

# News-Line

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*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter  
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania  
July-August 2021*

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## **We Planted a Tree!**

On Saturday, June 12, members who were gardening and working on the church property got some extra help planting a red maple tree between the Church Office and Sanctuary. In honor of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in recognition of World Environment Day, some children arrived to give a hand.

Pastor Chris said, “At LP’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary these children will remember planting this tree.” Afterwards there was pizza for all.

## **July 4<sup>th</sup> Concert Celebrates Freedom, Independence, Democracy** From Beverly Perella, Music Director

Join us for a concert of patriotic songs on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, at our 11 am service. If you have a favorite song, you’ll hear it sung or played instrumentally. The Chancel Choir, along with soloists **Krista Gilham**, **Donna Danielski**, flutist **Robin Lillarose**, trumpeter **Jim Spangler**, and pianist **Dorinne Bilger** will honor the day with musical selections. **Sandra Rosencrans** will be our narrator. Come and celebrate this special day with us. And bring your friends!





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

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

**Sunday Services 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."**

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

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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!

## Summer Mini-Concert Series Begins Sunday, July 11, 10:45 am



From Beverly Perella, Music Director

Our own church musicians and guests from the community will offer a variety of instrumental and vocal music.

If you'd like to contribute to the Concert Fund, it would be greatly appreciated as that is how we're able to offer our soloists a small stipend. If there's a musician you'd recommend, please see, call (610-334-4197) or email Beverly at [bperella@lpcumc.org](mailto:bperella@lpcumc.org)

*We extend our deepest sympathy...*

† to **Nick O'Buck** and his family, on the loss of his wife, **Sue Ann**, after a long battle with cancer, on June 21.

(Repeated from our last issue as some text was covered by the picture.)

† 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 great-grandson. Betty and Jim served our church as Financial Secretaries; she was in our Bell Choir and enjoyed helping at the Flea Market.

† to family and friends of **Elaine Meckes**, who died on April 11 - to her daughter **Melissa Miller**, wife of **Keith**, and son **Scott**, husband of **Cassandra**, and grandchildren, **Madysen** and **Mason Miller**. Elaine and Bruce were "decades-long contributing members," at LP Church. Elaine worked in banking and was a "driving force behind her family's prosperity" at Bennett's Candies, according to the *Reading Eagle*. She and Bruce served on many LP committees and chaired our Flea Market for many years, with a "passion."



*May God surround you all with His love and care.*

# Look for the Good this Summer

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in our Lord's name! On May 23, we had a wonderful 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration as a church family. I thank all those who helped to make it a special time. God willing, we'll conclude our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year on **ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, AT 10AM.** We look forward to having many former pastors and friends joining us.

Summer is already here and by the time you get this *News-Linc* in your hands, you'll be getting ready for (or already celebrated) the Fourth of July. We thank God for the freedoms we enjoy in our country and gratefully remember men and women who have died defending our freedoms. Summer also marks the end of a school year and is a time to thank God for all our students, teachers, and staff who have successfully completed another school year, especially in the midst of a challenging year. We congratulate all those who have graduated this year!

Although we now have the opportunity to worship in-person and are feeling a level of normalcy, we're still living through a pandemic, dealing with the loss of dear ones and other issues, including getting vaccines available to many parts of the world.



Most of us could not enjoy relaxing with friends and family during the past year. Christy and I were hoping to visit our relatives and friends in India, but we had to postpone our trip for another year due to the high number of Covid cases in India and travel restrictions.

Most of us enjoy nice warm days as long as we're not in direct sun. Cool breezes, humidity, rainstorms, and heat are part of the season. Flowers are everywhere. Look for some-

thing good during summer to appreciate God's beautiful creation. Try to plant flowers and vegetables and enjoy watching them grow. Gardening requires labor and time to take care of the grounds and the plants. Look for something good that delights even if you're unable to travel.

For those who have lost family members in the recent months, we keep you in our prayers. **Jeanne Perkins** passed away on April 24, and her funeral will be on July 10. She was almost 102, and what a blessed life! During the past year, some of our faithful church members have moved away due to Covid-19 to be closer to family. We really miss them and feel their absence at Lincoln Park. Let us keep each other in prayers.

May you all have a blessed summer!  
Pastor Chris

# A New Idea for Families this Fall: Family Mini-Retreats

From Beverly Perella, Director of Children's Ministries



Unfortunately, we will not offer a Vacation Bible School this summer. I tried to find an “open” time that would work — in-between sports and vacations, but it didn’t work. So we’ll

re-group next summer as “life-after-Covid” brings a return to more normalcy. And I’ll publish the dates of VBS 2022, far in advance.

However, Pastor Kurien and I spoke about an alternative to VBS, and we

developed an idea to offer three Sunday (2-hour long) family mini-retreats in the fall. They’ll include lunch or dinner, activities, and worship experiences for both parents and their children.

I’ll ask the Education Committee to help develop a program for these Sundays. In the past 18 months we’ve had so little time for our families and their children to be together. Pastor Kurien and I hope that these mini-retreats will rekindle a desire to be together with our church family. Additionally, we’ll invite other families, so if you know of a family we should contact, please let us know. Please mark your calendars for these three fall Sundays: *October 3, 24, and November 7.*

## Join Pastor Chris for a 7-week Fall Study

We’ll use content from *The Work of the People* (TWOTP) which explores *The Ridiculous Journey: Following a Nobody from Nowhere*. We’ll learn about a Middle Eastern homeless man from 20 centuries ago and why he still stirs the souls and imagination of so many. This 7-session series on Jesus’ invitation to follow him includes films by Nadia Bolz-Weber, Greg Boyle, Brené Brown, Emmanuel Katongole, Rachel Held Evans, Richard Rohr, and Rowan Williams; visual liturgies from Kelly Stewart Hall, Thomas Merton, Travis Reed, and Ann Voscamp; and reflections by Rich Nelson.

Session Titles and Films will be: *The Ridiculous Journey, The Revolutionary, The Reconciler, The Lover, The Sage, The Presence, Following Jesus.*



*It is I, do not be afraid.*





# Congratulations to Our Graduates!

## **Dr Matthew Hope...**

...graduated from Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine on Sunday, May 2. While attending medical school, Matt started a cooking club. He and a friend created a company called SUM-MA, Inc. during his second year. He took a gap year between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year to launch the product and participated in a grant. He begins his Internal Medicine residency in June at Temple.

Matt is the son of **Dr Earl** and **Linda Hope** and the grandson of **Richard** and **Betty Larsen**.

## **Rebecca Chelius...**

... received a Master's Degree in Education from the Neumann University in Aston, Pennsylvania, on May 15. Rebecca currently teaches 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science in the Eastern Lancaster School District. Rebecca is the daughter of **Janet Ferree**.

## **Claire Chelius...**

...the daughter of **Rebecca** and **Chad Chelius**, graduated from Governor Mifflin High School on June 4. While in school, Claire has been a member of the Ski and Art Clubs. Claire plans to enter the Nursing Program at the Cabrini University in Radnor, Pennsylvania in the fall. Claire has wanted to be a nurse ever since she was a little girl. Her proud grandmother is **Janet Ferree**.

## **William Lamm...**

...the son of **Robert** and **Sally Lamm**, graduated from Conrad Weiser HS in June. He will attend West Chester University in the fall to study Graphic and Interactive Design. Will was a member of the CW National Honor Society, CW TV Club and Ski Club. He has won numerous awards for his art and video creations including two Scholastic Gold Keys from Kutztown University and a Greenie Award from the Greenfield Youth Film Festival. He received first place at Millersville University's *On the Spot* film challenge. He also earned the rank of Eagle Scout with Boy Scout Troop 423. Will is **Janet Ferree's** grandson.

## **Jonathan Fallon...**

...son of **Steve** and **Moirra Fallon**, graduated June 5 from Wilson HS where he was on the Water Polo and Swim Teams and a member of National Honor Society. He will attend the University of Miami in Florida, where he's interested in studying Political Science and Marine Biology. Jonathan has enjoyed participating in the Youth Volunteer Corps of VOiCEup Berks (*not a typo*, but an organization that "promotes volunteerism and gets people and youth involved in their communities.") Jonathan also likes to ski, surf, and fish. His proud grandparents are **Ed** and **Cheri Fallon**.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Welcome to Beth Caswell

From Richard Auman, Staff Parish Relations Committee

We welcome **Elizabeth “Beth” Caswell** as our new Office Administrator.



**Marilyn Seiders** who has handled the office duties for more than 10 years, has asked to have her hours and duties reduced. Marilyn will concentrate her work on the accounting and finances of the church.

Beth comes to us by way of Houston, Texas, where she worked for a corporate leasing company and managed multi-apartment complexes. Growing up in the Houston area, Beth graduated from Alvin HS and received an associate degree from Alvin Community College. She also attended the University of Houston.

Beth moved to Wyomissing in May to be with her fiancé, **Chris Paolini**. She has four children: **Kyle**, of San Antonio, an Army medic who has just returned to the states from a tour in Japan; **Nicholas**, of San Diego who has enlisted in the Marines; **Christopher**, at home, who has enrolled this fall in a local college; and **Lauren**, who will be a student in the Wyomissing School District.

While adjusting to living in a smaller community and city, Beth enjoys exploring Berks and the surrounding areas.

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*(Continued from page 6)*

### **Susan Jacob**

...is the daughter of **Pastor Chris** and his wife **Christy**. While serving as full-time Attending Clinical Pharmacist at Massachusetts General Hospital, Susan completed her Masters in Clinical Service Operations from Harvard Medical School. There she won a Leadership and Teamwork Project Award.

This year she was also awarded the Pillars of Excellence Award at Mass General, in recognition of outstanding contributions in patient care, research, teaching, and community service.

Susan currently resides in Somerville, Massachusetts, with her husband Alexis.

### **Elsen Jacob....**

... completed her Masters in Epidemiology with honors from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, while serving as an Assistant Professor at St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, with a clinical site at the Mount Sinai Hospital.

Elsen looks forward to using her education and skills to enhance her research interests in health equity, transitions of care, geriatrics, anticoagulation, drug abuse and misuse, patient safety, and interprofessional education.

She currently resides in Manhattan, New York with her husband, **Manu**. Elsen is the daughter of **Pastor Chris** and his wife **Christy**.

# Keep the Smiles Shining

From Carol Bashore, Missions Committee Chair

As you know, we're trying to raise money to bring smiles to children overseas who are born with a cleft pallet. Imagine how sad it would be to have never seen your child smile. Or imagine how hard it is for a child to have difficulty eating, speaking, and living with this visible deformity. Operation Smile Train can fix that issue for only \$250 per child.

As we try to reach our goal to provide 10 surgeries, we thought it would be fun to share our own childhood smiles, given to us for free by our gracious God.

In July you'll find a picture display in the Wagner Room of the sweet children of our church. We'll all recognize their adorable smiles since we see them frequently at church. But, will we recognize our adults' smiles from when they were young? If you'd like to make this fundraiser fun, please share a picture of yourself smiling as a child.

Post it on the display and write your name on an accompanying folded card that says "Guess Who." Put the card next to your photo with your name hidden under the flap. After church services, it will be fun to gather around and try to match a young smile with a fellow congregant. Everyone will get their photos returned unharmed at the end of our drive.



Update: Our **HELPING HARVEST FOOD DRIVE** is off to a good start. We've collected over 100 pounds of food so far from those who have either brought their items with them to church or placed them in the bin on the porch of the office. Please, let's continue with this simple but important nonperishable food collection throughout the summer. It's so easy to drop off one item each week. Thanks.



The word "mission" often implies traveling to another country to teach and work. The work done in foreign missions is important, of course, but we can't all make the trip. What we can do, however, is be faithful servants where we live. Mission is about putting the face and name of Jesus in front of those who don't know him. We can do that in many ways — any place and any day.



# **It's Back: LP's Annual Flea Market** **Saturday, August 28, from 7 - 3 pm** From Jerry Manhart, Chair



Flea Market 2021 is different. As I write this on June 15, I have mixed feelings. When I look at the paperwork from Flea Market 2019, I see how Covid 19 and the passing of two years has affected us. Not only has the date changed from May to August 28, but many co-workers from 2019 are no longer able to help us. Parts of the Flea Market will seem familiar, but there are some changes.

I'm grateful for all who answered the call and helped move tables and fleas from the office building to Memorial Hall. Also, I'm grateful for those who have started pricing the many fleas. You may now bring your fleas — cleaned, unbroken, and in saleable condition — and books to Memorial Hall until **AUGUST 21**.

Note that we will **NOT HAVE woman's clothing, furniture, plants, and homemade soup** this year.

Other changes under consideration are: Selling take-out chicken dinners (half chicken, slaw, potato salad) with pre-sale orders available. Selling all hot dogs outside made on the grill. Barbeque and chicken dinners, soda cans, water bottles, sold from the kitchen window. Baked goods sold in the Nursery. Starting the bag sale at 12 pm. Shortening the Flea sale by an hour, starting cleaning up at 2 pm.

*Please Help!*

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

Price fleas in the weeks leading up to the day, beginning now.

Work a 2-hour shift at the Flea Market.

Help clean up.

Pack up fleas that are left on Monday, August 30.

Donate fleas, beef barbeque, buns, hotdogs, rolls, soda cans, water bottles, baked goods.

Contact Jerry Manhart, with questions or suggestions.

# A Devotional for Lincoln Park Youth

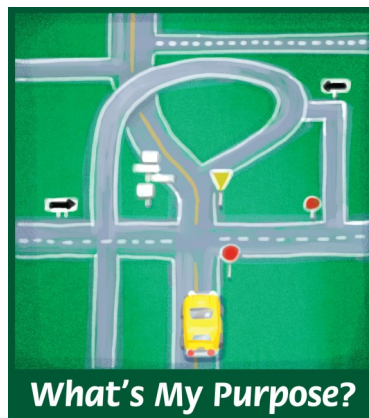
Submitted by Youth Leader, Lindsey Villecco Guercia,  
written for *studentdevos.com*

*Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed.*

**Acts 13:36 (NIV)**

Do you ever wonder what God has called you to do? Are there times when you question what your purpose is? If so, you're not alone. The good news to remember is that you do have a purpose. You've been created to do something unique. Your talents and interests are God-given. God can use those interests to help those around you.

As you begin your journey in deciding what you're going to do in the future, know this: You, like David, have a purpose. God called you to something. And it's up to you to believe that you have a purpose, and then begin asking God how you can fulfill that purpose.



**Today's Challenge:**

**Begin asking God how you can fulfill your purpose.**

God wants to show you the purpose He has for you. So determine to spend some time with Him. Ask Him to give you the next practical step you can take to walk into what He has called you to do. As you walk out those steps He shows you, you'll realize that He's helping you fulfill your purpose in your generation, just like David.

## *In God's Hands*

In *Keep a Quiet Heart*, Christian missionary Elisabeth Elliot ponders the faith implications of fretting about days to come. "Today is mine; tomorrow is none of my business," she writes. "If I peer anxiously into the fog of the future, I will strain my spiritual eyes so that I will not see clearly what is required of me now."

And what's the alternative? Instead of dwelling on times to come, which we can't change anyway, Elliot recommends: "Leave it all in the hands that were wounded for you."

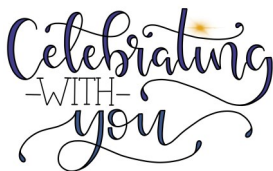


# Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*August 15  
for our  
September-  
October issue*

Congratulations to two couples who recently celebrated 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries:



**Donna &  
Darwin  
Stapleton**

**Pamela &  
Tom  
Blakeley**

And also to: **Jean & George Weikel** who have been married 25 years.

♥ Greetings to All,  
Gene and I are so blessed by your prayers and good wishes even though the distance is great. The Anniversary Book is so nice — good memories — knowledge I'd not remembered.

May His Grace and Peace continue to bless Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church and all who serve there.

Blessings,  
**Betty and Gene (Frederickson)**



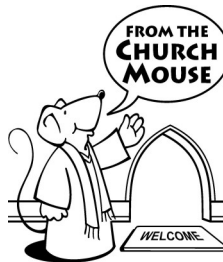
**In the Mail!**

*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, Mark & Jack Villecco



**Kara Brown**, daughter of **Cindy and Nate**, had a great season on Wilson's Girls Track and Field team. She was recognized in *Reading Eagle's Best of Spring Sports 2021* edition. As a Junior this

spring, her events were the 100 hurdles and high jump. Her team did very well, winning County and District Championships. "The win at districts was pretty exciting," says Nate. "Her team was mostly 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, and Kara finished ninth in hurdles." She would like to continue Track in college, in addition to studying Elementary Ed. Congratulations, Kara!

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

# 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: 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

Office Administrator: Elizabeth Caswell

Accounting and Finance: 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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For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.