

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *May-June 2021*

Let the Celebrating Begin! **Sunday, May 23, 10 am**



WE'RE PROCEEDING WITH PLANS TO HONOR OUR CHURCH AND ITS 75 YEARS OF MINISTRY. Thankfully, many members have been vaccinated, and our church has reopened according to CDC guidelines. So, on May 23, we invite you to a celebratory worship service! Our **Bishop Peggy Johnson**, who has served the Philadelphia Episcopal area for 13 years, will join us and preach, along with **District Superintendent Evelyn Clark** and some of our former pastors. There will be only one service that day at 10 am.

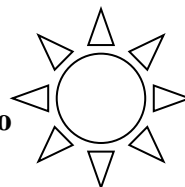
At this service, the Missions Committee will present a check for \$10,500 to the Bishop, the results of our year-long anniversary Well Project, providing 14 wells and clean water to countries around the world.

We hope that our Anniversary Booklet will be ready and available on that day for all those attending to take home! (More about our booklet on p.9.) Because of

(Continued on page 3)

From Richard Bashore, Trustees Chair

TRUSTEE WORKDAY on Saturday May 1, 9 -12 (Rain date — May 8). We have a number of small projects such as painting, minor furniture repair, and we can use anyone who is willing to assist, even if you can only come for part of the time.





at Lincoln Park Church In Person, Currently at 9 & 11

Worship times are subject to change right now, and members will be notified should that occur.

Sunday Services Will Continue Virtually, via Live Streaming or Zoom

We thank all our participants. If you're willing to help, by recording your part and emailing it, please call Pastor Kurien, 570-573-1455.

To view Sunday worship services, click on this link:

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

The service livestream begins at 9 & 11 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 using the "click to enlarge" icon in the lower right corner.

If you're unable to connect, 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, 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/>

You may receive a "pop-up," asking you to log in or create a new Facebook account. **You don't have to create a Facebook account, so click "Not Now."** Questions? Call Jack Villecco, 484-256-9861.

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

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 Church Has Reopened

From Richard Auman and Richard Bashore

Yes, Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church is having in-person worship services along with continued streaming of our services on Facebook and Zoom.

We opened our doors on Palm Sunday with a combined service and a little over 30 persons attending. We had two services Easter morning with an attendance of 31 persons at the first service and 54 at the second. There are no plans at this time to discontinue the live streaming.

We continue to require everyone to wear masks, and the pews are marked to follow social distancing. The windows in the sanctuary are opened for fresh ventilation. We are also signing in everyone that attends for contact tracing purposes. The nursery remains closed. And any group that wants to



meet in the church should contact the office so arrangements can be made for proper cleaning.

There are still a couple of questions that are being asked:

- Is the church going to remain open as new cases of Covid-19 begin another upwards spiral?
- Should we return to a combined blended service

until our in-person numbers return to normal averages?

Unfortunately, as this edition of *News-Linc* goes to press, we don't have answers to those questions. If decisions about the worship schedule are made, a mass email will be sent to the congregation. If you know of someone that does not have email, please pass the information along, or if you don't have email, call a church friend if you're uncertain.

(Continued from page 1)

COVID-19, plans everywhere have been cancelled or postponed, but our Anniversary Committee still hopes there will be a grand finale to our 75th year in September, honoring our 75th and 76th anniversaries. Hopefully we'll be able to gather in person and celebrate our history and longtime members in a grand celebration!

On May 23, we'll be together in our sanctuary or virtually on our screens for this special service!

Blessings to Everyone this Easter Season!

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

Sunday mornings are not only times to be spiritually nourished, but also to be in community as friends and families. Thank God, we've been able to reopen our church for in-person services, following CDC guidelines.

Being together on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday was special this year! We all realize how much we've missed each other. Thankfully, many members have been or soon will be vaccinated, thanks be to God.

We're happy that the church could reach out to the community in new ways; we've been able to watch our worship services online. We've become novices, learning and adapting: Teachers instruct on-line, therapists see clients via zoom, and friends communicate over social media. Every facet of life has been affected.

These are challenging times, not only due to the pandemic, but also to the violence in our society. We pray for those impacted by shooting incidents and for a peaceful resolution to the George Floyd case in Minnesota.

Let me bring to your attention something very special in the life of our congregation. As you recall, our 75th anniversary celebration was postponed due to the pandemic. Now that the church is re-opened, we have a



new date to celebrate this special anniversary. On Sunday May 23, we'll celebrate this milestone in the life of our church. Interestingly, May 23 is the Pentecost Sunday, considered the birthday of the Church. It's special that our Bishop and District Superintendent have agreed to be with us. It will be wonderful to have as many people as possible to be present that day. Perhaps

you've moved or been inactive and this may be a good time to come back and connect with old friends and make new friends. You won't want to miss this special day.

We also observe other special days during May and June. On Mother's Day, May 9, we'll celebrate our mothers and mother-like figures that day. The contribution of mothers in the life of a family is so important. We thank God for their sacrificial lives. On May 16, we'll also celebrate Ascension Sunday, remembering our Lord's ascension into heaven as His disciples watch Him ascend. With Father's Day, June 20, we'll spend time in worship thanking God for the contributions of all father and father figures in our midst.

And, when schools close for summer, we hope those who are able, can take a vacation from their routines and refresh. May God's love abound in every situation.

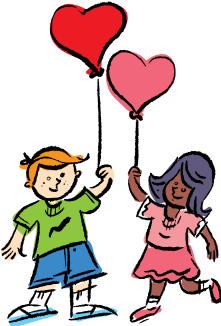
“Yes, No, Maybe”

That’s what we’ve been saying since last March. Since the pandemic hit, our church life has been turned upside down with many restrictions. **What may we do safely?** There *are* things we *can* do and still follow guidelines.

SUMMER MINI CONCERTS- I’d still like to offer a few mini concerts during the summer, but perhaps not every week. Our own musicians or our friends from the community can pre-record special music, or if we keep a certain distance, they may sing or play live. We can also include long-distance performances.

**From
Beverly
Perella,
Director of
Music and
Children’s
Ministries**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL- I’d love to be optimistic and say we’ll be able to have an in-house program, but I think that will have to wait until next year. But we *can* have a virtual program and invite our children to participate that way. There’s a positive about this: Other children who wouldn’t be able to attend in person, will be able to join us for Bible School. So it’s up to you to invite other kids, and it’s also up to you to give me their names!



CHILDREN’S MESSAGE PRESENTERS- We’ve decided that for now, we’ll continue to video our messages and use them at both services. That gives people the opportunity to offer their messages, if they live close or even far away.

So let’s pretend everything is back to normal, even if it isn’t. As a church family, we can adjust our programs to fit into these difficult times. Using our building certainly isn’t the only way to continue our ministries. As of now, our loyal choir members are our leaders of song. Hopefully, they’ll soon be allowed to make a joyful noise out loud! Fortunately, our Bell Choir ensembles should be able to continue ringing because everyone wears a mask and rings from well-distanced individual tables.

Here’s a personal note: Since we opened our doors on Palm Sunday, I’ve seen (from a distance) some of our church family members, and it feels like only a week since I’ve seen them, certainly not more than a year. That means I’ve kept all of you close in my heart.



A Necessary Search

From Sandi Rosencrans, Staff Parish Relations Committee

Unfortunately, our Church Secretary, **Marilyn Seiders**, has to reduce her hours due to personal circumstances. At the SPRC's recent meeting, members agreed that our church cannot effectively function without regular secretarial help. After discussion, the committee tentatively decided the position of secretary-bookkeeper warrants five days a week, Monday through Friday, 9-12, with a possible additional one hour once a week. Marilyn is happy to work one day a week and continue with bookkeeping.

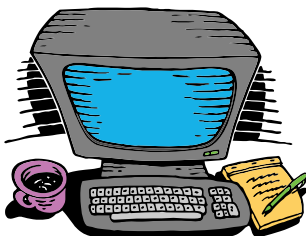
Money, of course, is a predictable issue because of our tight budget. Among other things, the pandemic has placed all of us in difficult situations, especially relating to money. The salary we'd *like* to offer is not doable. At this juncture, we anticipate paying \$15 per hour with the possibility of increasing to \$16, if the eventual incumbent proves sufficiently competent.

The committee also felt it is better to hire a non-member for matters of confi-

dentiality. Further, because of the position's three hour work period, we anticipate potential candidates are likely to live a relatively short distance from our church. We also recognize that the eventual incumbent *may* occasionally have to leave the office to take care of personal business within the three-hour work period. Within reason, the church can accommodate such a situation via make-up time that same or another day.

In addition to other avenues, we seek **your** help in finding qualified, motivated candidate(s) for this essential position. If you know of someone who might qualify and is interested in a nearby, part-time secretarial position, please give them our address and ask them to send us their resume with an introductory cover letter.

Thank you for your prayers and actions to help find suitable secretarial candidates. We'll **all** benefit from the eventual right choice!



Church Secretary



From the Editor: My Mother, who was a world-class encourager, kept this card on her desk—

“Keep your heart free from hate, your mind from worry. Live simply...Expect little, give much, sing often, pray always!

Fill your life with love, scatter sunshine, forget self, think of others, do as you would be done by. These are the tried links of contentment's golden chain.”

**From Jerry Manhart
Flea Market Chair**



LINCOLN PARK WILL HAVE A FLEA MARKET THIS YEAR. As in the past the Flea Market will be one day, either August 21 or August 28. The exact date has not been set yet. There will not be any clothing for sale this year. By August, everyone should have had their shots, so we will have food for sale.

Please hold on to your fleas until we're able to bring them to Memorial Hall later this summer. There is no room to store them at the church or office. Please consider helping with the Flea Market by either marking fleas before the date or working a two-hour shift that day. More information will be announced later.

We extend our deepest sympathy...

- † to **Jim Garraway** and his family, on the loss of his wife, **Betty**, 83, on March 21. They have a son, James, Jr, two grandsons and one served our church as Financial Secretaries; she was helping at the Flea Market.
- † to family and friends of **Elaine Meckes**, who died **Melissa Miller**, wife of **Keith**, and son **Scott**, husband, children, **Madysen** and **Mason Miller**. Elaine and contributing members," at LP Church. Elaine worked "driving force behind her family's prosperity" at the *Reading Eagle*. She and Bruce served on many LP committees and chaired our Flea Market for many years, with a "passion."
- † to family and friends of **Kay Ehrich**, 91, who died on March 11.



May God surround you all with His love and care.

From Carol Bashore, Missions Committee Chair

There are still many people affected by the pandemic who are struggling to provide food for their families. Therefore, rather than waiting to complete a food drive, we recently donated a few hundred dollars to Helping Harvest.

However, we'd still like to collectively gather a substantial amount of food. We are challenging our church members to make the Wagner Room overflow with contributions. If every member of each family would drop off one or more items each Sunday until June it would be a huge sign of our generosity. If you have not yet returned to church, for health reasons, we'll have a bin on the office porch to place donations.

Other members have made donations to UMCOR to assist with the flooded homes and electrical issues that occurred in Texas. Many thanks.



Helping Harvest
The Well Project
Children's
Smiles

Congratulations! We have surpassed our goal for our *Well Project*, and it's coming to a close. On May 23, we'll present a check of \$10,500 to our Methodist Bishop. That amount will purchase 14 wells for areas without access to clean water. This is four more wells than we initially planned to provide. Thank you to everyone who so generously made contributions to this important cause. The price to build each well is \$750. Six of the 14 wells were purchased by individual people.

We should all celebrate this remarkable achievement. Bravo.

Our new Mission Project for 2021 is to collect money to provide surgery for poor children living overseas who suffer from a cleft mouth deformation. Each individual operation costs \$250. Once again, our goal is to provide reconstruction to at least 10 or more children. Look for more information in our next *News-Linc*.

“A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Proverbs 11:25

What You Can Look Forward to in our 75th Anniversary Booklet



Our hope is that the booklet will be available to you at our **May 23 Anniversary Worship Service**.

One section of our church's 75th anniversary booklet is a brief history, titled *Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church, 1945-2020: Christians on a Journey*, written by our own historian, **Darwin Stapleton**. It reviews the founding of the church, its growth and activities, and how it has changed over the years. Drawing on the church's own archives (with invaluable assistance from **Carl and Nancy Madeira**), the archives of the *Reading Times*, the Methodist Church archives, and United Methodist histories, this history of Lincoln Park Community Church is set within developments of local and U.S. history.

There will also be messages from former pastors, memories and insights from our Senior members, a poem from Richard Larsen, thoughts from current Church Council members, and more. We're thankful for all the Seniors who completed questionnaires and other members who answered requests for information, memories, and recollections. The people are the heart of this church, and we think the booklet captures that!



Adam Gehr, a Wilson HS Junior, recently participated in the Berks County Interscholastic Bowling Association Championships. He went to the tournament seeded 21st and WON the final event with a score of 217-176. Congratulations to Adam and his parents, **Deb and Dave Gehr**!

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

Can You See the Face of Jesus?

From Jolynda Strandberg, submitted by **Nancy Villecco**
From *2021 Daily Guideposts*, pgs. 211-212

And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." —Matthew 25:40 (ESV)

I have found that university graduations exude both hope and relief: hope for the future and relief at having finished the academic requirements. My son Justin graduated this past spring from LSU Health Sciences Center. With almost a thousand graduates, it was a long morning. Aside from seeing Justin walk across the stage, the other highlight of the ceremony was the graduation speaker.

The graduation speaker was an alumnus and a physician. It was a captivating speech on many levels, but when he mentioned he was sharing a story called *The Face of Jesus*, my attention was fixed.

Jesus is not usually mentioned at state university graduations. The speaker shared with this group of new dentists, medical doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals the importance of seeing the face of Jesus in those served in the health-care field. He described the



harrowing circumstances in which they will find themselves—tired, irritated, shorthanded, treating patients with self-inflicted illness, and depleted of compassion. He explained that in those inevitable moments, it is essential to see the face of Jesus in patients; each patient is someone's parent, spouse, child, or friend. How profound!

Now, whenever my compassion is lacking, I try to see the face of Jesus in the person next to me, whether it's at work, at home, or out in the world, and give everyone reverence, care, and love.

Dear Lord,

Help us to see Your face in the face of our family, of our neighbors, and of those we come into contact with. May we honor You in the care we bestow upon others. Amen.





Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*June 15
for our
July-August
Issue*

Change of Address

Dennis Loyolla Antunes
151 Bainbridge Cir
Sinking Spring PA 19608-1774

Hildamay Bartron
6 Woodacre Rd
Norwalk CT 06850

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

Birth

Praise God for the birth of **Josie Louie Lee** on March 7; she weighed 6 lbs 14 oz and was 19 1/2 inches long. Josie is the daughter of **Josh and Molly**, and granddaughter of **Linda Lee**. Congratulations to all!



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

♥ We appreciated getting Easter flowers from the church. We can replant them outdoors. Thank you for the lovely plant.

Fondly,
Bernie & Rolland Ackelson



In the Mail!



IS THERE A GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY?

Please let us know. We'd like to write about their accomplishments, interests, and future plans. Please send information to cherifallon@comcast.net or put it in my mailbox in the Church Office. Or call **Cheri Fallon**, 610-678-8735.

NEWS-LINC

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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Reading, PA

Permit No. 233

Change service requested

Worship with us: In-Person at **9 & 11 AM CURRENTLY** (Subject to change)
WORSHIP IS LIVESTREAMED AT BOTH SERVICES (See pg 2)

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

Nursery: Kathi Ernst

Custodian: Carl Madeira

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



Let's do good to all people.

Galatians 6:10, NASB



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