addae-Mensah with Amissah & Kojo, Christy Jacob, Susan Woodrum, Pastor Kurien

## **Kweku Addae-Mensah...**

A Vanderbilt University and North Carolina State University graduate, with post-doctoral training at Columbia University, Kweku is originally from Ghana in West Africa and relocated here from Hackensack NJ. He works for Teleflex Medical as a Design Engineer. The husband of **Jennifer Ayeh-Gyampoh** and father of **Amissah** and **Kojo Addae-Mensah**, he enjoys watching soccer and Formula One racing in his spare time.

## **Jennifer Ayeh-Gyampoh...**

is graduate of the University of Ghana,

Legon. Jennifer is a licensed Pharmacy Technician with a certificate from Bergen College and works for CVS Pharmacy. Jennifer is originally from Ghana, too, and moved here from Hackensack NJ with her husband **Kweku Addae-Mensah**. She is the mother of **Amissah** and **Kojo** and enjoys her spare time with her family.

## **Rachel Duda...**

grew up in Williamsport and relocated here to start a career in accounting at RKL. She completed her degrees in

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

Announcements 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!

### Ushers Needed

From Harry & Gretchen Garrity

We are in need of 10 new ushers to serve one Sunday every seventh week. Please contact Harry, 610-670-0930, or any other usher to volunteer in 2020. Thank you!

## Keeping Safe at LP Church

From Bob McFeaters, Trustees Co-Chair

What do these churches have in common?

Burnette Chapel Church of Christ in Antioch, Tennessee

First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas

St. Alphonsus Church in Fresno, Texas

West Freeway Church of Christ, near Fort Worth, Texas

This is a small list of churches that have been devastated by the actions of an armed intruder. But that could never happen here, or could it?

On November 17, 11 members of our congregation, seven men and four women participated in a training class facilitated by **the Rev. Mark Beideman**, a certified ALICE trainer. ALICE

is an acronym for *Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate*. As we learned in the training, the most appropriate action depends on the scenario, and individuals need to be able to take the best action that is right for them. Mark was a dynamic instructor as he led us through interactive exercises, such as what it would be like to attempt to seek shelter in the sanctuary (under the pews) as he portrayed an intruder and shot most of us with a nerf-like weapon. Next we learned how to successfully lockdown as Jack Villecco portrayed an intruder. I am happy to say we all survived Jack's attempted assault.



From **Beverly Perella**, Music Director, Children's Ministries Coordinator

They loved their costumes. The adults, in their 20's through 50's, were overwhelmed as they instantly became a king or shepherd, and Mary smiled, donning her costume and sitting by the manger. Angels dressed in white either walked or were wheeled in their chairs. So that everyone had a role, there were a dozen shepherds

A pregnant woman is the central figure, dressed as the Queen of Hearts. She wears a bright red velvet cape with a gold-trimmed collar and a gold crown with a cross on top. She is also wearing a gold-colored long-sleeved top and glasses. She is smiling at the camera. To her left, another woman with dark hair in a ponytail is partially visible, looking away from the camera. The background is a simple indoor setting with a white wall and a wooden door.

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## From Pastor Christopher Kurien

### *Dear Friends,*

Wishing you all a Happy and Blessed New Year! Busy holiday season is over, and God has brought us to the beginning of another year. However we try, we cannot live in the past. While we know what's happened to us this past year, we don't know what's going to happen to us in this new year. However, we believe in a God who knows our future.

A new year always gives us the opportunity to reflect about the past year as we prepare to enter and live in the new year. Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 2: 12, *I press on...*

*forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.*

I don't know about you, but I know I've made mistakes in my words and deeds in this past year. One thing I'd like to do is to spend time with God, not only reflecting about the past year but also asking for God's forgiveness, so that I will not repeat the same mistakes in this new year. Only with

God's help can we lead more fruitful and faithful lives.

Many of us make New Year's resolutions. Some of them we follow through. Some others we forget as time goes by. I pray that in this new year we'll commit

to love one another more than in the past year. Apostle Paul writes to the church in Ephesus: *Keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.* Ephesians. 4: 3.

When we function as the body of Christ the church, we may have our own ideas about things, but we have to look at what's best for the whole community. We cannot do what pleases us personally, but, for the sake of unity of Spirit, we have to prayerfully discern where God is leading us.

If everyone does what pleases themselves, there will be chaos and confusion. We all know that it's not always easy to put away our personal ideas even as we work in a group, but it will be possible with God's help and guidance. We have a lot to accomplish this year. May we seek God's blessings and help in everything we plan and do.

Let us pray that in this new year God's abundant blessings be experienced by all of us. Once again, I wish each and every one of you a blessed New Year.

Love,  
Pastor Chris



## Stewardship Featured Ministry Lincoln Park Church Youth Ministry

From Jack Villecco, Stewardship & Finance Chair

**MOST OF US** have seen our youth participate in our weekly worship services. Very few of us have actually witnessed our youth and their leaders during their faith journey. Some of us have had the privilege to mentor a youth during their confirmation classes. Others have worked beside our youth during Vacation Bible School.

Because of your generous contributions through each year, we're able to provide a safe environment where our youth can meet to focus on fellowship and discipleship. The Summit Youth Ministries at Lincoln Park include a Biblical lesson, time for prayer, games, and refreshments. They also take time for a small group ministry to others to aid in the understanding and application of the lesson.

Your financial support makes it possible for our youth and their leaders to attend youth rallies and to participate in an annual mission trip. Let's continue to provide the resources needed to adequately nurture our youth and their friends. It's more than a cliché to say that they are the future of Lincoln Park Church.

From Youth Leader **Kyle Robbins**

In January, we'll meet for normal group sessions on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 3-6 pm. All students Grades 6-12 are invited. On January 26, we will have our annual **PARENTS APPRECIATION DINNER** where our students serve our parents. We'll celebrate the progress of our students and say *thank you* to our parents for their sacrifice and flexibility.



**COMING UP:** Our students are going back to The Philadelphia Project on June 21-27; donations to help offset the cost of the trip would be appreciated. I'll have information on upcoming fundraisers soon.



## 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.



## Neighborhood Missions

### From Carol Bashore, Missions

Our church family donated an overflowing amount of gifts during this Christmas season. Thank you so much for your participation and your generosity.

† Through Samaritan's Purse's **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**,

we sent shoeboxes overseas to impoverished children. With the help of our Lincoln Park children we filled a record-breaking number of boxes.

- † Next, we provided wrapped gifts to two families through the Salvation Army **ANGEL TREE PROJECT**. This year they were able to help over 145 local families.
- † We also contributed to five local nonprofit agencies. Your donations of food, clothing, toiletries, supplies, and cash enabled us to touch the lives of many needy people. These items, plus sizable cash donations were given to Hannah's Hope, Opportunity House, Hope Rescue Mission, Safe Berks, and Easy Does It.
- † Also, the cash from the offering at Christmas Eve services amounted to \$931.55, which was sent to Helping Harvest.

**Jesus taught us to share and help those in need.**

**Thank you for helping to fulfill His request.**

## A Good Time Was Had...

From Barbara Leas, Nurture Committee Chair

Some 40 people gathered for our Christmas Party on December 22. We played games and ate Redner's fried chicken. Many of you pitched in to make it successful, especially our Nurture Committee members. The Summit Youth Group helped little ones pick out and wrap gifts for Mom and Dad. There were two winners in the Ugly Sweater Contest — **Christy Kurien**, who won cookie cutters, and **Adam Gehr**, who won cookies. Leftover birthday and other cakes were delivered to Berks Encore; thanks to **Susan Woodrum**.



### LP Serves Dinner at Opportunity House

Tuesday, March 3 and May 5. Can you help prepare, deliver, or serve food with us? We'd love to have you!



Pictured: Lay Leader Jim Gehman, Lin Haman, Sandi Rosencrans, Ann Heller, Pastor Chris

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accounting at Lycoming College. Rachel loves skiing, camping, and hanging out with her cat Slip! She says *Thank you for welcoming me into this amazing church!* She's already been volunteering at the youth fundraiser dinners, and she'll serve as one of the church auditors.

### **Lindsay (Lin) Haman...**

is a retired mechanical engineer who lives at Phoebe Berks Village. Before completing engineering studies at Steven's Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ, he served in the US Army for three years. This native New Yorker moved to Reading in 1970 after retiring from the American Electric Company. Since retirement, Lin has worked with Habitat for Humanity for 20 years, helping to build homes in the Reading area. He was confirmed a Congregationalist, then a member of a United Church of Christ, and upon another move, as a Presbyterian. He's a widower with a son, a daughter, and

granddaughters.

### **Ann Heller...**

a lifelong Methodist from Northampton County, attended East Stroudsburg State College for a BS in Secondary Education and completed her Master's degree at Pittsburgh and Temple Universities. Ann taught Junior High English in the Reading School District and, later, Adult Education at Wernersville State Hospital. Then, she became sales manager at Griffith & Bixler before retirement. **Ann** enjoys visiting her daughter Marnie and family and her two granddaughters, **Ana** and **Genevieve**, in Australia. She and her sister **Sarah George** live together now and both enjoy being part of the LP's Chancel Choir.

### **Christy Christopher Jacob...**

is married to Pastor Chris; they have three daughters: Susan (who lives in Bos-

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Pictured: Kyle & Chelsea Robbins,  
Jennifer Ayeh-Gyampoh, Pastor Chris

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ton) and Elsen (in New York with her husband Manu) are twins. Ann lives in Seattle. The couple met through family. “Both our parents were thinking of our marriage,” Christy says. “And God helped us.” By their third meeting they were engaged, and they’ve been married 34 years.

Christy currently teaches Math at Reading HS and enjoys time spent with family and friends.

### **Mike and Jackie Kauffman...**

grew up in Schuylkill Valley and Hamburg but have lived in Wyomissing since 1997. Their two children attend Wyomissing Jr/Sr HS. **Matthew** is a Senior, and **Madison** is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Mike works for Philips Medical as a Technical Consultant. He enjoys working with computers as well as doing woodworking, electrical, and plumbing projects at home. Jackie works for Atonement Christian Pre-School as a Pre-K Teacher’s

Aide. She enjoys gardening, crafts, and spending time with family. Mike and Jackie are members of our Nurture Committee.

### **Keith and Maria Neff...**

Keith and Maria grew up and live in Wyomissing. Maria is a Certified Personal Trainer and works at CHB Sports (Colonial Fitness.) Actually, Keith (who went to West Chester University for Exercise Science) and Maria met at Colonial

Fitness years ago when he was working there and she was a member. Now, Maria is the one working there. She is also experienced with youth sports conditioning programs and helping adults train for marathons. Married 22 years, they have two children who attend Wyomissing Jr/Sr HS and play lacrosse, soccer, and basketball. Jake, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, also plays football. **Hana**, a Senior, will attend and play lacrosse next year at Lebanon Valley College.

### **Kyle Robbins...**

husband of **Chelsea**, has been working at Lincoln Park UMC since October 2015 as our Youth Ministry Leader. Upon graduation from Troy HS, he attended Eastern University to major in Youth Ministries and decided to add on two minors: Biblical Studies and Theological Studies. He thoroughly enjoys running, spending as much time on the trail as possible. Along with working at church, he works full-time for Salisbury Behavioral Health as a supervisor, and he tutors students with ADHD two nights a

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and several guiding stars beaming from the “sky.”

Our LP *children*, too, were thrilled with their costumes — recycled or new (the three kings and the donkey.) And, each child was eager to be part of the pageant.

This year, I thought of the first Christmas — of the innocence of Mary and Joseph accepting God’s plan, unknowing that their obedience would change the world forever. And, I witnessed this same innocence in our children and in the adults at Cross-walk. *They knew they were doing something important.*

I thank God for these two stirring tableaux, representing God’s gracious and continuing gift, of the birth of His Son in so humble a setting. Two simple nativities – the best Christmas present!



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week. He says he is blessed by LPCUMC and looks forward to his continued ministry with our youth and ministry in the UMC in general.

### **Chelsea Robbins...**

wife of **Kyle**, was born in Pottstown and moved to Stouchburg her sophomore year of high school. After graduation from Conrad Weiser HS, Chelsea studied nursing at Eastern University and earned her RN. She has specialized in cardio catheterization nursing and has worked at St. Joe’s for four years now. She’s attended LPCUMC for three years, helping with our youth in many ways and gracing us with her beautiful voice and music on occasion. Chelsea and Kyle also have a 4-year old Chocolate lab and enjoy traveling as much as possible.

### **Sandra Rosencrans...**

majored in Radio-Television Arts in college and launched her career working for a movie producer. Since then, she has had many careers—so many, in fact, that she is currently writing a memoir about

her employment adventures. For 20 years she was in the US Army, reaching the rank of Major. She went on to work for the Federal government. After retiring and moving to Berks County, Sandi had, first, a decorating business and, then, a B&B for military personnel. She’s active in her community and is proud of her 30+ years as an ESL tutor. A widow since 1989, Sandi has three sons and two granddaughters.

### **Susan Woodrum...**

was born in Brooklyn NY on Thanksgiving Day, 1955. Because her father was a Marine Corps officer, her family moved to many southern and northeastern states, along with Hawaii. She says she felt blessed to experience “the different flavors and characteristics of each state.” In her 20’s she visited New Orleans, was “awed by the city” and was drawn to move there by herself. Now in Berks County, Susan does volunteer work at Berks Encore (a non-profit serving Seniors in our area, including Meals on Wheels) and at St. Francis Home

# FIRSTS: Day One

From Elizabeth Sherrill, submitted by **Nancy Villecco**  
From *2020 Daily Guideposts*, January 1

*Behold, I make all things new.* Revelation 21:5 (RSV)

January 1! The first day of a brand-new year, the first day of a brand-new decade. It's started me thinking about all the first-days in my life. The big ones.

**Joyful**— the birth of our first child. **Challenging**— my first days of widowhood.

I'm thinking about the small firsts too. My first pair of high heels. My first airplane trip. What if I could maintain the thrill of discovery, the heightened awareness, that comes with first-times?

My father did— with oranges. "I saw my first orange when I was 15," he'd tell us. "Never tasted one until I was nearly 30." Whereas, my childhood oranges were commonplace, I'd find him in the kitchen, cradling an orange in his hand, sniffing it, stroking the rough skin, a kind of wonderment in his eyes.



Our friend, Tomu, in Uganda, never got over the marvel of reading. "Look!" he would say. "Little black marks. They talk to me!" The first one in his family to go to school, he remembered when the little black marks were only that.

Has the very abundance of my life, I wondered, made me less grateful?

When my husband, John, and I lived for a few months in Normandy, we got to know an elderly priest who, as clergy numbers fell in France, served five separate parishes: Four had daily communion, all had two services on Sunday. "How," we asked him once, "could he keep repeating the same words over and over with seeming freshness?"

"But they are never the same!" he said, though we'd heard him intone the identical phrases day after day. "Each time I say them they feel brand new!"

Lord, Who makes all things new,  
help me to recapture in this new year  
the wonder of the very first time.



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"What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year. "

—Vern McLellan



# Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*February 15  
for our  
March-  
April Issue*

## Change of Address

Patricia Park  
9 Heidelberg Dr  
Wernersville PA 19565-1642

## Births

Congratulations to **Suzanne Romig** on the birth of her great granddaughter, **Anneliese**, on December 20. She's the daughter of **Bradley** and **Kendal Weeber**, weighed 7 lbs, and was 20 inches long.



Congratulations to **Tara** and **Ryan Phillips** on the birth of twins, daughter, **Peyton**, and son, **Nolan**. Their proud grandmother is **Pam Stanitis**.

## Thank You!

Dear Friends at LP Church,  
Thank you for the altar flowers you sent to Herb. He was so touched. Also, thanks to all who came to wish him farewell.

Sincerely,  
**Hildamay Bartron**

To LP Church,  
Thank you for the many cards and also to **George** and **Jean Weikel** for the food. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

**Susie Woessner**

† We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to **Hildamay Bartron** and family on the loss of her husband, **Herbert Bartron**, 91, on November 16. An engineer, Herb studied at Rutgers and worked on projects in the US and Middle East. He was an Army Paratrooper, completing 13 jumps. In addition to his loving wife, Herb is survived by five children and six grandchildren.



† And to **David** and **Loreen Miller** on the loss of his brother, **Donald**, on December 26.

*May God surround you with His love and care.*

# NEWS-LINC

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

Non-Profit Organization

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Reading, PA

Permit No. 233

*Change service requested*

*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.)*

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 (Announcements, Prelude 10:55)

Pastor: The Rev Dr Christopher Kurien

Music Director, Children's Ministries Coordinator: Beverly Perella, 610-334-4197

Contemporary Program Coordinator: Mark Villecco

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Kyle Robbins

Secretary: Marilyn Seiders; Office Hours: Mon & Wed 10-1, Fri 1:30-3

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For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.

