

News-Line

*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania
July-August 2020*

Your Missions Offerings Are at Work From Carol Bashore, Missions Chair

Since the start of the virus pandemic, there have been many individual donations to our church Mission Fund. So when **Caitlyn Christopher** asked to spearhead a project to provide lunches for New Journey Community Outreach recipients, we knew it would be a great way to help our local community.

After receiving financial approval and support from several church members and LP's Bowling Team, Caitlyn and her family (parents, **Debbie** and **Dan**; aunt, **Donna Sweimler**; and grandmother, **Nancy Artz**) purchased, made, and packed 300 bagged lunches and delivered them to New Journey on May 26. It was so appreciated that they volunteered to do

this each Friday through the month of June.



The Christophers continued the project through June, making the purchases and the sandwiches. Other church volunteers — **Rich and Carol Bashore**, **Cindy and Dave Kercher**, **Diane Fisher**, **Alan Koeble**, **Jan Ferree**, **Linda Lee**, and **Rich and Beth Auman** — filled bags at home with the non-perishable items.

Kudos to everyone who made this project possible; especially to **Caitlyn** who graciously wanted to help others while she was home from college.

➡ For more about the New Journey Lunch Bag Project, see p.8.



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.

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.

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.

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/>

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

Former Lincoln Park Pastors Will Preach for our Virtual Worship Services



We are in for a treat: In recognition of Lincoln Park's upcoming anniversary in September, Pastor Kurien has invited some of our former pastors to record messages to our congregation and to preach sermons for our Sunday Worship Services online.

July 5	The Rev Sara Davis-Shappell
July 12	The Rev Jerry McGrath
July 19	The Rev Andrew Krpata
July 26	Our Bishop
August 16	The Rev David McMillan

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

A Long, Long Road....A Long, Long Road...

Last September 1 was the beginning down this road, the day I fell at church. I decided to wait for surgery until after the Advent and Christmas seasons. So, on January 10, the rotator cuff on my left shoulder was repaired. Unfortunately, the tears were massive, and 8-10 weeks later, they tore again. My second surgery, a complete reverse shoulder replacement, was performed on June 15, at the Surgical Institute, and the results have been amazing.

Although recuperation will be slow, I expect a full recovery which means I'll be able to "crawl" in and out of the organ pit again and be able to reach and play the swell manual, the top keyboard on the organ. Although it's been a dark time in my life, I've felt the bright sunshine of your encouraging words, support, and love.

September, 2020, is significant for me : It marks a year since my accident, and, more importantly, it the 15th anniversary of serving my LP family! And it's been 15 *remarkable* years as we've traveled down the road together.

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 pastor. If you'd like to receive *News-Linc* in the mail, just notify our Secretary. Please join in at Lincoln Park!

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

In this memorable summer of 2020 we're not only going through a novel pandemic but also seeing unprecedented protests in many cities of the US and even around the world.

The pandemic has already taken half a million lives worldwide and around 125,000 people in the US. The protests, due to the killings of our black siblings, will hopefully lead to needed reforms. Community leaders and elected officials in our country and around the world are trying to find solutions.

Does the church play a role in these conversations? What responsibility do we have as responsible citizens in these situations?

To deal with Covid-19, we've closed our sanctuary for regular worship services and quickly organized online services. While it's not been easy, we've done our best to organize what was needed. These efforts have enabled us to reach new neighbors in the community and members living far away. Many of you wonder how

our services come together. Week after week, finding different participants can be challenging, but so far everyone has been so cooperative, and I thank everyone for your willingness to serve.

**"The church
cannot be
a silent spectator.
God is sending us
into the chaos of
the world.
God is calling us
to be agents of
transformation."**

I'd like to share with you that we've also divided the congregation into 19 small groups, with leaders for each, and the hope is that the leaders would call those in their groups on a regular basis. We've had zoom calls for group leaders to share the progress we're making. This new ministry effort is progressing well. I feel that this approach will help connect members to the church family. Ideally in post-COVID life, we'd continue these efforts, strengthening our church life.

The protest rallies after the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis continue to gain momentum. There are signs of hope as conversations about reforms begin to happen. I feel the church cannot be a silent spectator. God is sending us into the chaos of the world. God is calling us to be agents of transformation. Our invitation as followers of Jesus is to do the transforming work that disman-

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bles, heals, restores, and reconciles. These are trying times, and it is difficult to ignore the injustices present in our society. To join a peace rally in solidarity is important. Let us be attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

OPEN MIC AT LINCOLN PARK is a new ministry initiative, aimed to engage members and those interested to converse and learn from each other on important topics. We already had discussions about racism and how to be an ally to persons of color, how to talk to children about difficult subjects, white privilege, and more. The idea originally was to help our members, in the context of limited movements like sheltering in place. These informal conversations have been helpful so far.

During July and August, many people normally try to travel and take vacations. While some may be unable travel, for those who will, I pray for traveling mercies. Enjoy your summer as much as you can and be safe.

Regards and Prayers,
Pastor Chris



† We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to **Darlene Kauffman** and family on the loss of her husband **Donald**, on May 23. He was 95, a World War II veteran and recipient of two Purple Hearts. **Donald** and **Darlene** were married for almost 74 years.

† May God bless and keep **Gloria Beamesderfer** and family as they grieve the loss of her husband, **Donald, 87**, on June 1. He and Gloria were married 50 years. He worked for Security Guards, Inc. and General Battery/Exide. A skilled handyman, Donald did many renovations at home.

† Our sympathy to **Patrick Owens**, his family, and friend **Beverly Perella**, on the loss of his mother, **Florence**, 93, on June 14. Florence had two sons, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. She worked in the family business and was active in her church, UCC Bethany.

† We learned also of the passing of **John (Jack) Perella**, 71, on May 15. Jack was an accomplished tenor soloist and appeared many times, here at LP Church, and throughout Berks County. Our sympathies to his family, including his first wife, (and our own **Beverly Perella**) and their sons, **Timothy** and **Andrew**.

May God surround you all with His love and care.



Meigin Chandler...

daughter of **Alyssa Herbert**, and granddaughter of **Alex** and **Joanne Posey**, graduated from Governor Mifflin HS. She was active in Track and Field, Cross Country, Rifle Team, Indoor Track, Key Club, and FCA. Meigan plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, to study psychology and run cross country and track. A highlight of her senior year was winning the cross country county championship meet. "The moment we found out we had won just felt like we could do anything. There are no limits if you have good teamwork."

KC Dianna...

...a dedicated teacher in the Reading School District, has earned her certification in English as a Second Language, from Alvernia.

Julia Rose Gehman...

graduated from the University of South Carolina with a degree in **Marketing and Business Management**. She will be moving to Boston to pursue a career in **Sales and Supply Chain Operations** with SONAPAR. She is the daughter of **Tony** and **Kelly Gehman** and the granddaughter of **Jim** and **Roe Gehman**.

Jacob Mark Gehman...

Jake is a graduate of Millersville University with a degree in **Sports Management**. He will be moving to Philadelphia and working with the Philadelphia Eagles organization. His responsibilities will be in fan management. He is the son of **Tony** and **Kelly Gehman** and the grandson of **Jim** and **Roe Gehman**.

Jaxon Anthony Gehman...

...is a 2020 graduate from Wyomissing High School. Jaxon will be moving to New York City to continue his Vintage Clothing Business. He is the son of **Mark** and **Marina Gehman** and the grandson of **Jim** and **Roe Gehman**.

Matthew Kauffman...

the son of **Mike** and **Jackie**, graduates from Wyomissing HS this year. He'll attend Penn State Berks, majoring in Biology. Matt has been awarded the Cohen-Hammel Fellows scholarship from Penn State Berks for the four years he'll be attending there. He also received a scholarship from Philips, (Mike's employer) and was accepted into the PaSSS summer program at Penn State. Matt plans to attend medical school to become a pediatrician. He loves kids and says, "I'd like to make a difference in their lives."

Devon Krick...

daughter of **Beth** and **Eric**, is a Wilson HS graduate. She will attend Bloomsburg University in a 4-year program for

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medical imaging. She hopes to become an x-ray technician. In high school she went with her AP Biology class to Jamaica, doing some volunteer work. She especially enjoyed LP Youth Group's time at Camp Ithaca. "I got a lot closer to God on that trip," she says.

Jordan Krick...

son of **Beth** and **Eric**, is also a Wilson HS graduate. He plans to attend Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, in Lancaster. He will study Electro Mechanical Engineering. Beth says, "Jordan is a hands-on kind of guy." Both Jordan and his sister **Devon** have been active participants in LP's Youth Group, and in our worship services as lector and usher.

Linda Lee...

our Church Council President and member of LP for 35 years, has received her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Millersville University. She will continue her work at UPMC Orthopedics as a Nurse Practitioner and as an assistant professor at Millersville.

Hannah Neff...

...daughter of **Keith** and **Maria**, will graduate from Wyomissing HS on July 31. A National Honor Society member, she also played lacrosse, soccer, and basketball, and participated in Teachers in the Park, a volunteer program to help younger students. She will attend

Lebanon Valley College to study Elementary Education, with a minor in Special Education, and will play lacrosse there.

Reid Simmons...

...our guest organist and a student of **Bev Perella**, graduated from Twin Valley HS, where he was involved in music activities and honor societies. He will attend West Chester University for a degree in Music Education. We have been blessed to have such a talented young man with us this year. He says, "I love to serve at Lincoln Park."

Sarah Snyder...

...granddaughter of **Susan** and **Ron Woessner**, graduated from Tulpehocken HS.

We are made for goodness...
We are made for love...
We are made for friendliness...
We are made for togetherness...
We are made for all of the beautiful
things that you and I know.
We are made to tell the world that
there are no outsiders.
All are welcome: black, white, red,
yellow, rich, poor, educated,
not-educated, male, female,
gay, straight,
All, all, all
We all belong to this family,
this human family, God's family.
—Desmond Tutu

A Tale of 1500 Lunches

From Cheri Fallon

Due to COVID-19, **Caitlyn Christopher** was home from Drexel University and her second year (of five) in a Biomedical Engineering Program. She received a flyer from New Journey Community Outreach (NJCO) asking for help serving lunch to their clients. When Caitlyn saw it, she said to her parents: *I want to do this!*

So, they began looking for donations and discounts. Water and paper bags were donated. Weis Markets gave a discount on the deli products. *It's a terrible time right now; people are struggling*, says **Debbie**, Caitlyn's mom. Fortunately, they found that many *were so willing to help*, including volunteers from LP Church. The first time, the Christophers assembled the 300 lunches themselves. *You can't understand what 300 lunches is until you see it*, says Debbie, *It takes two trips to deliver them*.

The Christopher's *good experience* involved other family members, including Caitlyn's aunt **Donna Sweimler** and grandmother **Nancy Artz**. Debbie says *It was really a lot of fun and nice to do something productive..* The last of their lunches have been delivered, *at least for now*, she says. Caitlyn is taking a class and doing a co-op for a cancer research center in Philadelphia.

The people at NJOC said, *Boy, we're really going to miss you*. Debbie says, *We're hoping to help again in the future*.



LUKE GEHMAN, grandson of **Roe** and **Jim**, and son of **Mark** and **Marina**, is interested in fitness, seriously enough to create his own backyard gym in a pandemic.

Missing the gym, Luke envisioned his own in the barn behind his home in Wyomissing. With his family's help, Luke cleaned out the barn and added equipment: dumbbells, a bench set, yoga mat, and body building gear. Plus, he has a camera to record his workouts for posting on Instagram and YouTube.

In the future, Luke, a junior at Wyomissing HS, hopes to become a personal trainer and certified nutritionist.

Some people really knew how to make the best out of the stay-at-home orders!

The Church Mouse used a June 7 story by Stacie Jones, in the *Reading Eagle*, to write this news.

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

Thank You

I'd like to thank the LP congregation for their terrific support in the New Journey Lunch Bag Project! We were able to pack and deliver 1500 lunches to those in need at New Journey Community Outreach. It was a huge success! The church's generosity is greatly appreciated. Blessings, **Caitlyn Christopher**

We Are Preparing to Celebrate 75 Years of History at Lincoln Park UMC From the Archives and History Team

Traditionally, the anniversary of the founding of our church is celebrated on the second Sunday of September. While we're waiting to decide on a 2020 date to gather, due to Covid-19, we're preparing to publish an anniversary book with articles, greetings from community leaders, our Bishop, District Superintendent, former pastors, and pictures of events, along with advertisements. The ads will help cover the cost of the book *and* make a profit for our mission project. The book will not only highlight our history, but will also support a cause, blessing a needy region of the world: the *Well Project*. Part of the proceeds could also support an anniversary fellowship meal in the fall.

Please consider purchasing a full, half, or quarter page advertisement to make this endeavor a success. On your page, you may include a family picture, greetings, or best wishes. Kindly use the form below to submit your ad. The rates *for members and friends*, include a minimum price, followed by a higher price for those who'd like to give more.

Full Page- \$600 to \$750

Half Page-\$400 to \$500

Quarter Page- \$200 to \$300

The rates for businesses are:

Full Page- Business and other \$1000

Half Page: \$500



Please use this form to submit an ad. or email your info to: info@lpcumc.org.

The content of the ad can be determined later.

Name:

Circle: Full /Half /Quarter page

Address:

Name of the Business:

Circle: Full /Half

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Can Anyone Help?

From Ashley Kappel, submitted by Nancy Villecco

From 2020 Daily Guideposts, July 28

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.

—1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

I was done with my day. Not finished, mind you, just done. Nothing was going right, no one was on time, and I was at my worst. I took a quick break to check my phone. “I’m at the hospital for my child’s latest round of chemo and we noticed that there aren’t any coloring books left in the family area. Can anyone help?” The request came over a social media network.

I saw the post while sitting at my desk. Specific and tangible, the call for coloring books was something I could definitely help with. I posted on my social media wall that I was grabbing coloring books and that if anyone else wanted to donate books or send money, I’d be happy to pick up some extras.

For the next hour, my phone kept buzzing. Joanna sent \$20. Mary Beth sent \$25. Caleb sent \$25. Within a few hours, I had \$200 and lots of posts from friends thanking me for the chance to help.

When my husband, Brian, got home that night, we loaded up and headed for the store. We told our children who we were buying the gifts for and why they needed them. Then we let the children go wild. The next day, Brian delivered 50

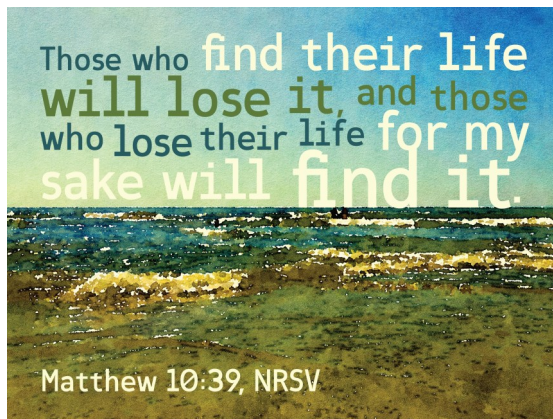
pounds of coloring books. I had to load them into a rolling suitcase!

While the kids received dozens of new books, I can honestly say the often-repeated message is true: I got the bigger blessing. Because of my

friends’ generosity, I was able to show my children that we can be God’s hands and feet.

My day started off being all about me, but ended up being about my community. The next time I feel done, I’m going to stop looking at my own actions and start looking at how I can help others.

Lord, thank You for calling me to greater things than I could have ever imagined.





Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*August 15
for our
September-
October Issue*

Change of Address

Keith & Maria Neff
1524 Delaware Ave
Wyomissing PA 19610

More Snippets of LPCUMC History

From Darwin Stapleton

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1947: A

groundbreaking ceremony for the planned Lincoln Park church was held in the Lincoln Park schoolhouse. Officiating was **the Rev.**

Mark J. Hostetter, who earlier that year had been appointed the church's full-time pastor.



Sunday, May 8, 1949: The first worship service was held in the sanctuary of the new building for the Lincoln Park Community Church.

Bishop J. Balmer Showers of the Evangelical United Brethren officiated at the dedication. A choir, directed by **Ardell Funk**, provided the music. A parsonage next door to the church had been constructed at the same time. The cost of the buildings was \$91,840.

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 Vilecco, Jim & Roe Gehman

Births

Belated congratulations to parents, **Nicole and Bill Rosenbaum**, and grandparents, **Rick and Linda Mann** on the birth of

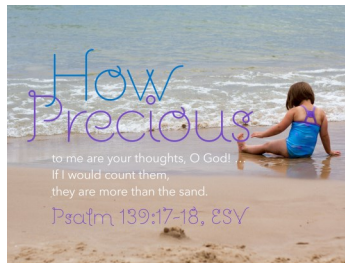
Bryson Logan, on January

18. He weighed 6lbs 10 oz and is growing rapidly. Linda says, "He's gonna be a *big* boy!"



Congratulations to **Michael and Christine Brown** on the birth of their son, **Holden Fallon Brown**, on May 26. He weighed 8lbs 4oz and is much loved by his siblings, **Isla and Liam**. **Ed and Cheri Fallon** are grateful for their 10th grandchild.

Best wishes to **Jeff and Cassidy Owens**, of Memphis Tennessee, on the birth of their son, **River Patrick**, on June 2. His proud grandfather is **Patrick Owens**.



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 (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

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For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.