



News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *July-August 2022*



Vacation Bible School Is Back in Person July 11, 12, & 13, 6-7:30 pm

From Barb Leas, Children's Coordinator

The theme: Knights of North Castle.

The ages: Preschool to 5th Grade

Please come and bring your friends. I'm looking for more help, so if you're willing, please call or text me, 610-914-3364; email barbleas@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for more activities this summer and fall!!!

New Care Ministry Continues

From Jim Gehman, Lay Leader

What can we do to show that we are alive and well? was the initial thought of a small group meeting with Pastor Chris. The result was our new CARE Ministry, formed with this purpose: *How can we show our church family and communities that we, indeed, DO CARE about them?*

We now have a committee of 15. At present, this ministry consists of planning, preparing, packaging, and delivering a meal once a month to recipients identified by our committee. We now have 15 recipients, but our goal is to reach out to 25

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Flea Market Coming September 2022 See p. 7.



9 am: Contemporary
11 am: Traditional
Loving Childcare Available
for both services.
10:10-10:50: Children's
Sunday School

Sunday Services also Continue Virtually Live Streaming on Facebook

To view Sunday worship services, go to our website at lpcumc.org, and click the blue "Facebook Live" button.

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.

Please submit your prayer requests by clicking on the *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/>

LET'S SHARE THESE OPPORTUNITIES WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

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."**



LP Member Returns

On June 19, we welcomed **Tina Brown-Eckart** into membership at Lincoln Park again. Although she lives in Fort Wayne, IN, Tina has been in touch with our church and pastor through email and internet. For decades, she was an active member here with her husband **Ray** (who passed away in 1996) and sons **Matthew** and **Michael**. She is pictured here with **Pastor Chris** and her husband **Fred Eckart**.

From Music Director Irina Shmeleva



I've been working here for only three months, but in view of my many years of experience, I must say: **Never I have seen such an enthusiastically practicing choir of singers.** We learned our program for more than a month, and we all were eagerly looking forward to **MUSIC SUNDAY.**

I must confess that having fun is a very legit part of our choir time. Yes, we love to chat, laugh, and simply enjoy the company of our fellow singers.

I want to express my pride, gratitude and love to all musicians of LPCUMC! I would never ever have been able to pull all the music together without help

of **Mark Villecco.** My special thanks to **Krista Gilham** for helping our choir singers and regrouping with other plans in the best professional manner. I enjoyed working together with the Praise Band; the group sounds simply amazing! And once again—great job, Choir!

Yes, it consumed a lot of energy, time and caused sleepless nights (this was my first time doing a project like this)—but I dare to think that we truly were serving our God with our hearts and voices on Sunday of June 12. I thank all of you from the very bottom of my heart.

From Richard Bashore, Trustees Chair

A thank you to all those who turned out on Saturday, June 25, to help with the Church Workday.

Many of you may have noticed the work around the church steeple and nearby shingles. As additional leaks develop, we'll be replacing our slate roof with asphalt shingles (which will resemble the slate but at a much lower cost.) After 75+ years, the slate is starting to wear out, so, over the next several years, we'll eventually be replacing the entire roof.

Greetings to You in Our Lord's Name

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Our nation's Independence Day, on July 4, is a time to rejoice in the political and personal liberties granted to us as Americans. For 246 years the United States has been the beacon and champion of freedom around the world. Independence Day is a great opportunity to give thanks to God for the gifts He's given us as citizens of this great country.

We've especially been blessed with the freedom to worship our Lord. We're free to pray in our homes and in public. While we take our liberties for granted, others in this world live under oppression and must worship in secret. Let us be grateful.

Friends, as I write the words above, I'm concerned about the many lives lost recently due to gun violence. Many of you signed a petition we recently sent to our Pennsylvania Senators, supporting a bill coming before the US Senate to deal with this serious crisis. There is no other country where, daily, so many are killed due to gun violence. This needs to end and we all have a small part to play besides praying for the victims.

A worldwide pandemic has changed the way we live. Wearing masks and

living indoors has created a serious challenge to everyone. Church services have become livestreamed, sometimes with pre-recorded messages.

Keeping social distances and not having opportunities for fellowship has affected many worshipping communities. We never imagined that we'd experience these kinds of challenges during our lifetime.

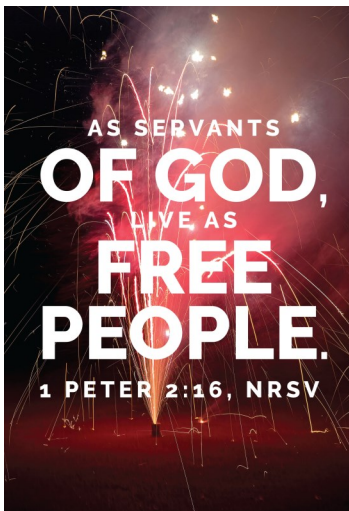
On the other hand, there have been blessings: † On Sunday June 12, we had a wonderful Music Sunday. I want to thank our choir members, Praise Band, Music Director **Irina Shmeleva** and Worship

Leader **Mark Villecco** for their leadership.

† Our Missions Team and **Carol Bashore** have been active with projects, including the Hannah's Hope and the Ukrainian projects.

† Our Care Ministry has been very active. I want to thank our master chef, **Alan Koebler, Jim Gehman**, and his helpers for their commitment to the Care Ministry, as well as **Jenn Born** and all Opportunity House volunteers.

† It's also been fun to walk around our Lincoln Park neighborhood, not only to benefit our health, but also to greet neighbors whenever we get an opportunity.



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† **Geoff Whiteley** pulled together our Church Council recently for some wonderful dreaming and planning.

† Let me also show my deep appreciation to **Cheri Fallon** who does a great job with our *News-Linc*, so beautifully done, one issue after another!

Remember that **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** this year is July 11-13. I hope all our children can participate. Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors. I want to thank **Barb Leas** and a committed team of volunteers for their hard work to make the VBS an enjoyable and memorable experience for our children.

We're glad that this summer looks like it will be a little bit more "normal summer." There will be more people traveling and taking vacations, including my own family. We're looking forward to visiting family in India after four years. I'd like to thank in advance all those who are covering for me in my absence. Please pray for our family and all those who will be traveling in the coming weeks.

I pray that all of you have an enjoyable and restful summer!

Blessings,

Pastor Chris Kurien



Come out and join us for a walk, Mondays at 9:30

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people. Eleven on our roster are church members, while the remaining four are people from our communities. We continue to identify additional recipients. Perhaps you know of someone who would appreciate a CARE meal. Please call the Church Office, 610-777-1422, or **Jim Gehman**, 610-207-6151, with the information.

Since we began operating four months ago, the CARE Ministry has been fortunate to have **Alan Koeble** leading the planning and preparation of meals. The experience has been gratifying. A mix of volunteers from our contemporary and traditional congregations work together to prepare, package, and deliver the meals. It's enthusiastic and rewarding.

How can you be part of this project?

1. Suggest someone you feel would appreciate a CARE meal.
2. Volunteer to help **Alan Koeble** to plan, prepare, and package the meals.
3. Volunteer to deliver meals.
4. Sponsor the cost of preparing a monthly meal (the 15 meals have cost less than \$70.)
5. Make a monetary contribution to the CARE Ministry.



We want to expand our CARE Ministry. We're developing a plan to provide transportation to those in need. We'd also like to initiate a "Prayer Shawl" ministry. Look for additional information as we finalize a working plan for these new ministries.

The "power of positive thinking" is essential for the success of any project. It has certainly been an important ingredient in the evolution of our CARE Ministry. Why not join us and bring your positive thinking with you to help this project grow and prosper?!

Welcome Newcomers to Lincoln Park!

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, **Beth Caswell**. Please join in at Lincoln Park!

Lincoln Park Flea Market

Saturday, September 17, from 7 am to 2 pm

From Jerry Manhart

We're happy to announce that our annual fundraiser will open for business on September 17! We're already looking for your fleas and, of course, your help.

You can bring us fleas that are clean, in working order, and in saleable condition. For now, please take them to *the stage* in Memorial Hall until Vacation Bible School ends on July 14. After that we'll accept fleas *in Memorial Hall* until

September 10.

Please come and help us price the fleas Mondays and



Wednesdays, 9 - 11:30 am, or Wednesday evenings, 6 - 8 pm.

Note that, like last year, we'll **NOT HAVE women's clothing, furniture, plants, and homemade soup.**

Again this year, we'll sell take-out chicken dinners (chicken, slaw, potato salad.) You're encouraged to pre-order, so you're guaranteed to have one. All hot dogs will be made on the grill outside. Barbeque and chicken dinners, cans of soda, and bottles of water will be sold from the kitchen window. Baked goods will be available in the

Nursery.

The bag sale (for \$5, customers get a marked paper grocery bag and can stuff whatever they want in it) will begin at 12 pm; we'll close at 2 pm and start cleaning up.

Please Help!

Please save the date. With Covid and personal vacations, it was hard to pick a date for this year, and we'll be missing some of our faithful helpers.

How you can help:

- Help price fleas.
- Work a 2-hour shift or more on the day of the Flea Market.
- Donate fleas, books, beef barbeque, hotdogs, buns, cans of soda, bottled water, baked goods.
- Help clean up at 2 pm.
- Help pack up fleas that are left on Monday, September 19.

Contact **Jerry Manhart**, 610-777-2347, with questions or to volunteer to help, or fill out a sheet in the Wagner Room.

What are Fleas?

Household items
Books
Collectibles
Toys
Baby equipment
Games
Sports equipment
Tools & garden tools
Jewelry & accessories

Please NO clothing, furniture, or plants

From Carol Bashore, Missions Chair

HANNAH'S HOPE was so appreciative when their "dry" items were delivered. They showed us their storage closet which was down to four rolls of toilet paper. Joy, their Director, said that between all the necessary items and the generous \$600 check, "it felt like Christmas." They're losing one full-time staff member and putting out a search for another employee. Spread the word.



UKRAINE SUPPORT keeps accumulating and is currently over \$2000. We'll continue our prayers for peace as well as our donations for survival.

Our next endeavor will be one we always support: HELPING HARVEST.

After speaking to the staff, I learned that summertime is their slow season in receiving contributions. So we'll continue our assistance project from now until the end of August. First we're collecting dry cereal (13-15 oz. size) boxes either in the Wagner Room or the plastic container on the office porch. The children at Bible School will count and use these boxes by placing them in a Domino Run on the floor. They will then be delivered to the Food Bank. The more boxes we get the more fun for the kids and more food for the needy. Let's fill that big box in the Wagner Room to the top before July 11.

The other part of our Helping Harvest mission is to collect money. For every dollar we give them, they can purchase \$20 worth of food. So instead of collecting food products, this year we're asking for monetary donations. Our goal is \$600 by August 31. That will allow them to buy \$12,000 worth of food. See the poster in the Wagner Room to read about all the local organizations that they help support. There is such a need to support this wonderful agency. A monetary growth graph will be next to the donation container, or you can send your contributions, marked *Helping Harvest* to the church. Thanks for your support.

Independence Day

From Buck Storm, submitted by **Nancy Villecco**

From *2021 Daily Guideposts*

Our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:20 (NASB)

Over the years I'd often thought about my family tree. I'd heard stories, but with time a precious commodity, I'd never really looked into the subject. I was glad when a cousin told me he'd done just that. And, I was amazed when he sent me the information his research had uncovered- a genealogical record tracing our family name all the way back to the 1400's.

What a thrill to see my direct ancestor on a copy of an original ship's manifest. I'd never known the first 'Storm' made his home in the Americas all the way back in 1728- forty-eight years before our country declared independence!

John "Patriot" Storm and his son fought for freedom in the Revolutionary War. Laun Lee Storm went down with the USS Arizona and rests with his brothers-in-arms at the bottom of Pearl Harbor. A rich and proud history.

I'd always loved my country but

somehow I'd never really felt part of it. These names, speaking to me from the past, changed everything. I belonged to something much bigger than "me."

A few short days later, I sat with my family watching a barrage of Independence Day fireworks. I've always celebrated the Fourth of July, but this year was different. Every flash and boom spoke of a life lived. That long line of men and women- my family- who helped shape this great nation.

And then to think it's just a taste- a tiny taste!- of what's to come. That beautiful day when I'll breathe even sweeter air and get to see so many of those whose names I share, face-to-face. That day— down by the riverside— when sword and shield rust in the dew of a new and glorious dawn.

Jesus, bless and keep this great country until all of Your children sing in the presence of our forever King!



God of freedom, I pray for the time when all “earth and heaven [will] ring ... with the harmonies of liberty.”

—James W. Johnson

Congratulations Graduates!

Ben Born...

...son of **Jennifer Born**, Ben graduated from Wilson HS, where he played football. He'll be attending Moravian College (his Mom's alma mater) and plans to become a teacher of Social Studies or History. He worked during HS at Wawa and has a summer job for CMW as a flagger.

Emily Born...

...daughter of **Jennifer** and also a Wilson HS graduate, will attend Bloomsburg University. She is considering Early Childhood Education as a major. She participated in Chorus at Wilson. You might find her this summer working at Yankee Candle.

Kara Brown...

...graduated from Wilson HS this month. She is the daughter of **Nate** and **Cindy**. She'll attend Messiah University to study Elementary Education. A track star at Wilson, Kara made the All Berks Girls Track & Field Team. She was the Berks champ in the 100 hurdles and was fifth in Districts and a state qualifier. She will be on Messiah's track team, and is excited to start college in the fall.

Emma Chandler...

...daughter of **Alyssa Herbert** and granddaughter of **Lee** and **Joanne Posey**, graduated from Governor Mifflin HS in May. She plans to study to become an

EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) at the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences, beginning in October. Working at the Kenhorst Fire Company led to her career choice. During high school Emma worked at McDonald's and then at Rita's. She's "a pretty busy kid," says Alyssa. "She knows what she wants and she's a hard worker."

Luke Gehman...

...son of **Mark** and **Marina** and grandson of **Roe** and **Jim**, graduated from Wyomissing HS on June 3. Luke also graduated from BCTC (Berks County Technical Center) on May 31. Here are some of the awards and recognitions Luke achieved:

- Presidential Award for Educational Excellence
- National Academy of Sports Medicine- Certified Personal Trainer
- Senator Judith Schwank Healthy Living Award
- Member of National Technical Honor Society
- Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) certified
- Pennsylvania Skills Certificate - Advanced - Sports Medicine & Rehabilitative Therapy
- Berks Best - Vocational Technical Nominee

Luke will continue his education at Penn State, Berks Campus. His

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Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*August 15
for our
September—
October 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, Ed Fallon, Diane Fisher, Nancy Madeira, Lou Manhart, Mark & Jack Villecco



I am grateful for your prayers and sweet cards during my recuperation from hip surgery. Many thanks to Pastor Chris for his comforting calls and prayers. I am so much better these days. God bless you all,
Cheri Fallon

Oops....Sincere apologies to **BARBARA OLAWE** for the misspelling of her name in our last edition. Barbara is a new member, who has already offered her talents to our Children's Ministry and Missions Committee.

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educational emphasis will continue to be Sports Medicine with a major interest in Personal Training.

Adam Gehr...

...son of **Dave** and **Debbie**, graduated from Wilson HS. He plans to attend Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh to study Statistics and Data Science, with a minor in Sports Management. His interest is in sports analytics. "He loves baseball," says his Mom, "he's constantly looking at stats."

Adam has been a strong competitor on the Wilson Boys Bowling Team. With his help, the team won the County

Championship this year. They also placed 4th in Regionals out of 36 teams and 6th in States out of 12 teams.

Adam placed 10th in Counties this year out of 69 bowlers and 9th in Districts out of 40 bowlers.

Adam has played the piano many times at church, as a guest musician and for the summer mini-concerts. "He played his last recital in May," says Debbie. "I hope maybe he'll continue in college."



NEWS-LINC

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

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Change service requested



Evenings, July 11-13

Worship with us: In-Person at **9 & 11 AM CURRENTLY** (Subject to change)

WORSHIP IS LIVESTREAMED AT BOTH SERVICES (See p. 2)

Pastor: The Rev Dr Christopher Kurien, 570-573-1455

Contemporary Program Coordinator: Mark Villecco

Director of Music: Irina Shmeleva

Office Administrator: Elizabeth Caswell

Accounting and Finance: Marilyn Seiders

Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator: Barbara Leas

Nursery: Kathi Ernst

Custodian: Carl Madeira

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

Office phone 610-777-1422; Ext: Kitchen 17; Ed Bldg 15; Nursery 14

Fax line 610-777-4309

Voicemail: Church Office 10

Web: www.lpcumc.org

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

For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.



Let's do good to all people.

Galatians 6:10, NASB

