

# News-Line

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*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter  
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania  
March-April 2020*

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## **2020 Flea Market Opens May 15 and 16**

From Jerry Manhart

*Yes, you read that correctly.*

We'll open our doors from  
**5-8 PM, FRIDAY, MAY 15**, for those willing to pay a presale admission fee to our Flea Market. Our hours will be as usual on **SATURDAY: 7 AM-3 PM.** (*I know, we never did it this way before.*)

Our reasoning is this: Because our Flea Market requires a lot of planning and work, adding the extra evening could make it more profitable. Also, we might attract people on Friday night who are not available Saturday. For a presale admission of \$5, people can shop from 5-8 pm. Church members can avoid the presale admission price

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## **Don't Let Our Church Well Go Dry!**

From Carol Bashore, Missions Chair

Thank you for supporting our *Water for Life* project with many generous donations. This project builds "clean water wells" in impoverished areas throughout the world. Imagine walking miles for water from a possibly contaminated river. Access to clean water improves health and prevents the spread of diseases. Each well constructed costs approximately \$750.

Since January our church has collected enough money for more than three wells. Yeah! What a notable accomplishment. However, wouldn't it be wonderful to make it an **EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENT.**

Let's keep our well replenished with weekly or monthly donations. Our goal is to raise enough money to build 10 or more wells by the end of the school year on June 7. If church attendance is at 150 people per week, and each of us adds \$2 per week (or \$10 per person for three

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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!

**Adult Sunday School and Sermon Series for Lent**

Sunday classes for adults (10:15-10:55) led by *Dr. Earl Hope* and a Lenten Sermon Series from **Pastor Kurien** both feature Adam Hamilton's new book and Bible study, *The Walk*. The book focuses on five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God.

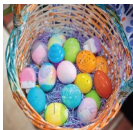
**Holy Thursday Service:**

**April 9 at 7 pm**

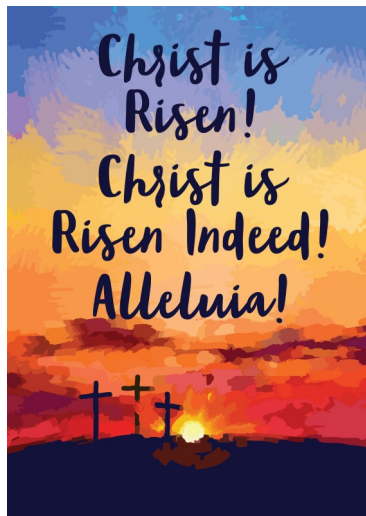
**Join us for Easter Sunday**

**April 12 at 9 am and 11 am**  
**Preludes begin at 10:40 am**

The Berkshire Brass will be our guest musicians at the 11 am service.



**Bring your baskets for an Egg Hunt Between Services.**





**Easter Flowers**

From KC Dianna

You can order your lilies, daffodils, and tulips (\$7 each) to decorate our sanctuary for Easter. Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletins. Call KC Dianna, 484-955-9402, with questions. Please place order forms (with check or cash) in the basket in the Wagner Room by Sunday, March 29.

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

**READING PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT**  
**IN OUR SANCTUARY AT LINCOLN PARK**    
**Sunday, March 15, at 3 pm**  
Let's fill our sanctuary for *The Musical Month of March*.

**Save the Date: MUSIC SUNDAY on June 14**

**Our Mini-Concert Series begins June 21.** If you'd like to help sponsor these concerts, please contribute to the *Concert Fund*.

**MY HEART-FELT GRATITUDE TO THOSE HELPING OUT AS I RECOVER FROM  
SHOULDER SURGERY ...**

- ♥ to Aimee Fangman for directing the Bell Choir during my absence,
- ♥ to the Chancel Choir for providing several anthems,
- ♥ to our Sunday School teachers **Pam Light, Krista Gilham, Barb Leas, Tori Whitely, Kris Fideli, and Kathy Ernst** for their leadership with our Christian Education program,
- ♥ to those volunteers who help with Children's Messages,
- ♥ to **Jack Villecco** for keeping me up-to-date on church activities, and
- ♥ to **Pastor Chris** for his prayers, concern, and help.

## **Pastoral Visits**

Our pastor posts a sign-up sheet every Sunday in the Wagner Room for organizing his home visits with our members. If you're interested in having Pastor Chris come to your home for a pastoral visit, please don't hesitate to call or text him on his cell phone, 570-573-1455, or email him at: [christopherkuri@gmail.com](mailto:christopherkuri@gmail.com) or [ckuri@lpcumc.org](mailto:ckuri@lpcumc.org). Also please share your name, phone number, and a good time to reach you.



**Nicole Walp Miller**, a new member at LP Church, will lead this grief support group, beginning Thursday, March 7, 6:30 pm, in Rm 103. The group will continue to meet the first Thursday of the month.

All are welcome!

## From Pastor Christopher Kurien

*Dear Friends, Greetings to you in our Lord's name!*

On February 26, we began a Lenten journey with an Ash Wednesday Service. For 40 days (excluding Sundays) we've been called to a spiritual journey reflecting Christ's journey in the wilderness.

As with all journeys, this one is easier to undertake with friends. As a congregation we'll use a special resource called *The Walk*, developed by Adam Hamilton of the UM Church of the Resurrection. Beginning March 1, **Dr. Earl Hope** will lead a discussion group in Memorial Hall between worship services. I'll also preach a sermon series on the same topics. Additionally, our children's Sunday School and youth groups will discuss the same topics. I hope that these opportunities to study and journey together will be a blessing to all.

Hopefully our Lenten journey will prepare us for a grand Easter celebra-

tion on April 12. Since there won't be another *News-Linc* before then, I'd like to wish you a blessed Easter in advance!

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our Christian faith. Those who crucified Jesus thought that crucifixion was the end of His story. But Jesus rose triumphantly from the dead! If Jesus had not risen, our gathering and worship would not have any meaning. History shows that thousands of faithful Christians were willing to die for their belief in Jesus' resurrection. They were bold and courageous in sharing the great news of Jesus' birth.

Have you ever wondered whether those of us living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century take our faith or our freedom to worship for granted? I pray that we become more committed to sharing our faith like earlier generations. We have life-changing, wonderful news to share!

May our journey through Lent and Easter deepen our walk with Christ and each other.



## 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 Youth Leader **Kyle Robbins**



lunch and dinner, eat-in or take-out. We estimate making around \$200.

**APRIL 26: LASER TAG** is something we do every year when the Flea Market takes over the church. Cost is \$5.

**MAY 16: CAR WASH** — our third fundraiser this year, weather permitting. This is a donation-only car wash. Typically we wash cars from 11:30-2:30 and have made nearly \$250 dollars in a short amount of time!

**JUNE: END OF YEAR PARTY**

We're also debating going back to camp again for a day trip.

**JUNE 19: RELAY FOR LIFE**

Our very own **Emma Detwiler**, who is extremely passionate about this event, has put a team together the last few years and has invited several students to come and participate as part of her team. The goal is to raise money for cancer research and the event is to spend 24 hours, as a team, walking the Wilson West Middle School track. This no-cost event has been a great opportunity the last two years for bonding as a group while supporting a great organization.

**JUNE 21-27: OUR YOUTH WILL RETURN TO THE PHILADELPHIA PROJECT.** At this absolutely amazing mission in the city, they will serve in three ways: at a free, summer-long Vacation Bible School, with home repair, and with Mercy Neighborhood Ministries. All three activities strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Cost is \$150, due by May 24.

**MARCH / APRIL:** In the last few years we've visited shut-ins, mostly from our church. We partner with the Children's Ministry to serve our older population. If you're homebound and would like a visit from our youth, please call Marilyn, our secretary, 610-777-1422, and let her know.

**APRIL 16: AUSTIN'S FUNDRAISER**

Austin's Restaurant will give us 20% of all food sales all day,

**Our youth are always thankful for your support.**

Thanks to everyone who gave during our 1-50 fundraiser. We don't have an exact total given, but it's well over \$1200. This money makes it possible for our students to serve at non-profits in the city of Reading, host events and invite friends, and attend summer ministry opportunities. Thank you so much for your support and blessings as Summit Youth Ministries continues to grow both in size and depth with the Lord.



# Nancy Dettra and Anne Wardrop Remember 60+ Years at Lincoln Park Church

From Cheri Fallon

Take a look at these two lovely ladies! They've been coming to church at Lincoln Park for over 60 years. Nancy Dettra, 88, and Anne Wardrop, 93, moved into the LP community in the 1950's with their husbands and lived there until they moved to Phoebe in the last decade. Their long standing friendship has been a constant in their lives.

Do you remember the Christmas Cookie project? These two women had the idea and put it into action. Every year, for a week or so after Thanksgiving, our church smelled of cookies -- chocolate chip, snickerdoodles, sand tarts, sugar stars and more. With the help of other women of the church, they'd package them up in coffee cans wrapped in red and green paper and sell them.

Over the years, Nancy and Anne have served at LP Church in many, many capacities. They joke, "We both have trouble saying *No*." Anne remembers being asked by LP's first pastor, **the**



Pictured: Nancy Dettra, Anne Wardrop

**Rev. Mark Hostetter**, to be President of the Ladies' Aide Society. As a young mother, new to the church, she couldn't believe he had that much confidence in her, but said *Yes* anyway.

And, Nancy worked with **Jeannette Erskine** for years: meeting, greeting, and helping to bring newcomers at church into our membership. "It helped me to get to know so many people," says Nancy. [Editor's note: I believe I was lucky enough to be one of them. Nancy was the first person I met at LP before we joined in 1979.]

Every year, these two "great friends" meet to decide jointly what they'll do to observe Lent. One year, they decided to choose a different person to pray for every day. "By the time we got to Easter," says Anne, "we had a prayer list of 40 people."

Both Nancy and Anne speak very positively about their lives at Phoebe. In fact, when asked

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# We're Preparing to Celebrate!

From Pastor Chris Kurien

A group of members met in February to plan for our upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. While it's several months away from **ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**, we have a lot to accomplish before then. Some groups have begun to meet, planning different events. We need everyone's help and active participation for a meaningful celebration.



The **ANNIVERSARY PLANNING TEAM** decided to create a souvenir booklet to be released on Anniversary Sunday. The Souvenir Booklet and History Committee seeks your contributions of historical articles and pictures to be included in the booklet. Also, they'd like to take a group picture of our church family for this booklet. *Look for an announcement for the date of this group picture.*

Our **WELL PROJECT** (p.1) in honor of the anniversary, is already underway. Committees are planning a banquet with special music and more for September 13. Also under consideration is the establishment of scholarships for students in local schools and our own youth, to be funded by a special banquet. There is talk of planning a walk through surrounding neighborhoods, trips to places of interest, like Longwood Gardens, sporting events, and more. If you'd like to join in the excitement about Lincoln Park Church's Jubilee milestone, please let us know!

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about advice they might like to pass on to others, they both thought first of one thing: *Don't wait too long to move into a place like Phoebe.* Nancy says, "When I came to Phoebe, there were so many church people here, including pastors, their wives, and their widows. Living in a community of church people has made my faith stronger."

On March 1 our church bid *Farewell* to Nancy Dettra, as she moves to Flagler Beach, Florida, to live near her daughter, **Connie**. She will be sorely missed at church where she has touched many lives. At a ceremony and reception, she was surrounded by friends and members wishing her well. "I have loved this church dearly," she said.

**Editor's Note:** You'll learn more about Nancy and Anne as our Anniversary Year here at Lincoln Park Church unfolds. The Anniversary Planning Team is at work, gathering stories from our amazing Seniors for a commemorative book and conducting interviews with them for videos. Stay tuned!

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by signing up to work a shift on Friday night *or* on Saturday. We will *not* be selling items before Friday, May 15 this year, as we have in the past.

This change and others, suggested by workers at last year's Flea Market, were approved at the January Church Council meeting, on a trial basis. The second big change will be to rent space on the church lawn on Saturday, May 16. For a fee of \$35, an outside vendor may have a 7x7 table space to sell items that don't conflict with our sale or food items. Vendors need to submit an application and have it approved. .

Hopefully you'll help us again this year, as you have in the past, or if you haven't, you'll sign up for the first time and be part of the team.



Like last year, we'll use half of Memorial Hall to price fleas, **beginning March 23**. The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Breakfast in April will be served in the Wagner Room. **If you're donating fleas, please wait until after the tables are set up in Memorial Hall on Monday, March 23.** We

have limited space to store them until then. **The cut off date will be Sunday, May 10**, to allow time for pricing.

The Flea Market will still have the same three goals: to raise funds for our budget; to be a mission to the community—selling useful items and homemade food, donating leftovers to charities; and, lastly, to be a social mixer for the entire congregation.

Comments and suggestions to improve the Flea Market should be given to **Jerry Manhart**.

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months) into the well to reach our goal. I know we can do this.

Donations may be put directly into the well bucket or placed in the weekly offering plate. Online giving is also available. Donations in the offering plate should be in a *Designated Well Project* envelope, so as not to be confused with your general offering. If you want your donations credited to your financial statement, please put your name with your donation.

To keep us informed, and encouraged to meet our goal, there will be a rising well-meter hanging from the roof of the well. Each week we can look at the advancing red line to observe how our donations are continuing to build more wells.

Every time we shower, drink, cook, or clean with fresh water, we should be grateful for this luxury. Give thanks for our blessings and help provide for those not so fortunate. We Love Clean H2O!



From Carol Bashore, Missions Chair

On Sunday, March 22, LP Church will join Holy Cross, Grace, West Lawn, and Mohnton UM Churches, to help feed hungry children and families throughout the world. *RISE Against*



*Hunger* is an international hunger relief organization which dis-

tributes food and aid to people in need.

Since 2005, over 500 million meals have been packaged by hundreds of thousands of volunteers and sent around the world, through this organization. Its goal: to end hunger by 2030.

Our LP Missions budget will help purchase rice and packaging. On March 22, 50-75 volunteers are needed to assist in packaging over 10,000 meals of rice. For a video about the packaging process, see [RISE Against Hunger.com](http://RISEAgainstHunger.com). Any person can help, but heavy lifting will be done by those physically able to lift 25-50 lb boxes onto the truck.

Packaging takes place at Holy Cross UMC, 329 N 5<sup>th</sup> St, Reading. There's a sign-up sheet in the Wagner Room with ; rides are available if you sign-up.

Please come out and help! See Pastor Chris or a Mission Team Member, with questions.

## Stewardship Featured Ministry

From Cindy Kercher

As a kid growing up I can remember saying *I'm starving* or *There's nothing to eat in this house!* In school we were encouraged to clean our plates because there were starving children in China.

Volunteering in LP's Food Ministries has shown me people right here in Berks County who ARE starving and really DON'T have anything to eat.

- † We serve lunch once a month at New Journey's Soup Kitchen. The ladies in our Agape group make soup to take there as one of their projects.
- † Every other month we prepare a meal in our kitchen, then deliver and serve it at Opportunity House.
- † Food collected at Christmas goes to Helping Harvest and is distributed to agencies in need.

Your monetary contributions allow us to purchase food for meal prep. The food you donate reaches many people. And, finally, our volunteers give of themselves and we can't put a price on that !

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### LP Serves Dinner at Opportunity House

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



# Focus on the Shepherd

From John Dilworth, submitted by Nancy Villecco

From 2020 Daily Guideposts, March 6, pgs 102-3

*I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.*

John 10:14 (NIV)

While touring New Zealand, my wife and I enjoyed an excursion to a sheep farm. The farmer showed us his barn while explaining the various aspects of managing the farm. He also talked about the different types of sheep and let us pet some lambs. But the highlight for me was a demonstration by Susie, a sheep-dog, of her skills herding and guiding the sheep.

As we stood in light rain outside the barn, the farmer pointed to a flock of sheep- tiny specks in the pastureland, high in the foothills of the Southern Alps bordering his farm. The farmer said, "As I get older, I depend more and more on sheepdogs to make the five or six daily treks up the mountain to fetch the sheep." Using a small whistle, he sent Susie to the sheep. Directing her left or right with different whistle sounds, she rounded up the scattered



sheep and skillfully guided them down a mountain path to the area where we were waiting.

We watched Susie line up the sheep in front of the farmer, barking and nipping them into place. The preci-

sion with which she did her job and the obedience of the sheep held our attention, but was not the most astonishing thing. As the sheep stood side by side, their heads remained still with all eyes intently focused not on the dog, but on the farmer- their shepherd. The sheep never took their eyes off the farmer, even with the distractions surrounding them, a barking guide dog and two busloads of spectators.

Jesus said, "I know my sheep and my sheep know me." The sheep knew their shepherd from their guide- obedient to both, intent on one!

Lord, help us to keep an unbroken focus on You, our Shepherd, even in the midst of all distractions that get in our way.



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*"I discovered I always have choices, and sometimes it's only a choice of attitude."*

—Abraham Lincoln



# 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 Vilecco

## Thank You!

♥ Dear Friends at Lincoln Park Church,  
We appreciate all the prayers, cards, and gifts of food from Agape. (They out-did themselves with a beautiful poinsettia and food on my 91<sup>ST</sup> birthday. What a wonderful surprise. We sat right down and ate the delicious food.)

Flowers were delivered regularly by several members of the congregation. **Linda Woll** and the Nurture Committee sent flowers and cards. Last but not least, **Pastor Kurien** made visits to the hospital and rehab hospital. Thank you, thank you — to all! Everything was so much appreciated.

**Donald and Gloria Beamesderfer**

♥ To **Linda Mann** for donating LP pens for the visitor bags assembled by **Barb Leas** and her Nurture Committee!

♥ Dear Friends,  
Cards, flowers, text messages, calls, visits, rides, substitute musicians, two booklets filled with beautiful drawings and good wishes, food, and, of course, prayers- all are the gifts you have given. You, my church family, certainly have taken great care of me. I hope to return by the end of March.

Love from a very grateful **Beverly**

† We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to family and friends of **Barbara Radcliff**, 86, who passed away on January 31. A Penn State graduate, Barbara worked in different capacities as a librarian in Chester County.

† And to family and friends of **Margaret Christ**, 98, who died on February 15. She was the widow of **Henry Christ**, who passed away in 2014. They had been married for 75 years.

† To **Barbara Wenger** on the passing of her husband, **David Wenger**, 79, on February 8. They were former members of our church.

† To the family of **Nancy Brown**, 87, who died on February 13. Nancy was a bookkeeper here at Lincoln Park.

*May God surround you all 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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*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 (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.