

# News-Line

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*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter*  
*Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania* *November-December 2020*

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## **Operation Christmas Child and Angel Tree Continue Despite Pandemic**

From Carol Bashore, Missions Committee Chair

Our Missions Committee thanks you and continues to ask for your help. Mission contributions have been generous, enabling us to continue helping others during this pandemic.

Money continues going to the Clean Water Project, plus we have generously given to UMCOR in response to hurricanes, floods, and fires.

We've also sent financial assistance to nine local charity organizations, one national, and one overseas. A list of all the organizations that our church supported will be posted at the end of 2020.

We've had several faithful helpers move out of state. Therefore, **we need more volunteers to help with either serving lunch at New Journey once a month or dinner at Opportunity House once every other month.** No cooking involved.

It's easy and gratifying. Please contact **Dave Kercher**, 610-678-0829, if you can join us.

We plan to continue with our traditional Samaritan Shoe Box program as well as the Salvation Army Angel Tree gifts.

For **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**, any shoe-box or similar sized

box is fine. However, **official boxes and purchasing information is available at the Church Office now.**

If you'd like to participate but don't feel comfortable shopping, you can send a check to help with postage or to allow someone who is shopping to fill a box for you.

Boxes can be dropped off at the Church Office. I will put a big plastic container on



**November 15**

*(Continued on page 9)*



# 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 begins 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 : Ready but Waiting

From Richard Auman and Richard Bashore

When our Reopening Committee last reported on the status of church reopening, we were working to put a plan together. Now, the protocols have been established. The church has been cleaned, and the transition to in-person worship, while maintaining the live-stream, is being developed.

To reopen our doors, we had two criteria. First, we needed to plan for accommodating worshippers in a safe manner. The committee now feels that 60 to 80 persons can safely worship in church, while maintaining social distancing. Secondly, we wanted to see a steady decline in the number of new cases. **However, after a meeting on October 26, to consider the spike in COVID-19 cases this past week, we decided to wait and meet again in two weeks to review the situation. Perhaps we can consider a reopening in early December.**

Hopefully, we'll soon be able to announce a date that we, as a committee, feel comfortable worshipping together in our sanctuary. When we open our doors, we'll encourage those who are in a high-risk category, are sick and/or have a fever, or feel uncomfortable coming to church at the present time to continue live-streaming the services at home.

When we do start offering in-person worship, we'll continue to have only one service, Sundays at 10 am. This is pri-

marily due to insufficient time between two services to safely and properly clean the building. Therefore, for the present time, we will continue with the blended worship. Again we want to take small steps in our reopening.

The committee has put in place protocols and steps that should assure all those worshipping in-person that they will feel safe.

These are the safeguards we will require everyone to follow when coming to church:

- Proper wearing of masks at all times will be required.
- Temperatures will be taken of everyone with touchless thermometers, with one person recording names.
- Social distancing of six feet must be maintained.

We are also asking you not to arrive before 9:45 am and to use either the main front door, the door at the end of the driveway (near the lift) or the door along Jefferson Boulevard, lower level, near the ladies restroom. All other doors, including going into the Education Building, will remain locked.

If you have a question or concern please call:

**Rich Auman** — 610-670-0955, or  
**Rich Bashore** — 610-678-1802)

Co-Chairs, Reopening Committee



## From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

November is already here! By the time you have this *News-Linc* in your hands, our presidential election will be over. Some will be happy and others not so happy about the outcome. As Americans, we're called to pray for our President and our country no matter who is in the White House. I believe we have that responsibility as good citizens and as Christian disciples.

We've also just remembered the saints who've gone before us on *All Saints Sunday*. May their memories continue to be a blessing in our lives! Let us pray for all who've lost dear ones in the past year, that they will experience the peace of Christ that surpasses all human understanding.

With November days becoming cooler and shorter, we realize it will soon be Thanksgiving. During this pandemic, as we prepare for this season, may we remember what we can be grateful for. I am thankful for the family of Lincoln Park United Methodist Church and for the privilege of serving as your pastor.

The season of Advent begins the last Sunday of November. Normally an exciting time of the year, Advent is

a time for preparation for the coming of our Lord. The word *Advent* is from the Latin word, *to come*. The church has observed the season since the fifth century, with themes of watchfulness, preparation, expectation, and hope. We anticipate the celebration of God's coming in the form of the Christ Child, and we look forward to the final coming of Christ in glory.

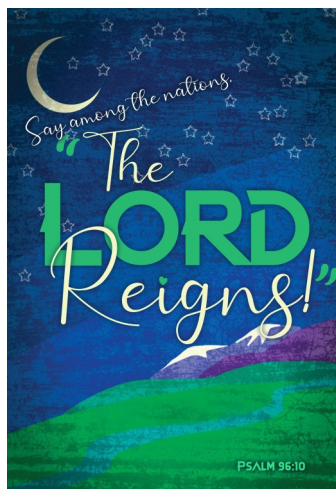
The message of Advent is sometimes blurred by the commercialism of Christmas. TV ads bombard us with "that perfect gift," a must for under the tree. Then, there's the ever-present countdown of shopping days left. In our busyness, it's important to remember the reason for the season. Unfortunately, due

to the pandemic, many are wondering how we're going to celebrate this joyful season.

In the midst of uncertainties may God's greatest gift to us, Jesus the Christ, continue to inspire us. Perhaps in our world of social distancing and quarantines we'll discover new ways to celebrate this holy season.

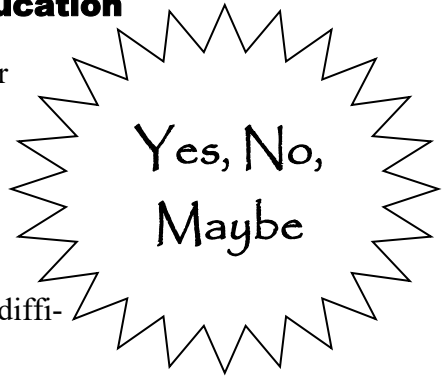
May each of us experience that "greatest gift" during these challenging times.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Chris



**From Bev Perella, Children's Ministries Coordinator,  
& Pam Light, Chair of Christian Education**

That's the thought about Sunday School for our kids. The most logical place for Sunday School is obviously at church, but that's not possible. Since COVID hit, publishing houses have scrambled to offer religious, virtual learning with all types of activities, but many of our children do that on a regular basis for school. Even little ones can "overload" on computer use, and, sometimes, it's difficult to keep them at the computer.



We could write our own curriculum, e-mail it to our parents, and have them help teach their kids. (Keep in mind, however, that most parents are already teaching their kids for their regular education.) We could offer a short, weekly Zoom lesson. At least with this we do get to see each other. (I chuckle when I think of the Zoom lessons we did for a short time. I'd be teaching and a child would leave and come back with food. Remember, the kids can see each other, so another one would leave, too. One child returned eating a banana!)

So where do we go from here? Whatever we do, it won't start until the New Year. I'm hoping for a Zoom meeting with all our parents to determine how to continue our Christian education. Strange times call for creative solutions.

Can you offer ideas or help?

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**From Bev Perella, Music Director**

What has two tiny hands, two feet, a desire to put them to good use, and a mind filled with ideas?



**IT'S YOUR MUSIC DIRECTOR, OF COURSE!** It's been 10 months and two shoulder surgeries since I've been able to perform my position. I still have not been released by the surgeon because I need more strength and range of motion. So I'm hoping, with two physical therapy sessions a week for the next five weeks, I'll be able to return just in time for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Keep your fingers crossed and add a prayer or two.

## Greetings from Lindsey Villecco Guercia



Hi everyone! I'm delighted and honored about becoming the Interim Youth Leader here at LPCUMC. Youth Group was always one of my favorite things growing up -- a great opportunity to build important relationships, to explore and learn about my faith, and to also have lots of fun!

I've had many lucky opportunities to grow skills that will help me in this new position. I've been a Vacation Bible School leader, Children and Family Theatre Director, Girl Scout Camp Leader, Confirmation Mentor, and Camp Counselor, and also an Aunt to **Daniel**

**Villecco**. My goal is to help our youth feel comfortable sharing their faith with friends and others, and to participate in small to large group discussions. I'll encourage our youth to help lead worship more, as they are the future of our church!

As a final note, I want to encourage anyone who has not been involved as much in our youth group in the past to come join us. Maybe you attend regularly, but have a friend that could use a church family atmosphere and have not invited them yet? I just want you to know that EVERYONE is welcome here, and we would be happy to have you participate. Blessings!

## Introducing Our Confirmands

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Four of our youth will be confirmed on Sunday, November 8, 2:30 pm, at Colony Park Recreation Area. They are **Matthew and Madison Kaufmann**, son and daughter of **Mike and Jackie**; **Nathan Lamm**, son of **Robert and Sally**; and **Kaylee Cipolla**, daughter of **Peter and Sarah**.

The mentors for the candidates were: **Kyle Robbins** for Matthew, **Chelsea Robbins** for Madison, **Earl Hope** for Nathan, and **Kris Wright** for Kaylee.

For this class, we used a mentor-based Confirmation guide, *Make Disciples*,



written by **Bishop William Willimon**. The candidates started the process about one year ago, meeting with mentors mostly virtually due to

Covid-19. In the beginning of the process, we had some common sessions, and we had a retreat at the end, led by **the Rev. Robert Wilt**, a retired Elder and friend of mine. The Confirmation will be held, weather permitting, at the pavilion in Colony Park, Spring Township.

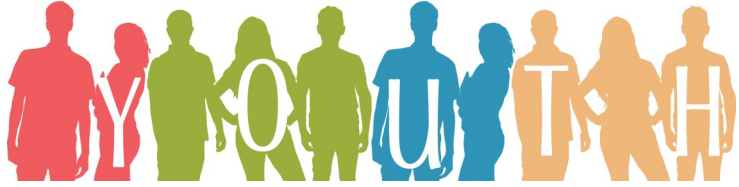
We welcome these fine young people into our fellowship of believers at Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church.



## Transitions in Youth Leadership

From Earl Hope, Staff-Parish Relations Chair

Lincoln Park bids goodbye to youth leader **Kyle Robbins** and his wife **Chelsea** after five years of dedicated service to our youth. Chelsea will begin working as a traveling nurse with their first stop in Raleigh, NC.



Kyle served our church for five years, leading the youth in community service, mission trips, Christian education, fellowship, and worship. He and Chelsea served as mentors for the Confirmation program and were outstanding role models for churchgoers of all ages. Though there is sadness in seeing them leave Lincoln Park, there is also excitement for them as they venture into this next stage of their lives. They should take pride in knowing that their impact on the lives they have touched at Lincoln Park will endure as a legacy of kindness and integrity.

Because the position of youth leader is particularly important to the life of our church, we have moved promptly to begin looking for someone to fill Kyle's role on a permanent basis. Understanding that COVID-19 restrictions may delay the process, we have been blessed that **Lindsey Villecco Guercia** has agreed to serve as Interim Youth Leader. Lindsey, just recently married, is well-known to everyone at Lincoln Park and is perfectly suited as a mentor and role model for our youth. Thank you, Lindsey, for filling this vital role.



Congratulations to **Lindsey Michele Villecco** and **Nicholas Alan Guercia**, who were married, on September 20, at the home of Lindsey's parents, **Jack** and **Nancy Villecco**. The Rev Dr **Christopher Jacob Kuri**en was the officiant. The parents of the groom are **Mary** and **John Naugle**, and the ringbearer was **Daniel Villecco**, nephew of the bride. The readers were **Mark Villecco**, brother of the bride, and **Aubrey Naugle**, sister of the groom. The newlyweds live at: 1904 Van Reed Road, Apartment D-1, Wyomissing, PA 19610.



## **We send our love to Hildamay Bartron,**

who has left Berks County to settle in New Hampshire, closer to her daughters. This lovely, gentle lady has been a member here since 1995, with her husband, Herb, who passed away last November. Hildamay attended, and for nine years, taught our Monday Morning Bible Study.

“God is my best friend,” she says, “I usually bring my problems to Him.”

Beverly Ruffner, Pastor Chris, Hildamay, Nancy Artz

Belated Birthday Wishes to **Gert Young**, who turned 92 on September 17.



Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude “fertilizer for the mind” because of its powerful effects.



He admits gratitude isn’t always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs (see the year 2020) — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language. Ask, for example: Though I wasn’t grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. “Give thanks in all circumstances,” he writes, “for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).



# Lincoln Park's Book Club Recommends Reading

From Sharon Kleckner



Our Book Club has not been meeting during the pandemic, but, of course, we've been busy reading. We want to share some reviews of books we've enjoyed.

**SHARP OBJECTS** by GILLIAN FLYNN

from **Sharon Ackelson**

I'm sure most of us have heard or read of the term *dysfunctional* when it comes to family dynamics. This book puts that term to the very forefront and is a most powerful read.

**THE GIVER OF STARS** by JOJO MOYES from **Sharon Kleckner**

This story is about the Packhorse Librarians of eastern Kentucky. Five women answered the call to deliver books on horseback, as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's traveling library program. What happened to them is a drama of loyalty, justice, and humanity. Having books provided people with facts that would change their lives.

Based on a true story.

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(Continued from page 1)

the porch for people to use if the office is closed; I'll move boxes inside daily so that they are safe.

**ANGEL TREE** gifting will be more difficult without physically coming to church, yet we don't want to disappoint two families in need.

Therefore, if we're not open, we'll post the list of first names, ID#s, and needs in an email. After reviewing the items, you may choose your gifts from home. **To prevent duplicate purchases, you'll need to contact Diane Fisher, 610-777-0378, as soon after choosing as possible** to tell her what item(s) you're buying. She'll then remove that item from the list.

However, **if the church IS open**, there will be no online list of gifts in an email. You'll choose gift tags from the Christmas tree as we have in the past. If you want to participate but are still worshiping from home, please contact any Missions Committee member, and we'll give you gift information over the phone.

You can then drop off your gifts at the church or Church Office. (If locked, please leave items in a rain-protected plastic bag on the office porch.)

The gift list is not yet available, but **the return date for wrapped and tagged gifts is December 6**. That's sooner than you think! Thank you for participating.



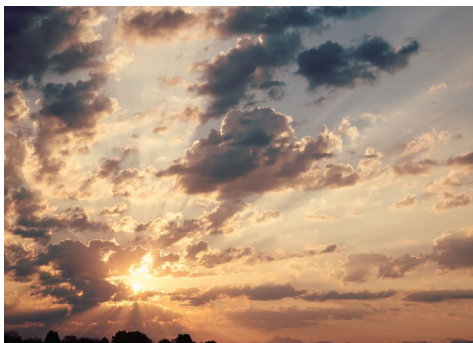
# For the Beauty of the Earth

From Desiree Cole, submitted by **Nancy Villecco**

From *2020 Daily Guideposts*, November 5, 2020

*Your eyes will see the King in his beauty; you will see a vast land.*—Isaiah 33:17 (CSB)

I was driving home on a street that brought with it a flood of memories. After eight years of living out of state, I had moved back to my hometown in Kansas. What was most striking to me about being back was how open the view was on any given street. I could see for miles in any distance, without a skyscraper breaking up the horizon. And the sunset tonight—a recipe of gray, white, and yellow clouds against a pure blue sky—was doing something to my heart. I started to think about when I was a little girl on this same street. How a lot of things had changed since then. But, at 32 years old, I had never lost the desire to



want to look into Jesus' eyes.

He often bends low and hums words to me in moments like this, especially when I'm captivated by the beauty ahead of me, above me, in the sky.

After years of wanting to see into His eyes, He did one better tonight on this drive. Perhaps He felt I was finally ready for a deep look. Tonight His eyes were the sea of colors holding still in the sky.

He was revealing Himself, and my spirit began to soak in His Spirit on that quiet road. His gaze was more magnified than I ever thought it could be. I was enveloped in His attention.

Father, I want to see You in everything that You've created on Earth, and everything You create each day. I know that beauty and nature are pure reflections of You.



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## 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!



# Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*Dec 30  
for our  
Early January-  
February 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, Jim & Roe Gehman, Beverly Ruffner, Marilyn Seiders, Mark & Jack Villecco,

## Change of Address



Kathleen & Tim Hogg  
2140 Waterside Circle Apt # 103  
Graham NC 27253  
(Please include the Apt # 103!)  
336-524-6094

JoAnn Ross  
2320 Indian Key Dr  
Holiday FL 34691  
610-334-9444

## Thank You

♥ To our Church Family:

I am so grateful for our wonderful church family. Thank you so much for all the cards, phone calls, flowers, and food I received. I am truly overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness.

I fell on August 22, fracturing my right tibia and fibula beneath my kneecap. The trauma caused severe blistering of my right leg...from my ankle to my knee. Because of the blistering, I had to wait three weeks before surgery could be performed. Two metal plates and screws have been inserted to hold the tibia secure. I have an immobilizer on the leg. It must remain straight until at least November 4, followed by an additional six weeks of non-weight bearing on that leg. A long time, but we're making it work. By the Grace of God, we're able to move forward and heal.

Thanks again to all of you for your prayers,  
**Roe Gehman**

## Birth

Congratulations to **Andrew** and **Gwynne Lee** on the birth of their son, **Andrew Joseph**, on October 14. He weighed 8lb5oz and was 21.5 inches long. His big sister, **Addy**, and grandmother, **Linda Lee**, are thrilled to welcome Drew to the family, too!



**A new born babe brings light to the cottage, warmth to the hearth, and joy to the soul, for wealth is family — and family is wealth.**

—Irish Proverb

# NEWS-LINC

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

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*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, 570-573-1455

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

Contemporary Program Coordinator: Mark Villecco

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Lindsey Villecco Guercia

Secretary: Marilyn Seiders

Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735, [cherfallon@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://www.lpcumc.org)

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

For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.