

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *September-October 2020*

Lincoln Park Sees Gloria Kotzer Off to Seattle

From Mark Kotzer and Cheri Fallon

Most people at Lincoln Park Church know **Gloria Kotzer**. A member since 1954, she's rarely missed a Sunday. Her smiles and interest in all of us are genuine.

So, when **Pastor Chris Kurien** heard that Gloria was heading to Seattle, near her son **Mark**, he arranged a meeting of LP friends to see her off.

On August 5, **Pastor Chris**, his wife **Christy**, and Gloria's friends, **Beverly Ruffner** and **Nancy Artz**, drove to the Sunrise Senior Living community in Exton where she'd been living since March. "They shared communion with her," says Mark.



"Because of COVID, Pastor Chris worked with the staff to serve Gloria while they took communion standing outside. Together they sang *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* and recited Psalm 23. Pastor Chris gave Gloria a prayer shawl which the staff put on her."

Mark says his mother "greatly loved the church and the church community. It was the center of her social life as well as her

spiritual foundation. Gloria's spirit was always so much a part of the church that when she discovered that she could add a stained glass window to the church, she worked on having one designed and installed so she

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at Lincoln Park Church 10 am

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Sunday Services Continue Virtually Due to Covid-19

We'll continue our worship services at 10 am, via Live Streaming or Zoom. We thank all who've participated. If you're willing to help, by recording your part and emailing it, please let me know, 570-573-1455.

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

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

The service livestream begin at 10 am (EDT) and appears 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.

Livestream has been working well, but if you're unable to connect, you can join 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, follow the steps below to join by phone:

Step 1: Dial 646-876-9923

Step 2: Enter the meeting ID: 934 628 3520 [followed by # sign](#)

Step 3: Because you don't have a participant ID, choose *Enter the # sign*.

Step 4: The password: 714372 followed by # sign

Step 5: Place your phone on "mute."

You can submit prayer requests by clicking on *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.**

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.

Church Reopening : When and How?

From Richard Auman and Richard Bashore

While we're all anxious to return to some normalcy, our Church Reopening Committee is working hard to ensure that, when we do reopen, we'll have a safe church in which to worship.

When our guidelines are met and we feel comfortable with a date, the pastor will announce it during the Sunday morning livestream, two weeks prior to the date.

In early August, our committee emailed and sent letters about what the committee is doing to make the church and our worship experience enjoyable and safe. (If you have an email address and didn't get our email, please contact the Church Office, 610-777-1422, with your correct information. If you got neither email nor paper letter, again, please notify the Church Office so we can update your information.)

The church has been cleaned and sanitized, **so it's important** that any church group wanting to meet there prior to worship reopening must **notify the Office beforehand**. And, **any outside group must receive permission from the Trustees**. All groups are responsible for cleaning and sanitizing the area they use for meetings.

To set guidelines, the Committee used recommendations made by the Conference Cabinet and Chancellor, as well as directives from federal and state governments. Once we begin in-person worship, we'll

take temperatures of everyone entering the church; social distancing and wearing masks will be enforced by

ushers and Reopening Committee; music and singing will be limited to soloists and instrumental selections.

Also, the blended 10 am service will continue as the sole service on Sunday

mornings until a procedure to clean and sanitize the sanctuary between services can be implemented. Our plans will evolve as restrictions are lifted and procedures need to be changed.

Even after we begin meeting in church for Sunday worship, we'll continue live-streaming the service for members and friends who are in a high risk category or who feel more comfortable at home. Our Bishop and Cabinet have recommended that streaming of our worship become a permanent part of our ministries. With that in mind, the committee has purchased cameras and equipment to enhance the online experience.

If you have a question or concern, please contact either of us:

Rich Auman, 610-670-0955,
richard.d.auman@gmail.com

Rich Bashore, 610-678-1802,
rcbashore@hotmail.com



From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

On September 7 we celebrate Labor Day, honoring and recognizing hard-working people and their contributions to the development and achievements in our country. Beginning in the late 19th century, as labor movements grew, a day was set aside to celebrate labor. It became a federal holiday in 1894. We thank God for the hard labor of millions in our country and around the world.

Normally, many schools in the US reopen after Labor Day. Due to Covid-19 in 2020, many school districts had to make difficult decisions about whether to reopen schools in-person or virtually. Whichever way the schools reopen, we ask for God's blessings upon all students, teachers, staff, and administration.

Local church congregations are trying to discern when to reopen and gather for worship. At Lincoln Park, we've formed a Reopening Committee to pay close attention to our state officials as well as our Bishop and her cabinet regarding a reopening date.

Pastoral Care is an important aspect

of any congregation. I'm glad that at Lincoln Park, at the start of Covid-19, our membership was divided into 19 small groups in order to keep members regularly in touch with one another to see how everyone is doing. I appreciate all those who have readily accepted the

responsibility to be small group leaders. In addition, we have the Agape Women's Circle, Grief Support Group, AA Group, Youth Group, Choir and Children's Ministry leaders in touch with their members. Also, our church committees meet regularly over Zoom.

Something new we've experienced during this pandemic is the involvement of our members who live far away in our virtual services every Sunday. Also,

I try to involve as many people as possible, especially our youth, to be part of our worship experiences.

Due to technical challenges, some of you have been unable to join the virtual services. I hope that this pandemic will end soon, and we can gather for worship and other activities and have our times of fellowship. The second Sunday of September would have been our big 75th



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anniversary celebration. We had great plans to make this event an extra special one. Unfortunately, we have to postpone that special event. We were, however, able to invite back our former pastors to join us and bring the message for this summer's virtual services. We thank our former pastors for joining us during this 75th anniversary year.

These are challenging times. I think of you often and keep all of you in my prayers. Since we don't know exactly how long the pandemic will last, I've been considering visiting our members by keeping social distancing and by wearing a mask. If you feel comfortable and would like me to visit, preferably staying outside the house, perhaps on a patio, please be in touch with me.

Due to the circumstances, a few of our members have decided to move closer to their children, which is understandable. **Nancy Dettra**, **Kathleen Hogg** and her son **Tim**, and **Gloria Kotzer** have already moved, and **Hildamay Barton** is also considering moving near her children. These are difficult decisions. We thank God for their valuable contributions to the life of our church and will greatly miss their presence among us. They'd like to keep their connection to our church family. One way we can stay in touch with them is to continue with the virtual services even beyond Covid-19.

In a few days it will be fall, and I hope you all get to drive around and enjoy the fall colors. May God be with you all!

Blessings and Prayers,
Pastor Chris

Thank
You!



to **Alan Knoebel** and **Jerry Manhart** who took care of our bimonthly Opportunity House supper in July.

to **Roe** and **Jim Gehman**, who collated, organized, and mailed our July-August *News-Linc*. And to **Jack Villecco**, who has been duplicating it, providing a much more colorful product!

Two Hearts, One Love

Christy and **Pastor Christopher Jacob Kurien**'s daughter **Susan Chris Jacob** and **Alexis Hubaud** were married in North Andover, Massachusetts, on Saturday, August 29. We wish God's blessings upon the newly married couple.

Congratulations!



In Its 75th Anniversary Year, LPCUMChurch Remains a Congregation of Generosity

From Jack Villecco, Stewardship and Finance Chair

Your Stewardship and Finance Committee again thank you for your faithful time, talents, and treasures in support of our ministries. Here is a question to ponder as we approach 2021:

What is the connection between stewardship and generosity?

Generosity is a key component of a growing, authentic disciple of Jesus Christ. Generosity is the quality of being kind, understanding, and not selfish. It is a willingness to give money and other valuable things to others. Here are some synonyms: bigheartedness, unselfishness. Here are some antonyms: cheapness, stinginess.

For this is how God made us; it is

how He himself is. And He is not only our Creator; He is our Master Craftsman. Paul writes to the Ephesians, *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* -Ephesians 2:10. If God has freely given his own Son Jesus, then shouldn't we be willing to give to others – even to our *enemies* – from what we have, which is given to us by God *to do good work*, as Paul says?

Your generous contributions during the first half of 2020 have exceeded our ministries expenses by \$3,625.

God's blessings to you and to our congregation have surely been manifested.

Flea Market Cancelled till 2021

From Jerry Manhart

On July 13 the Church Council voted to cancel the 2020 Flea Market because of coronavirus restrictions. Please hold on to your fleas until next spring. There is no storage space at the church. Hopefully, we'll be able to get ready for the May 2021 Flea Market, starting in March. Watch for more updates in 2021.



† We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family of our former Church Secretary, **Kathy Jo (Swartz Reedy) Narkiewicz**, who died on June 19.

† We received news from our Eastern PA Conference of the passing of our former pastor (from 1982-1987) **The Rev Dr Andrew Simonson**, 79, on May 6. Our deepest sympathies to his wife, **Doreen** (107 C Boulevard, Sinking Spring, 19608) and children.

May God surround you all with His love and care.

(Continued from page 1)

would always be part of the Church as the Church has always been part of her,” says Mark.

The stained glass window that Gloria donated shows “The Parable of the Sower,” from Matthew 13: 3-9. Mark says Gloria loves gardens and flowers (prevalent in Seattle) and I imagine this may have been in her

thoughts when choosing a design for the window. But her activities at LP Church over 65 years are a testament to a good bit of sowing: teaching Sunday School, volunteering at Soup Kitchens, and visiting Manor-Care, to name a few.

Mark says, “My mother’s devotion to the LP Church made a big impression on all of her children. Her oldest

two children, **Carol** and **David**, are both active members and volunteers at their

churches in the greater Dallas and Denver areas.” Mark attributes his “passion for being involved in many civic and non-profit organizations” to “the example his mother set at LP Church.”

“Her children and grandchildren, particularly

her granddaughter **Melissa**,” says Mark, “have always enjoyed returning to LP Church as adults, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.”

If you’d like to send a note or card to Gloria, please reach out to her son Mark in Seattle at 206-427-3484, kotzer-mark@gmail.com, or mail it to Gloria Kotzer, c/o Mark Kotzer, 4319 Eastern Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103.



Happy 94th Birthday to **Anne Wardrop**. Anne is back at Phoebe these days and doing well in her same apartment.

Congratulations to **Carl** and **Nancy** Madeira on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



More Snippets of LPCUMC History

From Darwin Stapleton

† **FOR 35 YEARS, FROM 1978 TO 2013**, Lincoln Park Church had an active Quilting Group. Its quilts were sold to support the church and its missions in various ways, ranging from funding the purchase of new nursery room furniture and altar paraments, to making pillowcase dresses for girls in Haiti, supporting *Adopt-a-Village* in Afghanistan (2005 to 2012) plus other church and mission needs as they arose.



a new three-manual organ with an associated speaker system; and conversion of the original parsonage next to the church into office space. All that work was substantially completed in 2000.

† **IN THE FALL OF 1995**, at the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, the Annual Conference approved borrowing funds to substantially renovate the church. By the fall of 1996 a capital campaign, *Growing in Faith*, had raised the required nearly half-million dollars. Then-**Pastor Jack Buttimer** described the campaign as *the best organized... I have ever been part of*. The renovations included installing air conditioning, and a lift to assist less able people to access both the sanctuary and Memorial Hall; installation of

† **IN JULY OF 2009**, the church's Vacation Bible School was based on the *Crocodile Dock* curriculum. About 65 children and over 40 youth and adult leaders participated. That same year the *News-Linc* reported that the Youth Fellowship had participated in a cancer walk, sung Christmas carols at the Highlands, created and run a Safe Halloween event, babysat two nights at the church to give parents an evening out, presented two worship services, participated in the Advent candle-lighting drama, sang in the Contemporary Service's Praise Band, sponsored two needy children in third-world countries, and volunteered at the Autumn Auction!



From the Editor

From Cheri Fallon

I want to thank **Kathleen Hogg** and **Gloria Kotzer**, who have cheerfully and without fanfare gathered helpers and shown up to put our *News-Linc* together and take it to the Post Office near Albright College. They've been reliable and available every month or every other month for as long as I can remember. God bless you!

Anniversary Booklet Will Celebrate 75 Years of History at Lincoln Park UMC

From the Archives and History Team

We're getting close now to publishing our Jubilee Anniversary booklet, with articles about our history and members, greetings from our Bishop, District Superintendent, former pastors, pictures, and advertisements. Because of a generous offer to cover publication costs, we can now offer you space on its pages at a reduced rate during this COVID-19 season. **Your generous purchases and donations will help support the cost of anniversary mission projects and activities to come.**

In your space, you may include a family picture, greetings, memories, or best wishes. The rates *for members and friends* are:

Full Page- \$400, Half Page-\$200

Quarter Page- \$100, Eighth Page - \$50

One-Line Footer (75 characters) - \$30

Checks and content/message of your ad can be sent (as soon as possible, and *no later* than Oct 16) to: Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church, 1 Carlisle Ave, Reading PA 19609. Attention: Jack Villecco



Can you find four current church members — Rich Auman, Carol Bashore, Carol Brightbill, and Kris Wright from LP's Confirmation Class of 1964?

Nobody Loves Me!

From Jacqueline F. Wheelock, submitted by **Nancy Villecco**
From 2020 Daily Guideposts, pgs 410-411

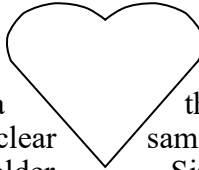
We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are- yet he did not sin.
—Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)

Nobody loves me! Nobody cares about me!

Years ago, my little girl - shoulders slumped and lips drawn into a severe bow - made her objections clear about the praise showered on her older brother. That moment during the 1970s is memorable and a tad humorous. But several months ago, when that same daughter's three-year-old lobbed a similar complaint, I laughed out loud. "Is anybody gonna say *hoo-ray*?" she inquired after her ear-assaulting, unsolicited son's performance met with a mute response.

While it's obvious both mother and daughter took vernacular liberties, it's equally clear that, at an early age, they had grasped the human concept of pity-partying and self-absorption.

That need for affirmation wears on us at times, especially when it pushes against the boundaries of control and is levied in a demanding way that shames us. Still, when we find our-



selves feeling foolish about such needs, we can be solaced by the boundless love of our God Who, through His Son, was tested by the same undignified needs.

Since I'm aware of no other religion whose very definition of God is love, it's necessary that we remind ourselves of His sacrifice to feel what we feel, "yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15, KJV). The Lord lowered Himself to understand each one of us perfectly, giving us the right to proclaim, "Yes, Jesus Loves Me" (Anna Bartlett Warner). Even when our grumblings and other failures prove childish and embarrassing, all it takes to face another day is to know that He understands and forgives.

Lord, though I need others' encouragement, help me to value Your empathy more than any other, for Your love for me cost You the most, and it never disappoints.



Oops
We Goofed!

We want to correct our graduation announcement about **Meigin Chandler**....She is the granddaughter of **Lee** and **Joanne Posey**, and the daughter of **Alyssa Herbert** and her husband **Don**.

Pam Stanitis and **Kris Wright** also helped **Caitlyn Christopher** with her Bag Lunch Project for New Journey Outreach.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*October 15
for our
November-
December Issue*

Change of Address

Nancy Dettra
New Phone Number 386-446-1009

Barry & Nancy Goodolf
StoneCroit Apt #2107
PO Box 220
Honey Brook PA 19344

Kathleen & Tim Hogg
2140 Waterside Circle
Graham NC 27253

Gloria Kotzer
c/o Mark Kotzer
4319 Eastern Ave N
Seattle WA 98103

JoAnn Ross
2023 Indian Key Dr
Holiday FL 34691

♥ We'll miss **Kathleen Hogg** and her son **Tim**, who moved to North Carolina in June. Kathy writes: "My membership in Lincoln Park UMC has meant much to me, and I'll be keeping many memories in my thoughts of the friends and activities I experienced during my time here."



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, Jim & Roe Gehman, Beverly Ruffner, Marilyn Seiders, Mark & Jack Villecco,

Thank You

♥ Our family appreciates all of you who are praying for our granddaughter, **Corrine Miller**, now 10 years old, who was diagnosed with leukemia in July. She is currently home in Lincoln Park and going for treatments. Thank you and God bless you all.

Loreen and David Miller

♥ I'm thankful for all the church has done for me and my family through difficult times. So much has gone on with us: Donald's and my hospitalizations and then his passing on June 1, my children's health issues, the heartbreaking loss of our son Todd 2 1/2 years ago, and our move after 54 years. Thank you to our congregation for the many get well cards for me and Donald, the pastor's visits and calls, the food and goodies Agape brought for my birthday, and the 50th wedding anniversary which LP made special in May, with food, cake, and my favorite flowers. We so appreciate LP Church members' help and support, and are so glad that Todd, Donald, and I became members here.

Love, **Gloria Beamesderfer**

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



Worship with us: **10AM - ONLINE WORSHIP** for now (See pg 2)

When we resume (See pg 3) there will be one combined worship service in the sanctuary at 10 am, and Online services will continue.

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

Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735, cherfallon@comcast.net

Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Kris Fedeli

Custodian: Carl Madeira

Office phone 610-777-1422; Ext: Kitchen 17; Ed Bldg 15; Nursery 14

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.