

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *September-October 2021*

Spread the Good News!

From Jerry Manhart

A new sign or *Electronic Message Board* will be installed at our church near the end of September. It will replace our current sign on the lawn between the church and Education Building.

The sign will be similar to signs at churches in Sinking Spring, West Lawn, and other places. A picture of the sign can be seen at the back of the sanctuary, along with the giving thermometer. Our goal is to raise \$46,000 to have the sign and electricity upgrade installed. Some generous members of our congregation have pledged to match your contributions dollar for dollar to a set limit. This will double the amount that you contribute, but you need to contribute first.

Help get our message out to the community. Please mark your contributions as *New Sign* to be sure they are correctly counted.



Happy 76th Anniversary
Lincoln Park Community
United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 12, 10 am

*Here, yesterday, today, and tomorrow meet
for workers who dream and dreamers who work..*

The church of yesterday became the church of today, and
will become the church of tomorrow. The seed of the Gospel

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**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.

Welcome Newcomers!

We invite you to any meetings or activities you read about here. Please call the Church Office, 610-777-1422, for names, phone numbers, information, or to speak with our pastor. If you'd like to receive *News-Linc* in the mail, just notify our Secretary. Please join in at Lincoln Park!

From Beverly Perella Music Director

SUMMER Many thanks to members of Chancel and Bell Choir members who provided music several times this summer, and to the musicians who gave us beautiful mini-concerts. The quality of all performances was superb. We're, indeed, fortunate to have them share their gifts with us; it's such a blessing to us. If you'd like to support our concert series, please write *Concert Fund* on your check. For many years our church family has provided financial support for our concerts, and we're most grateful.

Fall Our music program begins Wednesday, September 8, at 7:30, for Chancel Choir and at 6:30 the following Wednesday, September 15,

for Bell Choir. *New members for both groups, experienced or not, will always be welcomed.*



An update: Reid Simmons, who substituted on the organ for me during my surgeries and recuperation, presented a magnificent organ recital at Sunset Organ Vespers, Bryn Athyn Cathedral. I was honored to be invited by Reid and overwhelmed by his virtuosity, maturity,

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What I Learned Sitting in Front and Back of the Sanctuary

From Mark Villecco,
Worship Committee Chair

Our sanctuary is deep. If you're sitting in the very last pew, you may feel like you're in a different zip code than the first pew.



When I take a seat to listen to the message at the 9 am service, I'm typically right up front in one of the first five pews. When I'm running the mixer console and the computer at the 11 am service, I'm in the very last row in the corner.

When I'm up front, the sound coming from the speakers is clear and distinct. In the back row? Not as much. The farther back one sits, the more reverb (echo) they introduce between themselves and the audio source (the loudspeakers). Try moving from pew to pew each week, and I think you'll be surprised by how much difference your seat selection can make in what the worship service sounds like to you. If you're aiming for clarity, try sitting as close to the speakers as possible.

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Greetings to you in our Lord's name!

We're almost beginning another beautiful fall season. As we start wrapping up summer and moving into fall, it feels like a new start, a fresh beginning, a time to reorient our lives.

However, some situations continue to be a concern. With news about the Delta variant, we wonder how this will play out. All we can do is to ask for God's help in these challenging times.

As a church family, we've followed CDC guidelines and our conference recommendations. We're asking everyone to wear masks for in-person services.

Friends, as others have mentioned, we may have to live with this reality for a long time, so let us prepare ourselves. Many places in the world do not have sufficient vaccinations to offer everyone. We are blessed to have them in our country, and I urge everyone to encourage friends and family to get vaccinated if they haven't already. Let us also pray for God's continued protection to be given to everyone.

As students and teachers begin another year, most area schools are starting in-person classes with a mask

mandate, and some may have virtual classes as well. We ask for God's continued blessings upon all our students and teachers as they begin a new year with unique situations.

Let us also keep earthquake victims in Haiti and the crisis in Afghanistan in our thoughts and prayers. I cannot imagine the devastations these countries are going through. UMCOR is receiving donations for the disaster in Haiti(UMCOR # 982450).

This has also been a difficult season for many of our families. Some have lost close friends and family in the past year. We pray for God's comfort to be given to everyone.

One of the joys of fall at our church is the celebration of our founding. September is our church anniversary month. I'm truly grateful that we could have a wonderful 75th anniversary celebration on May 23. God willing, many former pastors will join us on **SEPTEMBER 12, 10AM, FOR ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY**. Please plan to come and participate as you are able.

OUR CHARGE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR IS ON OCTOBER 16, AT 10 AM. It will be an online, joint meeting with other area

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Join Pastor Chris for a 7-week Fall Study

If you're interested in joining a 7-week discussion group with Pastor Chris, starting September 22, please visit our church website (lpcumc.org) and sign up by September 17. Once you've signed up, a video link will be sent to your email for watching and preparing for discussions. The sessions will be 7-8 pm via Zoom.

This 7-session series on Jesus' invitation to follow him includes films by Nadia Bolz-Weber, Greg Boyle, Brene Brown, Emmanuel Katongole, Rachel Held Evans, Richard Rohr and Rowan Williams; visual liturgies from Kelly Steward Hall, Thomas Merton, Travis Reed, and Al Voscamp; and reflections by Rich Nelson.



Session Titles and Films

Session 1	The Ridiculous Journey
Session 2	The Revolutionary
Session 3	The Reconciler
Session 4	The Lover
Session 5	The Sage
Session 6	The Presence
Session 7	Following Jesus

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churches. As usual we have reports to be completed, and I hope God will help us to accomplish everything in timely fashion.

I always give thanks to God for all of our Lincoln Park family. While there have been many transitional matters to take care of in the office, I appreciate all who have been providing assistance.

Wishing you all a great fall season!!
Blessings and prayers,
Pastor Chris

Congratulations to More LP Graduates!

Ava Gehman...

is the daughter of **Marina** and **Mark Gehman** and the granddaughter of **Roe** and **Jim Gehman**. A 2021 Wyomissing HS graduate, Ava was a member of the National Honor Society, the Service Club, the Art Club (her favorite) the Environment Club, and the Spanish Club. She was a three-year starter on the Varsity Girls' basketball team and was named to the All-Division Team.

Ava will attend New York University with an undecided major. She is part of a two-year liberal arts program before deciding on what she wants to study. Ava says, "I'm very excited to continue my schooling in New York City."



Brody Myers...

is the grandson of Jean and George Weikel, the son of Jean's daughter Lori and her husband John, from Camp Hill. Brody received an athletic scholarship in pole-vaulting from Ursinus College, Collegeville. He won first in Districts and second in State Championships. His highest jump was 15'2". He set his school record at Camp Hill HS, and Ursinus has high hopes for Brody to set a school record for them. Jean says, "God is good; we are all so blessed."

(Continued from page 3) Music

confidence, repertoire; and, he's only 19 years old! He's now a second year, undergraduate Music Education and Organ Performance major at West Chester University. In his "spare" time, Reid is organist at Holy Family Church in Manayunk, Philadelphia. In addition to organ, he has studied piano, violin, trumpet, and voice, and excels in all. He is, indeed, a Wunderkind like Mozart. Reid is on the way to becoming a concert organist, and I'll always be able to say proudly, "I was his first organ teacher!"

We extend our deepest sympathy...



† to family and friends of **Don Reber**, our former Music Director, who died on July 29. He was a veteran of the Korean War who devoted much of his life to music...learning, playing, teaching, and directing.

Flea Market 2021: Blessings and a Story

From Jerry Manhart, Chair

As I write this, the 2021 Flea Market has just closed. We thank God that we could have it —after postponements due to Covid — and with a break from hot weather and rain.

Notice I *didn't* write that the Flea Market is over. Leftover food must be delivered to Opportunity House. Leftover fleas must be taken to Goodwill, Steins Florist, ReVisit, and others. Tables must be put back in storage.

All three of our goals have been met. Over \$4,700 was raised, we were in mission to the community, and we had a (fun) social mixer for members. Thank you to all; the Flea Market could not have been successful without your donations of fleas, books, and food.

Special thanks to **Alan Koeble** for not only preparing chicken dinners but also donating all the supplies. It takes a village to prepare and staff our Flea Market. I worry that in naming the helpers I'll miss someone, so if I did I'm sorry: **Lou Manhart, Cindy and Dave Kercher, Carol and Rich Bashore, Roe and Jim Gehman, Jean and George Weikel, Nancy and Carl Madeira, Sharon Ackelson, Kris Wright, Beth and Rich Auman, Jack Villecco,**



Nancy Artz, Sandy Beam, Diane Fisher, Mary Johnson, Ann Heller, Sarah George, Marion and Bob Longenecker, Betty and Richard Larson, Dorinne Bilger, Suzanne Romig, Ann Wardrop, Linda and Rick Mann, Deb and Dave Gehr, Pat Owens, Bev Perella, Gretchen and Harry Garrity, Mark Villecco, Lindsey Guercia, Bill Lape, Curt Glass, Joanne Posey and family, Linda Lee, Kevin Villecco, Bev Ruffner, Ben Born and father, Ker-

ry Leber, Barry Geib, Dennis Dorward, Alan Koeble, Bob Robertson, Barbara Olaewe, Sandi Rosencrans, and Barb and Don Schlosser.

We often hear stories of where our fleas go and the people they make happy. I must share this story. It was around 1pm, and our \$5 a bag sale was going on. I went to **Richard Larson's** table since his shift was ending. He said he'd stay since a woman had paid but left bags behind his table.

When she came back, I offered to help carry some to her car. Her face looked familiar, and she might have been a Wilson Southern student (where I had been a teacher.) When I saw her car, I noticed the temporary NJ tags.

Jokingly I said, "You've come a long way to attend our Flea Market." Then

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Rise Against Hunger

From Pastor Christopher Kurien and
Carol Bashore, Missions Committee Chair

Together with other UM churches of the Reading Area Mission Link, we had planned to sponsor a *Rise Against Hunger* event in March 2020. Due to the pandemic we postponed that event, hoping to organize it in the fall of 2020. Just because we could not safely gather together to have an event, the hunger in the world did not go away.

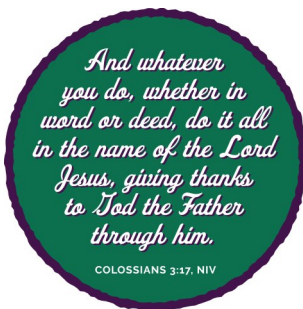
During a recent meeting of the pastors of our Reading Area Mission Link, it was decided that the money collected should be put to use as soon as possible. Therefore \$3000 that we jointly



collected has been sent to support *Meals for Haiti* effort through *Rise against Hunger*. This donation will be a great help as that island nation struggles to overcome the recent earthquake and tropical storm.

The Reading Area Mission Link churches are: Calvary UMC, Mohnton; Christ UMC, Birdsboro; Grace UMC, Reading; Holy Cross UMC (Reading and Calvary UMC campuses); Immanuel UMC, Fleetwood; Lincoln Park Community UMC; Northstar UMC, Reading; St. Matthews UMC, Reading; and West Lawn UMC.

Laboring for the Lord



The pandemic redefined work, with more employees logging hours from a home office — or kitchen table. Boundaries between job and personal life blurred, as did any sense of being “off duty.” “*Whatever* your task,” says Colossians 3:23 (NRSV) — whether in public or private, family or job, spiritual or worldly activities — “put yourselves into it as done for the Lord.” Verse 17 tells us to “do everything” in Jesus’ name, “giving thanks to God the Father through him.” That means even work and worship interlock. As **Rick Warren** writes, **“WORK BECOMES WORSHIP WHEN YOU DEDICATE IT TO GOD AND PERFORM IT WITH AN AWARENESS OF HIS PRESENCE.”**

A Different Mini Concert

From Beverly Perella, Music Director

If you were at our 11am service on August 15, you participated in a different kind of mini-concert: *A Call for Peace*. Preparing for the service beforehand, I opened the United Methodist Hymnal. By pure accident, I found one of my favorite hymns — *This Is My Song* — which is a call for peace throughout the world. It was the inspiration I needed to write a program with hymns, readings, and responses. Our Chancel Choir led us in the music. I chose four hymns— *This Is My Song* (UMH #437), *Behold a Broken World* (UMH #426), *For the Healing of the Nation* (UMH #428) and *O God of Every Nation* (UMH # 435).

Why tell you about a program that's already happened? I believe the words of these songs will inspire you to pray for God's peace.

Our minds are troubled and the world is filled with strife is a phrase from the song

Peace by Richard Nichols. It reminds us to turn to God. It is His world, and He can help us find peace in

ourselves, in our families, and throughout the world. It truly is a troubled time. Find these hymns in our hymnal or online, reflect on their words, and ask God for guidance to find the kind of peace He wants for us.



From Pam Light

Christian Education Chair

Our committee is trying to find a way to continue children's Christian education in this unpredictable time by sending a survey to all families with young children. The families can then decide how the program will continue.

Children's
Sunday
School

The choices include having the typical 10:15 Sunday School every week or meeting in the afternoon one Sunday a month for a longer session. As soon as the surveys are returned, the committee will make and announce the decision. As we've had to do since the beginning of Covid, we'll adapt to what works for right now.

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she told me she was local, but her old car had been hit, and she couldn't find a replacement locally. She also said that her bags of fleas were to replace stuff she lost when her kitchen caught fire, and she had to move to an apartment.

I said, "It sounds like you had a black cloud over your head." She said "Yes, but I'm going to start attending my old church again." Now I regret not insisting she come back in and giving all her money back to her.

Our outreach mission does make a difference!

Pastor Chris and wife Christy traveled to Seattle this summer to visit their daughter Ann. Their trip included reunions with relocated LP members, Gloria Kotzer and Michelle and Bob Ringler.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*October 15
for our
November-
December issue*

Change of Address

Alyson Lyn Fisher
7 Greens Way
Denver PA 17517-9768

Robert J Flail
548 Arlington St Apt 6W
Tamaqua PA 18252-2143

Carolyn Mulally
123 5th Ave E
Hendersonville NC 28792-4328

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, Diane Fisher, Beverly Ruffner, Mark & Jack Vilecco

♥ Lincoln Park UMC,
I received my copy of the Church 75th Anniversary Booklet and really enjoyed reading it. It was well done with the former Pastors' and church members' contributions and really shows the church's 75 years of service.

Sincerely,
Kathy Hogg



In the Mail!

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was planted by founders and workers whose dream caught the vision and who worked on behalf of God's kingdom, making the dream a reality.

No church can survive without workers who dream great dreams. And no church can grow in good health without dreamers who work for the church of today and the church of tomorrow. We have many dreamers and workers here at Lincoln Park.

**Dream Great
Dreams!**

Darwin and Donna Stapleton sent our 75th Anniversary Booklet to the Berks History Center (formerly Berks County Historical Society) and received this letter from them:

♥ On behalf of the Museum and Library Committees, I would like to thank you for donating the book, *Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church: In Service to the Community for 75 Years, 1945—2020*. It will make an excellent addition to BHC's library collection. We rely on generous donors such as you to help us preserve Berks County's history for future generations. Sincerely,

Amber Lynn Vroman
BHC Curator and Interim Archivist

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

Office Administrator: Elizabeth Caswell

Accounting and Finance: Marilyn Seiders

Nursery: Kathi Ernst

Custodian: Carl Madeira

Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678-8735,
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Let's do good to all people.

Galatians 6:10, NASB



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For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.