

News-Line

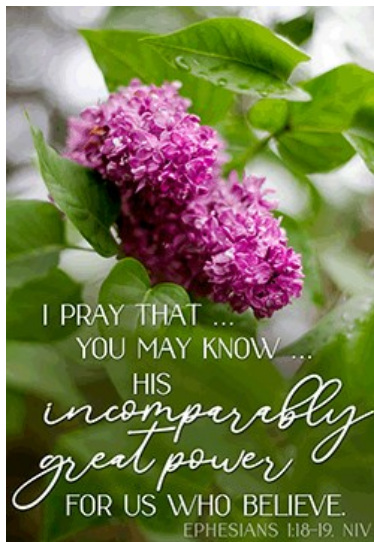
Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *May-June 2020*

Lincoln Park Responds to COVID-19

From Carol Bashore, Missions Committee Chair

After reaching out to several local agencies, we've decided that there are three ways our church can help those who are struggling during this difficult time.

† **HELPING HARVEST**, our local food bank, is providing more food than ever before. Since they can purchase food at a huge discount, monetary help is the best and easiest way for us to give. Our church is sending them a sizable check. However, if you'd personally like to contribute, you can send or drop off a check at the Church Office. Write it to our church but designate it for the Food Bank. You'll receive credit along with your regular church contributions, and we'll forward all additional donations to Helping Harvest.



† **FACE MASKS**
Several church members have already made some masks—including seven-year-old **Isla Brown** (you can see her instructions on our church Facebook page.)

We're looking for seamstresses to make enough masks for all our church families who need them. There are sewing directions online, and Michaels or JoAnn Fabrics might donate the materials. If not, save your sales receipt, and Missions will reimburse you. You can drop off or pick up your masks at the Church Office. If no one is around to open the door, place the masks either in the door mail slot or porch mail box. Leaving them outdoors under the covered porch in a waterproof container is also an option.

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at Lincoln Park Church 10 am

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Sunday Services Continue Virtually Due to Covid-19

Until further notice, we'll continue our worship services at 10 am via Live Streaming or Zoom, and we're happy that more and more people are participating. **It will be wonderful to have more help with our virtual services.** So, if you're willing to participate by recording your part and emailing it, please me know, 570-573-1455.

To view our Sunday worship services, click on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/lpcumc/>

The service livestream will begin at 10 am (EDT) and will appear at the top of the "Posts" listings, just below the picture of the altar area of our sanctuary.

You can make the livestream a "full screen" view by clicking on the "Click to enlarge" icon in the lower right corner of the view.

Livestream has been working well, but if for some reason you're unable to connect via Livestream, you can join via a zoom meeting by following these prompts:

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9346283520?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9346283520?pwd=SW9JdndlOGJkL0xZZTc4L1dIQ2J0QT09)

[pwd=SW9JdndlOGJkL0xZZTc4L1dIQ2J0QT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9346283520?pwd=SW9JdndlOGJkL0xZZTc4L1dIQ2J0QT09)

Meeting ID: 934 628 3520; Password: 714372

Or, you may follow the **steps below to join by telephone.** Many of you have already joined by Zoom call this way:

Step 1: Dial 646-876-9923

Step 2: The recording asks you to enter the meeting ID, which is:

934 628 3520 followed by # sign

Step 3: The recording will also ask you if you have a participant ID, and, since you don't have it, choose the option to enter the # sign.

Step 4: The recording will then ask for a password: Enter the number: 714372 followed by # sign

Step 5: Place your phone on "mute."

I also want to remind you that you can submit your prayer requests via clicking on the "Prayer Request" tab at the top of the LPCUMC home page, or by using this link and filling in the "Prayer Request" fields: <https://www.lpcumc.org/prayer-request/>

You may receive a "pop-up" when using Live Stream, asking you to log in or create a new Facebook account. **You do not have to create a Facebook account, so just click "Not Now".** If you have questions, call Jack Villecco, 484-256-9861.

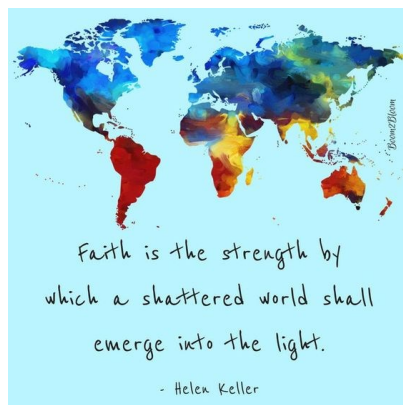
**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE THESE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
WITH FRIENDS AND EXTENDED FAMILY.**

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

A shortened version of Sunday School is alive every Tuesday, at 5:45 pm, via Zoom. The kids in attendance are mostly children from the Cherub Choir. And, boy did they grow since I saw them in January. With Zoom, everyone can see everyone else and talk to each other. I present the interactive lesson first, and **Krista Gilham** takes over with a choir rehearsal. The kids seem to enjoy it!

There's a chance the real Pirate Pete from Vacation Bible School will make an appearance from time to time. (**Jack Villecco** has "volunteered" and is growing a beard!)

In difficult times, we have to be creative and come up with an alternative. This is ours for Sunday School and Cherub Choir. We will be back!



Our church musicians, Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, and Praise Band are taking a break, but they'll return "with bells on" as soon as it's safe. Meanwhile **Mark Villecco** is offering praise music on guitar and **Reid Simmons** plays and sings hymns on the organ during our 10 am streamed Sunday Service. We are indeed grateful for their musical gifts. We might find a way to add more music! Say "tuned." We shall return!



We'll Be Calling YOU

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read about the members of the early church caring and sharing with one another. During this Covid-19 crisis, we need to support and encourage each other more than ever. In hopes of doing that, we've divided the congregation into groups of 10 and assigned leaders who will check in with members on a regular basis. So, you may get a phone call from one of the leaders soon.

Regarding phone calls, we're updating our church directory because we've found some incorrect phone numbers. Please check the directory to see if your contact information is correct. If not, please send an email to me and the Church Office, at ckurien@lpcumc.org and info@lpcumc.org.

Please help us with this effort. We want to grow stronger and deeper in the ways we care for one another as a church family.



From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends, Greetings to you in the name of our Risen Lord!

Like all of you, I am sad that we cannot meet in person during this incredible season of Easter and show our love for God and one another. In what is usually a season of hope and joy, many of us are challenged with the news of family and friends struggling with ill health or even death. I am so sorry if you have lost a family member or friend.

Friends, we're living in the most difficult time of our lives. However, the pandemic has brought the human family much closer. It doesn't matter whether you're rich or poor, black or white, living in the third or first world, in a palace or a hut, everyone is impacted equally.

Even with the best health care systems, thousands have lost their lives.

There is gloominess all around, especially in places like New York. I'm not able to get my mind around the reasons for God allowing this pandemic to happen. I don't have a quick answer. I still believe in a God who loves and cares.

We all know there are millions of

healthcare and other essential workers risking their lives daily to care for everyone's needs. Sometimes we take things for granted. In these times, may we be grateful for their service.

As researchers work hard to invent medicines and vaccines, our hope is in the Lord. We are asked to stay away from each other, yet we worship a God who is alive and close to us always. No one can separate us from the love of God!

During the coming two months we have many important days to celebrate: Mothers' Day, Ascension Day, Memorial Day, Pentecost Day, Fathers' Day, just to mention a few.

Each of these days is important in the life of the church. Because these days are so special to us, I'm trying to figure out the best way to celebrate them virtually. For example, on Mother's Day, other than sending flowers, how do you virtually express your love to your mom?

May these special days remind us to be in touch regularly with family and friends, especially with older family

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—Jenni Young

There Was No End In Sight

By Michelle Baran, Travel News Editor, AFAR Media

Submitted by Jack Villecco

I was on the phone with my Polish mother the other day and she acknowledged what we all are feeling—that the isolation is starting to get to us. I agreed, of course. But I had some questions.

Surely it can't be all *that* bad, I said. After all, she had been born in 1945 on the outskirts of Warsaw not long after her family had marched home from a Nazi work camp. Her childhood, teenage years, and early adult life were spent under the oppressive communist regime that was known for stifling freedoms, breadlines, and constant shortages, among numerous other joys.

She said the shortages and the limited extravagances didn't really bother her back then, that she was young and carefree and was more focused on resisting the regime. OK, I said, but you fled. It was bad enough that you felt you needed to get out. What was the tipping point?

"There was no end in sight," she said.

That struck a chord with me as we continue to cover the coronavirus pandemic and work to provide travelers with information about what the unprecedented nature of the global COVID-19 outbreak means for them (such as what kind of refunds and cancellation policies are available and what air travel during a pandemic actually looks like). No matter our struggles and frustrations, there's one thing we all know—there will be an end.

My mom assured me that as challenging as this has been and will be for us, we can get through. That people have been through so much worse. And she would know. I found encouragement in her words. **Maybe you will too.**

What has also been encouraging is the **countless ways people have come together during this crisis**, the way the industry has united to inspire hope, and what travel companies are doing to help healthcare workers on the frontlines and those in need despite the unprecedented challenges they themselves face.

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members and friends living alone. As a church family, we are creating a small group process to be in touch with one another more frequently.

I pray that once this is all over, we would be closer to each other and God, and want to love each other more. Those of us who survive this pandemic may want to celebrate life and give thanks to God in a special way as the pilgrims did.

May you experience God's goodness and love and be willing to share love with others! Love you all!

God's Blessings

Poverty, Imagination, Community, Solitude, Memory

From Hildamay Bartron



Editor's Note: These lovely vignettes from **Hildamay Bartron** seem soothing and perfect for these COVID-19 times.

Poverty

There wasn't much fanciness in our home. No bathroom, no running water from October until the April rains. Second, or even thirdhand clothes and furniture. A car that was laid up more than it ran. How were we to know that this kind of poverty would make your bounty so special.

With apple, pear, peach, and cherry trees, berries galore, straw, goose elder, back and raspberries, wild asparagus, water cress, dandelions,

hickory nuts. All growing free from Your loving hands. How grateful we were for these gifts.

Thank you God for the blessings of poverty.

Imagination

There was nothing we could not be. One day cowboys riding oil drum horses. The next day climbing through the trees giving out with a wild Tarzan yell. Or playing hide-and-seek in the corn. What fun to slide down the haystacks in the barns or stick our feet into a clear, cold brook. We were explorers, mountain climbers, animal tamers.

Thank you, God, for the blessing of imagination.

Community

Small town living had its drawbacks. Everybody knew everybody else's business. Not one blemish could go unnoticed. It was tow the line or travel over the party line. But let a tragedy occur and the whole town became involved. Helping hands reached out to ease and comfort.

Thank you God for the blessing of community.

Solitude

Quietness offers opportunities for self examination. Am I on the right track, and is my soul at peace?

Sometimes when I sat praying, my

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furry friend and companion would join me, purring her own little prayers.

Listening to wind rustling the leaves or rain tapping on the windows is so soothing. Train whistles bring thoughts of Dad, who rode the rails as a young man. And, believe it or not, there is a rooster somewhere in our neighborhood.

Solitude may be another word for lonely to some people, but to me it is peace.

Thank you God for the blessing of solitude.

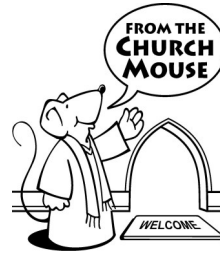
Memory

My sister and I take many trips down memory lane. We enjoy revisiting our youth and are amazed to see how much has changed. Some good, some not so good. We wouldn't dream of returning to wringer washers or hanging clothes. Who would want to give up air conditioning to suffer through hot, sticky nights again?

But, we could certainly do without so much traffic, and a lot less noise would be nice.

As I travel into my senior years, I am aware of the many friends and loved ones living in my memory, which is the album of my life.

Thank you, God, for the blessing of memory.



Did you see that our own **Dr. Darwin Stapleton** was featured in the *Reading Eagle* on April 1? In an article by Ron Devlin about the corona-

virus, Darwin offers some hope as we await a decline in the number of Berks County cases.

As a public health historian, and Executive Director Emeritus of the Rockefeller Archive Center, Darwin has studied the history of contagious diseases and written a paper about the stages of an epidemic.

Darwin makes these positive statements about COVID-19:

- "It's likely the current epidemic ultimately will be understood and controlled."
- "Past experience suggests large numbers of people will develop an immunity to coronavirus."
- "I'm confident we will see our way through this. Epidemics do end, the problem is right now we don't know exactly when."

Thank you, Dr. Stapleton!

The Church Mouse is always interested in news about your family or members and friends of LP Church. Please email cherfallon@com-cast.net, or call **Cheri Fallon, 610-678-8735**, to share!

Annual Flea Market Postponed

From Jerry
Manhart



On March 16, the Church Council voted to postpone the event, planned for May 15-16, due to the Coronavirus. We hope to have it at a later date, perhaps in the fall.

As I write this on April 15, there are still questions about when and how large groups will be allowed to gather. So, no decisions have been made about the Flea Market for 2020. However, we can be thinking about our options at this time.

If we were permitted to have the Flea Market in September, we'd have to start collecting and pricing fleas in mid-July. We probably wouldn't do the new features we had planned for the spring. The number of customers allowed in the church at one time might have to be limited.

Another option would be to cancel the Flea Market this year. A third option, if we are permitted to have the Flea Market, would be to demonstrate radical generosity. Perhaps in honor of our 75 Anniversary or our missions to the community, we could collect fleas but not price them. Give them away free. Maybe the same with our food, no charge, free. Feed the hungry.

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† **HELPING EACH OTHER.** If you have any personal needs, we have volunteers to help. Let us know what you need. Please contact **Carol Bashore**, 610-678-1802, if you need a prepared meal or food shopping and delivery. Likewise, if you can volunteer to help with either of these assists, please let me or **Pastor Kurien**, 570-573-1455, know. Monetary donations, designated to the **PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**, would also be appreciated. Some of us, who have lost our jobs and income with businesses closed, could use a helping hand. Please make a donation to the Church and specify that it is for the **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**.

Thanks to all for whatever you can do or give to assist others.

LP Serves Dinner at Opportunity House

On Tuesday, May 5, our next scheduled turn to supply dinner at Opportunity House, an anonymous donor has arranged for Chick-fil-A to deliver a meal to the clients there in our place. We hope to be back on track for our next scheduled dinner on July 7.



Anniversary Plans Still in the Works

From Cheri Fallon

One goal of our Anniversary Planning Team is to celebrate our church history over its 75 years. We're producing a souvenir booklet, including a history, written by our own **Darwin Stapleton, Ph.D**, a Certified Archivist, and testimonials from members, especially those who have been part of our church for a long time. Our Church Historian, **Carl Madeira**, has been dusting off photographs and archives. We're interviewing our oldest members with phone calls and questionnaires, and look forward to hearing their stories. We'd like to tease you here with some facts from our past...



From Pastor Kurien

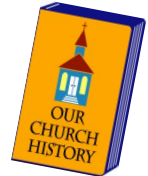
In spite of COVID-19, preparations for our 75th anniversary progress, although we don't know what September may bring. For the souvenir book, we were counting on support from the business community with advertisements, but many businesses are facing challenges. While we might find some advertisers, another way to raise money is to have well-wishers and members sponsor pages of the book.

The book will highlight our history and recollections of our senior members. God willing, it will be a memorable and historic publication.

Looking Back: Snippets of LPCUMC History

From Darwin Stapleton

On **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1945**, the *Community Church of Lincoln Park* was organized, with 23 members, as part of a worship service in the two-room Lincoln Park schoolhouse. The church emerged out of a Sunday School program, initiated in 1935, followed by a 1944 house-to-house survey of Lincoln Park's need for a church.



On **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1945**, Lincoln Park church members met at Reading's Outer Station of the Reading Railroad with representatives from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Missions of the Evangelical United Brethren. Plans were made to purchase land in Lincoln Park and authorization was made to hire an architect for a church building. In 1946, the church was recognized as a mission church and received financial support from Evangelical United Brethren.

God's Handiwork Delights

From Erin Janoso, submitted by **Nancy Villecco**

From *2020 Daily Guideposts*, May 17

BLESSED ARE YOUR EYES BECAUSE THEY SEE, AND YOUR EARS BECAUSE THEY HEAR FOR TRULY I TELL YOU, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

—Matthew 13:14 (NIV)

Ugh, I thought, glancing out at my garden. It was already late spring, and weeds were taking over, competing with last year's dead plants still waiting to be cleared away. At this rate, my tomatoes and peppers would never make it into the ground on time. Why was everything I did always behind schedule?

My five-year-old daughter Aurora joined me at the screen door. She stood there for only a second before starting to point, excitedly. "Look Mom, look!" she exclaimed, as she looked through the door, running barefoot through the garden. I followed her. "Your flowers are blooming!" she said, crouching down for a closer look.

Sure enough, beneath the bric-a-brac of last year's growth and amid the



weeds, a carpet of anemone flowers had opened—their brilliant white mingling with dozens of fragrant lilies-of-the-valley. Yellow daffodils danced just above them, and iris buds, filled to nearly bursting with their purple petals, would soon join the show. How had I missed this?

I had longed for this floral performance all winter long; yet when it was in full swing, I'd looked right at it and registered only work, weeds, and missed deadlines. I smiled at my daughter, her nose buried in the lilies-of-the valley. Sometimes I need a little help remembering to look at the beauty of God's handiwork with eyes that really see.

Thank you, God, for reminding me to put worldly worries aside so that my eyes and my heart can see the glory of Your creation.



"Keep shining your wonderful lights for the Lord during this time. It is a time like none other, full of opportunity for compassion and kindness."

—Bishop Peggy A. Johnson



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*June 15
for our
July-August
Issue*

Change of Address

Nancy Dettra
650 Colbert Ln Suite 206
Palm Coast, FL 32137

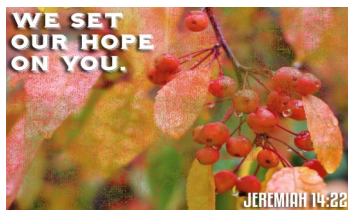
Margaret Welliver
2000 Cambridge Ave Apt 54
Wyomissing PA 19610

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, Beverly Ruffner, Marilyn Seiders, Mark & Jack Villecco



If you have a graduate in your family, please let us know! We like to hear about their accomplishments and future plans. Please send information to cherfallon@comcast.net or put it in my mailbox in the Church Office. Or call Cheri Fallon, 610-678-8735.

Our redecorated Church Library has moved to what was once Room 102 in the Perkins Education Building. All are welcome to use it and borrow its wonderful books. **Jan Ferree**, our Church Librarian, says you'll also find a great selection of children's books there to delight you and your children!



† We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to **Marilyn Bennis** and family on the loss of her husband **William (Bill)** on April 8. Besides Marilyn, his wife of 63 years, Bill is survived by three children: **Susan Kappenstein**, **Michael**, and **Debra**, as well as five grandchildren: **Emily** and **William Levan**, and **Jack**, **Catherine**, and **Grace Bennis**. Bill was a lifelong Reading resident, who had a 40-year career at Carpenter Technology, interrupted only by the Korean War. A devout Catholic, Bill was a member of St. Ignatius Loyola Church.



NEWS-LINC

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church
1 Carlisle Avenue
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PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

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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Custodian: Carl Madeira

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Fax line 610-777-4309

Voicemail: Church Office 10, Beverly Perella 16

Web: www.lpcumc.org

E-mail: info@lpcumc.org (Secretary and Church)

For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.