

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *November-December 2021*



End of the Year Missions Projects...and Smiles Galore **From Carol Bashore, Missions Chair**

Once again we've chosen to support the **SAMARITAN'S PURSE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX PROJECT** and the **SALVATION ARMY'S ANGEL TREE PROJECT**. We have done these projects for many years and continue to get many thanks in return for our gifts and money donations. An early thanks to all of you who plan to help provide a wonderful Christmas for those less fortunate than us.

Shoebox gifts for children overseas must be brought to the Wagner Room or the Church Office porch, by **Sunday**,

(Continued on page 6)

New Sign Installed **From Jerry Manhart**

We'll now be able to get announcements and messages out to the community or anyone who passes by our church. Let's celebrate this move forward in the journey of our congregation.

Hopefully everyone will like the sign's appearance and help support the funding for it. Our goal is to raise \$46,000 to pay for the sign and electrical upgrade. Some members of our congregation have pledged to match your contributions. This will double the amount that you contribute, but you need to contribute first. Mark your contributions as



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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!



On **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24**, we'll offer three Christmas Eve Services:

5 pm: A 45-minute Family Service
Candle lighting

7 pm: Worship and Candle lighting

10 pm: Worship and Holy Communion
Candle lighting

On **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26**, there will be one service only, at 11 am.

From Beverly Perella
Children's Ministry Coordinator

children's
Sunday
School

For Preschool through 5th grade children, we're happy to offer an afternoon Sunday School lesson once a month.

This seems to a time when most of our kids can come together. We plan to continue the lessons on the third Sunday of every month from 3:30-5 pm. Here are the dates:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 3:30 - 5pm
A Thanksgiving Lesson

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 3:30-5pm
A Lesson for Christmas



You're invited to a Christmas Concert at a combined worship service, 10 am, on December 12. Our Chancel and Bell Choirs will be featured for *The Music of Christmas*.

Please join us if you can.



Hanging of the Greens
November 27

Making Advent Prayerful and Intentional

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in our Lord's name!

During November and December, we have a lot to remember and celebrate. We begin November with the observance of **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**, remembering the Saints who have gone before us. At Lincoln Park, we have lost 13 of our saints in the past year. We remember them with gratitude, and praise God for their faithful lives and service to our church. Also in November, we'll have an opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends. While we give thanks to God for all his provisions, we remember many who feel the loss of loved ones who will not be at the Thanksgiving table this season. Life is always a mixture of joys and sorrows, and, sadly, we simply have to live with our realities.

On the last Sunday in November this year, we begin **Advent** — a season of anticipation and preparation. Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, meaning *arrival*. St. Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin used *Adventus* as the translation of *Parousia*, which in the New Testament is referred to as the *second coming of Christ*. So, Advent, when

first celebrated, was a period of preparation for Jesus' second coming. In time, however, the remembrance of his first arrival, his birth, began to take precedence over the approaching second coming. And now, we spend the better part of two months "getting ready for Christmas."



How can we, as a church and as a people, reclaim Advent? How can we allow it to speak to our calm but weary souls, rather than being one more thing we "have to do?" A prayerful and intentional Advent season tends to have a significant impact on our celebration of Christmas. When we observe Advent, some pre-Christmas activities are seen in a different light, perhaps becoming less important. Advent can help us slow down and pace ourselves. A slower pace makes us more aware of the promptings of the Holy Spirit, opening our eyes to that which is Holy around us; preparing the way of the Lord!

Of course, the Christmas season is the most spectacular season in the church's life. We await the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem and prepare to receive Him into our lives. How do we prepare ourselves for the arrival of the One we worship? What do we need to do to enable us to truly celebrate the birth of Jesus

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in the world, and much more importantly, in our lives? Will we listen to the voices within us, echoing the message of the angels that God is with us, in us, and in our world? May we run to the stable of our faith to embrace the presence of God in our neighborhoods and in our lives so that we might live fully, love freely, and care for one another.

As we prepare our special services this season, let us invite others to enjoy what we offer, that all may experience Christ. May God's blessings and presence be with you all.

Pastor Christopher Kurien

A Sign Is Born

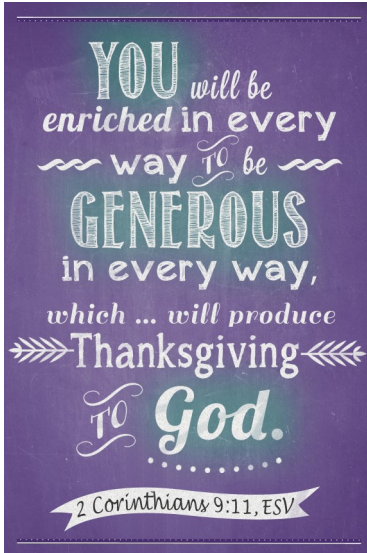
(Continued from page 1) New Sign

New Sign so they're correctly counted. If you have suggestions for the sign — perhaps something you've seen elsewhere — or would like to learn how to help program the sign — please contact **Jerry Manhart**, 610-777-2347.



This Should Bring a Smile to Your Face!

From Carol Bashore, Missions Chair



Our **SMILE DRIVE** to provide facial reconstruction surgery for children overseas was an overwhelming success. The four-month goal was to raise \$2,500 to pay for ten operations. We were a little shy of that amount at the beginning of September.

After asking the congregation for a continued commitment towards this project, we received so many generous contributions that we now have enough money to purchase 16 surgeries at a cost of \$4000. Ten individual families purchased a full smile, and the remaining six were from all those who participated in this amazing mission. It should bring a smile to everyone's heart to know that Lincoln Park Church is so committed to helping those in need. Thank you so very much.

Our **HELPING HARVEST FOOD DRIVE** provided over 210 pounds of food to help during the pandemic.

Many thanks to all who participated.

(Continued from page 1) Christmas Shoe Boxes

November 21. You can use any regular size shoebox or similar size plastic container, or pick up a Samaritan designed box at church. You'll decide if your items and box would be best for boy or a girl. Also you'll choose the child's age : 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14 years. (These labels will be available at church, or you can attach your own label.)

Pack your box full of fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. No food or liquid items, please. The children are excited if their box contains one special item that they'll love. Also, each box

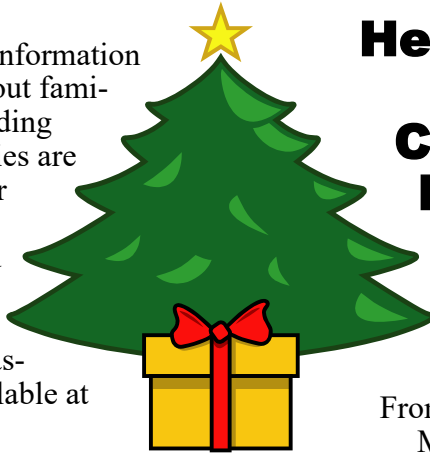
costs \$9 to ship, so any monetary contributions are also welcome.

If you don't feel comfortable shopping, Missions Committee members will also accept monetary donations to purchase items for your box or boxes. Please have that money to us by **Sunday, November 7**, so we have time for purchasing and filling the boxes.

Our goal is to have around 30 boxes to send. Maybe we can even exceed that!

Boxes Due: November 21

We haven't yet received information from the Salvation Army about families for whom we'll be providing Christmas gifts. These families are all chosen from people in our local area who are unable to purchase Christmas gifts and needed items, often like clothes or household products. As soon as we get our assignments, a list will be available at church or in an email.



Helping to Make Christmas Merry and Bright For Others

From Carol Bashore,
Missions Chair

Then you can choose that item **Due: December 12** (or items) and call us so your purchases can be taken off the list. After you wrap your gift, **you MUST add a tag, stating the name of the person, plus the family number, to whom the gift goes.** If it's for the entire family, it just has to have the assigned family number.

As with the Samaritan Purse shoeboxes, if you don't wish to be shopping in crowds, you can ask the Missions Committee to purchase your item for you. **If you choose that route, please have your money to us before November 28.** All wrapped purchases must be at the church (Wagner Room, or porch drop box) no later than December 12 for delivery to the Salvation Army. Thank you!



Years ago, ads for a toy-store chain featured an animated kangaroo jumping on a frown to turn it upside down. That reminds me of family life, which can feel like a nonstop attempt to keep everyone happy. Busy schedules, grumpy kids antired parents can be a bad combination.

When our family needs to turn frowns upside down, we play *the thankful game*. The rules are simple: We take turns sharing one thing we're thankful for. Everyone plays. No one can pass. No repeats are allowed. Our kids, now teens, still chime in.

As we share gratitude for football, Grandma, hugs, warm brownies, coffee and more, kids tend to stop bickering, and adults get a mental reset. Try playing — and bring on lots of smiles!

An Advent Meditation

Be Still and Know that I am God. Ps 46:10

From Dr. Michael Eager, Retired Physician, Member of West Lawn UMC

It was a typical Christmas season, like many before it in years past. The usual hustle and bustle had been going on for weeks, with Christmas shopping, choir practices, the obligatory social functions, and home decorating all managing to make the days of Advent a blur. Christmas cards arriving would sometimes refocus my attention on the real *Reason for the Season*, but then it was right back to all the distractions which inevitably dulled my appreciation for the joyful meaning of Christmas.

The Sunday morning Cantata was a thrill to experience as a singer, and the music resounded time after time in my head during the next week; it was one of the few true worshipful experiences I would recognize during the weekdays.

As Christmas Eve approached, our family began to gather, and the house was filled with laughter, hugs, and lots of great aromas as the Christmas feast was prepared. Finally it was time for the 7 pm Christmas Eve service, a beautiful time of carols and joyful worship of God in our festive sanctuary. Even then, however, the business of providing some of the music some-



Editor's Note: My husband and "Mick" were Residents together at the Reading Hospital in the 1970's. He shared this with us years ago. It reminds me to be looking for that *still, quiet moment*.

how diminished what should have been the high point of the Advent season. The solemn candle lighting and strains of *Silent Night* touched my heart as ever before; however, the evening was not yet complete.

At the 11 pm service, I returned to church to participate in the traditional brass ensemble, playing some of the more familiar carols at the onset of the service. After packing up my horn, I trudged through the snow to my car, making squeaking noises with my shoes in the frigid night air. The night was clear and cold, and many stars twinkled in the heavens as I drove back home. My family was already in bed, so I parked the car and walked outside under the canopy of stars, not wanting the evening to end.

As I looked at my breath steaming upward toward the heavens, the absolute quiet of the night, combined with the beauty of the snowy landscape and the myriad of stars in the heavens spoke to

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(Continued from page 8) *Advent Meditation*

my heart as nothing else had in the weeks preceding Christmas. The sovereign power of God and his ultimate gift of Jesus came into clear focus in that quiet moment. “Be still and know that I am God”, the psalmist wrote – it took a still, quiet moment after all the activity of the season to let me finally appreciate the true beauty and meaning of Christmas.



Glory to God
in the highest.
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.

Luke 2:14, KJV

Isn't it a joy that we can worship together in our beautiful sanctuary during this Advent and Christmas season? One way that you can help decorate the church is by ordering red, white, or pink poinsettias. The cost is \$9 each, and they can be dedicated *in honor* or *in memory of* (someone) or *to the Glory of God*. You can take them home after Christmas Eve Worship.



Payment (cash or checks payable to LPCUMC) and orders (on the cut-out form below) may be placed in the basket in the Wagner Room or mailed to the Church Office at

1 Carlisle Ave, Reading PA 19609. You can also email **KC Dianna** at Kcb14@yahoo.com with your orders or call **KC** at 484-955-9402.

Your Name _____

Your Phone _____ Number of Plants _____

Color of plants _____ Red _____ White _____ Pink _____

Dedication In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____ To the Glory of God _____

Lincoln Park Hosts its First Halloween Trunk or Treat on October 30

“It was a great day at our first Trunk or Treat,” says **Carol Bashore**. “Considering the weather, it was an amazing turnout.” **Bev Perella** says “The street was lined with participants' cars, and we gave out over 1,000 pieces of candy.” **When asked how they knew about the event, the trunk-or-treaters said, “Your sign!”**



Thanks to All!



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*December 30
for our
Jan-Feb issue
in homes by
mid January*

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-

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to **Bob Robertson** who
celebrated his 90th
birthday on October 17.



♥ This is a much belated note, but I wanted to provide a BIG kudo for the History and Archives Team on the 75th *Anniversary Booklet* for Lincoln Park Church. The publication does a truly outstanding job at capturing the evolution of the church over the years and the enormous number of people who have contributed to its success.



In the Mail!

The many photos have also been a wonderful way to help my mother (**Gloria**) connect with the many, many fond memories she has of the church community. Thank you for taking on such an ambitious undertaking.

It's also been great receiving the church newsletter and reading updates on members. And, it's been fun sharing with her all the cards that she's received. It definitely puts a big smile on her face!

All the best,
Mark Kotzer

Begin Anew

Every morning lean thine arms awhile
Upon the windowsill of heaven
And gaze upon thy Lord.
Then, with the vision in thy heart,
Turn strong to meet thy day.
—Thomas Blake



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

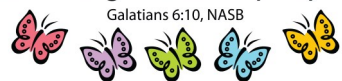
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Let's do good to all people.



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For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.