

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *November-December 2022*



On Saturday, October 29, 450-500 people stopped by LP church for our second annual Trunk or Treat. **Jim Gehman**, our Lay Leader, says, "We bought 300 hot dogs, and only 10 were left. The community response was overwhelming."



Trunk or Treat 2022





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

Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 11: Christmas Music Sunday
One Service at 10 am



Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24:

5 pm **FAMILY SERVICE** (in-person only,
shorter format)

7 pm **TRADITIONAL WORSHIP** (in-person and
livestreamed)

10 pm **TRADITIONAL WORSHIP** with Communion
(in-person only)

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25: NO SERVICE
Sunday January 1: ONE SERVICE WITH COMMUNION AT 10 AM

Sunday Services also Continue Virtually on Facebook

To view, 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 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. **Simply click "Not Now."**

From Music Director Irina Shmeleva

In the spring two new singers joined our choir; I'm happy to recognize them in our *News-Linc*. Please meet **Jill** and **Joe Raber**. Jill says:

"Joe and I have been married for 53 years and have two grown children and four grandchildren. We've enjoyed watching our grandchildren participate in many sports, including tennis, field hockey, and lacrosse. Joe enjoys hunting, biking, and working on his 1969 corvette. I like gardening and reading, and we both like to play tennis."

As a Music Director, I can add that Jill and Joe are the kind of people you just enjoy being around. They are a delight!

In my first year here at LPCUMC, I'm learning about the way things work here and wanting to provide special music for your congregation. This certainly applies to our preparation for Christmas. I hope that I will succeed in musical programs in December because we are making music for the celebration of one of the brightest, most joyful events - the Nativity of Christ.

Here is some good news:

Our Bell Choir is coming back, hopefully for the holidays!



Welcome to the World, Little Ones

Congratulations to our own Pastor **Christopher Kurien** and his wife **Christy** on the arrival of their first granddaughter, **Shiloh Grace Johny** on September 19. Her happy parents are **Drs. Elsen Chris Jacob** and **Manu Ben Johny**. She weighed 7.1 lbs and was 20.5 inches long.



Best Wisher to **Barbara Olaewe** and her husband **Dele**, whose granddaughter, **Adenike Grace Olaewe**, was born on July 24. Her parents are **Abigail** and **Ayo Olaewe**, and her older sister is **Stella Marie Olaewe**.

ADULT

Sunday School

New Adult Sunday School Series

From Mark Villecco, Contemporary Program Coordinator

It's not too late to join a new adult class which began October 30 and continues for the next four weeks. In between our two worship services, at 10:10 am, we're presenting a five-session program that features the keynote speakers from the Experience Conference I recently attended in Orlando. The video series will feature Scot Longyear, Eddie Hoagland, Jon Egan, Natalie Runion, Andi Rozier, and Meredith Andrews. They discuss a variety of highly-relevant topics in the modern Church. **There will be NO class on November 27** because of the Fourth Sunday Breakfast. The final session for this class will be on December 4.

YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS!

Barbara Olaewe to Lead Adult Class

We'll be offering a class for Adults **BEGINNING JANUARY 29**. Please think about joining us from 10:10 to 10:50 am, Sundays, in the Church Library.

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, let us know.

Please join in at Lincoln Park!

Children's Sunday School is Underway

From Barb Leas, Children's Coordinator

10:10 – 10:50 am

Meet our Sunday School Teachers

Lauren & Kasey Pierson
Dave & Deb Gehr
Nick Guercia
Barb Olaewe
Torie Whiteley
Krista Gilham

Sunday School has begun! I'm blessed to know that I have a fantastic group of volunteers teaching our children amazing lessons each week. The curriculum we're using is *Celebrate Wonder*; each week there's a short video and related activities for either the classroom or at home. So far we've had four children attending on a regular basis. We'd love to have more children in our congregation come to Sunday School. Note: **When there is a Fourth Sunday Breakfast, there will be no Children's Sunday School.**

Come and have breakfast with us instead!

Everyone's Happy after a Fourth Sunday Breakfast

From Cheri Fallon

We have some great chefs in our Church Kitchen these days. **Alan Koebel, Rich Bashore, Kris Gilham, and Roe and Jim Gehman** have been impressing us with their expertise. My grandson **Liam** and I attended last week. The food was yummy, and the company the best. You can see how satisfied and happy these customers are!

The next breakfast is **November 27**. All are welcome! Note that there will be **no breakfast on December 25**.



Griffin Whiteley, Madeleine Garcia, Alexa and Hannah Gilham, and Liam Brown.

Greetings to You in Our Lord's Name

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

We hope you're enjoying this colorful season. The leaves will be falling off soon and, before we know it, winter will be here.

On November 6, **ALL SAINTS' DAY** we'll remembering the saints who have gone before us. May the memories of those saints continue to be a blessing in our lives!

In a few weeks, we'll gather family and friends together in our homes for **THANKSGIVING**.

Someone once asked me why we set aside one day out of 365 for giving thanks. "It's not that we're *not* thankful on the other 364 days," they said.

Of course, we're thankful for God's goodness everyday. Perhaps the challenge for us is to move from *being thankful* to *being grateful*... to move into a deeper experience that calls for an *attitude of gratitude*, a way of living?

This year the season of **ADVENT** begins on Sunday, November 27. It's a time for preparation for the coming of our Lord. The word *Advent* derives from a Latin word meaning *to come*. While we celebrate the Lord's *coming* in the form of the Christ child, we look forward to His final *coming* in glory.

John the Baptist exhorts us to *Repent*. Some might think that these exhortations would seem more fitting for the Lenten season, when it's more okay to feel somber and remorseful. Repentance could happen anytime in our lives.

Advent is also a time to celebrate God who brings change in our lives. It ushers in a new church year, is a time for new beginnings and for hope in the future.

Advent is also a joyful season. Occurring in the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, it's a time for anticipating something amazing — and, according to song, *It's the most*

wonderful time of the year."

The familiar stories of the Christmas season will present to us: Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the travelers from the East. And, with the birth of a little baby boy, the world changed forever. In those days, people lived in the midst of uncertainties. In many ways, uncertainties and challenges today are no different from what Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, and the shepherds experienced. Society was in a state of upheaval due to a foreign military occupation. Life was hard and



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Advent: a Holy Invasion?



“*Advent* means *coming*, of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is upon us now is even more so — a close encounter, not of the third kind, but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of holiness. That is what Advent is about.”

— Frederick Buechner
The Clown in the Belfry

Our Roof Is Leaking Again!

From **Richard Bashore**, Trustees Chair

As many of you are aware, we’ve been having numerous problems with roof leaks over the past several years. Our slate roof is 77 years old ...the project is approximately \$57,200. We know this is a significant cost, but we’ve put a lot of money into roof repairs over the last several years and feel that it’s now time to resolve the problem.



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uncertain. It’s understandable that people would question, *Where is God in all of this?*

In the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine, all the partisan fights, and the many other problems faced by people today, we might ask similar questions. However, like the first parents in the Christmas story who said ‘**YES**’ to the divine calling, may we find the strength and courage to say ‘**YES**’ as we continue our journeys faithfully.

Friends, may you be safe and may you be the loving community we are called to be during the Holy season! I wish you all, in advance, a wonderful Thanksgiving and blessed Advent and Christmas seasons!

In Christ’s Love

Pastor Christopher Kurien



Music Sunday
December 11
One Service at 10 am
Chancel Choir
Praise Band
Bells
Musicians

We're Grateful for Your Faithful Support!

From Carol Bashore, Missions Chair

The Missions Committee will hold its next meeting on **Monday, November 14**, in the Church Library, at 7 pm. At this time, we'll pack up the supplies collected for the **OP-PORTUNITY HOUSE PROJECT**.

A check for the monetary donations will be prepared and announced to the congregation in a future mailing. Thank you to everyone who helped with this local mission.



Our last mission project for this year will be the **ANGEL**



TREE. As in the past, listed gifts or monetary contributions will be collected to provide a selected family with items they cannot afford to purchase.

The Salvation Army is still interviewing possible candidates.

After this is completed, they'll send us a list of the needs of one large family, or two smaller families. This list will be forwarded to all church members in hopes of being able to provide our assigned family/families with a joyful Christmas Day. Questions? Call **Diane Fisher**, 610-777-0378.

Mother Teresa said,

*"At this Christmas when Christ comes,
will he find a warm heart?
Mark the season of Advent by loving
and serving others
with God's own love and concern."*

It's a Wrap: Flea Market 2022

From Jerry Manhart, Chair

This year's Flea Market is in the books, and we feel we achieved our three goals: to have a successful fund raiser, provide a community service,



Dave Kercher, Lou Manhart, Roe Gehman

and have an enjoyable socializer for members. After expenses were paid, we had a net of \$4,000.

We provided useful items to the community at very low cost. Nothing was wasted. Leftover food was delivered to Opportunity House. Metal and wooden items and glass vases were recycled. Other items were delivered to Goodwill, Re-Visit, Jubilee, and Hannah's Hope.

Even though it was tiring work to price the fleas, set up tables, prepare

food, sell the fleas, clean up and dispose of unsold items, everyone seemed to have a smile on their face and have a good experience.



Jerry Manhart, Chair

Many thanks to all who donated fleas and food items, helped prepare for the sale, worked at the sale, and cleaned up afterward. It takes a village to have a successful Flea Market.

Special thanks to **Lou Manhart, Cindy Kercher, and Carol Bashore** for their leadership and many volunteer hours.

Since many books were left over, we're still offering them for sale at \$2 for hardbound and \$1 for paperback. Stock up now for winter reading!

Come out and Join our Walking Group , Mondays at 9:30

We continue to walk through our church neighborhood, meeting Monday mornings at 9:30 in front of the church. Anyone is welcome!



We're Accepting Poinsettia Orders

From **KC Dianna**

What a joy to be able to worship together in our beautiful sanctuary during this Advent and Christmas season. One way you can help decorate the church is by ordering red, white, or pink poinsettias.

The cost is \$9 each; they can be dedicated *in honor of* or *in memory of* (someone) or to the *Glory of God*. They will be in the sanctuary on December 18 and Christmas Eve.

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. I can also take your orders at 484-955-9402. However, I cannot accept cash.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS DECEMBER 14.

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's Bulletin Board



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

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Reading PA 19608-9643

Change of Phone

George & Jean Weikel 484-332-3779

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To **Susie Woessner** whose 76th
birthday was October 16.

To **Pastor Chris Kurien** who
turned 65 on October 29.



Bibles Missing

From **Carl Madeira**, Sexton

If you've borrowed a Bible from our sanctuary, will you please return it? Thank you.

From **Jerry Manhart**,
Stewardship and Finance Chair

Thank you to the **Robert T. Miller**
Estate for the generous donation to
our Memorial Fund. The Trustees
have used some of the money to re-
pair our church steeple and also its
adjacent roof with asphalt shingles.



Oh, what a feeling!

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 p. 2)

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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

