

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *May-June 2023*

Celebrating Pastor Christopher Kurien May 21, 10 am

From **Richard Auman**, Staff-Parish Relations Committee



We'll come together on Sunday, May 21, for a special combined service to celebrate Christopher Jacob Kurien's 41 years in full-time

ministry and 38 years as an ordained pastor. While his official retirement date is June 30, Pastor Chris's last Sunday in church will be May 28. He'll be on vacation for all of June, which will include leading a group trip to the Holy Lands.

A LUNCHEON IN MEMORIAL HALL will follow the 10 am combined service so we can wish Chris well as he prepares for retirement. The Staff Parish Relations and Worship Committees

are coordinating the morning events with Pastor Chris. Among our guests will be **the Rev Evelyn Kent Clark**, our District Superintendent and Chris's close colleague, **the Rev Bob Wilt** and two of his three daughters.

(Continued on page 5)

LP's Annual Flea Market **Saturday, May 13, 7 am–3 pm** **Join Us for Fun, Food, and Fundraising**

From **Jerry Manhart**

We're accepting your fleas now and until May 7. What are fleas? Household items, books, collectibles, toys, games, puzzles, baby and sporting equipment, tools, garden accessories, jewelry and more. No clothing or furniture, please.

Please consider helping with this always successful annual fundraiser. We *need* your participation. For more information on how you can help, see p. 7.



9 am:
Contemporary
11 am: Traditional
Loving Childcare
Available for both
services.

**Please join us Sunday, May 21, for PASTOR CHRISTOPHER KURIEN'S
FAREWELL SERVICE — a COMBINED SERVICE AT 10 AM**

A social hour and lunch will follow downstairs in Memorial Hall. If you plan to attend the catered luncheon, please email (info@lpcumc.org) or call the Church Office (610-777-1422) by Sunday, May 7, with your name and number of people attending. Because the luncheon is not a budgeted event, the committees are asking for donations to help cover expenses. You can use the online giving option, or write a check. Please mark your contribution *Pastor's retirement*.

SUNDAY, MAY 14, MOTHER'S DAY AND REMEMBERING GLORIA KOTZER (11 am)

SUNDAY, JUNE 11: MUSIC SUNDAY at both 9 and 11 am

Sunday, July 2: WELCOME SERVICE FOR PASTOR QUENTIN WALLACE
A COMBINED SERVICE AT 10 AM



**No Fourth Sunday Breakfast in May
Will Resume in June, July, August, and Beyond**

Sunday Services also Continue Virtually on Facebook

To view, go to 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/>

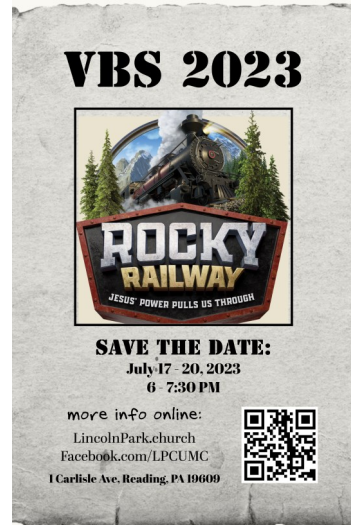
A "pop-up," may ask you to log in or create a Facebook account. **Simply click "Not Now."**

All Aboard for Vacation Bible School

From **Barbara Leas**
Children's Ministry Coordinator

July 17 - 20... 6-7:30 pm

Let's put on our conductor outfits for **FOUR NIGHTS** and board our Bible School train. If you'd like to help, we'll be meeting soon after the Flea Market is over. Stay tuned for details.



From Children's Coordinator, Barb Leas



I'm looking for help for our awesome Nursery Attendant, **Kathi Ernst**. She is wonderful with all of the kids who come down to the Nursery, but she needs some help. I'm looking for teenagers, ages 15 and up, to help her out on Sunday mornings from 9 - 12. If you know of anyone, please let me know by call or text—610-914-3364, or email —barbleas@gmail.com.

You're Invited to Remember Gloria Kotzer, Sunday, May 14

From Cheri Fallon

Part of our 11 am worship service on Mother's Day, May 14, will be in remembrance of **Gloria Kotzer**, who died on February 7. Her children and grandchildren will be hosting a reception afterward in the Wagner Room. Her son **Mark** says, "We want to thank the church community for being such an important part of Gloria's life."

Gloria loved LP church dearly and attended here for 65 years. She was on countless committees and participated in many outreach efforts. "It was the center of her social life as well as her spiritual foundation," says **Mark**. Her beautiful smile, gentle teasing, and interest in everyone were endearing to all!

If you missed Gloria's obituary, here is the link:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/readingeagle/name/gloria-kotzer-obituary?id=49141550>.

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I'm filled with mixed emotions. It's not only leaving our Lincoln Park family but also retiring after many years of ministry that has me deep in thought. I'm filled with a deep sense of gratitude for the experiences we've shared and would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone for your support, encouragement, and prayers. It's been a privilege to serve among you as a part of this community for the past four years. We will always cherish the memories of our time together and the lessons I have learned from you.

In my time here, I've seen this congregation doing well in spite of the pandemic. We faced and overcame the challenges together. In these years we were able to celebrate Lincoln Park's 75 years of ministry, publish a book of our history, and do some amazing mission projects that made a difference locally and globally. I've been continually inspired by the love and commitment this community has shown to address the needs of others.

Between now and June there are many important days:

- Mother's Day, May 14
- Pentecost Sunday, May 28
- Memorial Day, May 29, and
- Father's Day, June 18.

"I know that this community will continue to grow and flourish, and I look forward to seeing the amazing things you'll accomplish in the future."

On Mother's Day we'll be remembering our long-time member **Gloria Kotzer** at the Traditional Service.

Please also keep the Annual Conference gathering, May 18-20, in your prayers. Our farewell Sunday is May

21. The SPRC is making plans for a luncheon and get-together. I hope we'll have a chance to see many of you and share our goodbyes.

Some of you have asked: *Where will you be next and what you will be doing?* We'll still live in the Reading area in Exeter. Regarding ministry, I'll continue to offer some time to the Annual Conference. Beyond that, I'll go where God leads,

striving to be obedient to what God has envisioned for the next chapter in my life.

Christy and I will surely miss you all very much and will keep you in our prayers. I know that this community will continue to grow and flourish, and I look forward to seeing the amazing things you'll accomplish in the future. Again, thank you for the opportunity to be in ministry with you in this wonderful community, and I wish you all the very best.

With gratitude and warm wishes,

Pastor Christopher Kurien

(Continued from page 1) Celebrating Pastor Chris

Pastor Chris, whose career spanned two continents, began his ministry in the Church of South India where he served as a Diocesan Youth Organizing Secretary and Director of Missions. He was also on the teaching staff at the United Theological College in Bangalore, India. After moving to the states in the late 1990's, he took the position of Lead Chaplain resident at Southwest Memorial Hospital, Houston TX.

With the encouragement of **Bishop George W. Bashore**, a former Reading pastor, and Spring Township resident, Chris accepted an appointment in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference at St. Matthew's Church, Reading, in 2001. Four years later **Bishop Marcus Matthews** appointed Chris as a District Superintendent, and he served five years as Dean of the Cabinet. After six years as a DS, he was appointed Director of Connectional Ministries until 2017, when he returned to the pulpit at First Church in Lansdale.

"I was humbled to be endorsed as an episcopal candidate twice by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference," Chris said. While an elder in our Conference, he also served on numerous boards of our Annual, Jurisdictional, and General Conferences and on the World Methodist Council.

Next month he completes four years

here at Lincoln Park and his full-time ministry.



"I will continue in service as an assisting Elder in the Annual Conference, as a member on the World Methodist Council, Methodist Hospital Foundation Board, the Northeast Jurisdictional Program Committee, and on various Conference Boards and Agencies," Chris added.

While Chris plans to stay active in the church, much of his time will be spent with his wife of 37 years, Christy Jacob, who plans to continue working as a math teacher at Reading HS and visiting his three daughters:

- **Dr Elsen Chris Jacob**, an Assistant professor, St. John's University, NY, is married to **Dr. Manu Ben Johny**, Assistant Professor and research lab director, Columbia University, New York. They have a daughter, Shiloh Grace, who is seven months old.
- **Dr Susan Chris Jacob**, Clinical Manager, Beth Israel Lahey Health System, Boston is married to **Dr. Alexis Hubaud**, Senior Scientist, Be Biopharma, Boston.
- And **the Rev Ann Chris Jacob**, a Co-pastor at Edmonds UMC, Seattle. Ann is one of the two members from the United Methodist Church presently serving the World Council of Churches and the Central Committee of the WCC.

LP Church Considers Daycare In Partnership with YMCA

From Richard Auman

Our Church Council recently created a committee to explore the possibility of starting a childcare at our church: Current members are **Jim Gehman, Carol Bashore, Kris Wright, and Richard Auman.**

Because we have limited resources to investigate and develop such a project, we've partnered with the YMCA of Reading and Berks County to determine the feasibility of a program at Lincoln Park. A first step is surveying our congregation and community to see if there is an interest and a need.

If you don't have children but know of families who might be interested, please pass this flyer along.



The flyer features the YMCA logo at the top left, followed by the text "Looking for Childcare?" in large blue letters. Below this is "Infant to School Age" in green. To the right are colorful handprints. In the center is a grid of alphabet blocks. Below the blocks is a row of children's faces peeking over a line. The text reads: "Even though you may not need child care, or may not have children under 13, we ask that all parents in our community complete these first few questions. By completing this survey, you will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 amazon gift card." Below this is a QR code with the text "SCAN HERE FOR SURVEY" and an arrow pointing to it. At the bottom left is the YMCA of Reading & Berks County logo and website "www.ymcarbc.org 610-378-4728". At the bottom right is a photo of a woman and three children sitting on the floor.

the YMCA

Looking for Childcare?

Infant to School Age

YMCA is partnering with Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church with a survey to seek interest in a child care program at the church.

Even though you may not need child care, or may not have children under 13, we ask that all parents in our community complete these first few questions. By completing this survey, you will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 amazon gift card.

SCAN HERE FOR SURVEY

YMCA of Reading & Berks County
www.ymcarbc.org 610-378-4728

We extend our deepest sympathy...



† To his daughter **Carol** and **Phillip Piersody** and the entire family of **Emory Towles**, 96, who died on February 24. He and his wife **Ruth** were married for 76 years when she passed away in January 2022. They had three children, seven grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Emory served in the US Navy in WW II and Korea. He later became a successful salesman. ("He believed in the products.") Emory al-

so opened Emory's Collectibles (sports and coins) and he was an accomplished harmonica player!

FLEA MARKET, MAY 13

YES Count On Me , I'll Help!



NAME _____

Phone Number _____

Help : Set Up _____ Tear Down _____ Move Tables _____

Help Price Fleas: **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10 to 12** _____

I will donate: Food, Fleas, Books _____

Beef Barbeque (Number of Pounds) _____

Pork Barbeque (Number of Pounds) _____

Hot Dogs- Berks preferred (Number of packages) _____

Hot Dog Rolls (Number of Packages) _____

Hamburger Rolls (Number of Packages) _____

Baked Goods _____

Cans of soda or bottles of water _____

Homemade Vegetable Soup _____

Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup _____

I will work: Pick one or several JOBS and SHIFTS.

7-9 am Shift _____

Memorial Hall sales _____

9-11 am Shift _____

Food sales _____

11 am-2 pm _____

Baked Goods sales _____

2 pm Clean-Up Crew _____

Book sales _____

Outside sales _____

Monday May 15, 9 am

Kitchen Help _____

Leftover pack up and

Delivery _____

Boutique Sales _____

Please place completed forms in the offering plate, drop off at the Church Office, or call **Jerry Manhart**, 610-777-2347.

Here Are Some 5-Star “Picks” for You

From Cheri Fallon

ABIDE ...This Christian Meditation App provides a short audio devotional daily; it’s Bible-based and right there on your iPhone. There are bedtime stories to help you sleep and, if you’re feeling desperate (it happens), you can choose a topic like *Depression, Healing, Grief, Forgiveness*, and be directed to specific meditations. I have been using this app for years now, and it doesn’t disappoint.

This past year *Abide* was acquired by *Guideposts*. There may be a free trial period, and I can share a particular meditation with you if you want to try it. I pay \$40 a year for it, and—believe me—it’s well worth it. You can also purchase a gift subscription.

SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE in Lancaster produces Bible stories in grand productions. We saw *David* last fall for the first time with our 10 year-old granddaughter, Isla. This spectacular rendering of David’s story is stunning for all. Goliath was there along with many live animals—(horses,

camels, birds, elephants...some of whom went up and down the aisles in amazingly disciplined fashion.) The music is moving and dramatic, the scenery out of this world, and the building itself, in its scenic Lancaster County setting, is peaceful. My husband (who said that *Cats* was harder to sit

through than a root canal) said *It’s way better than a Broadway show!* Right now *Moses* is live on stage through October 7.

DRIVE THRU HISTORY: THE GOSPELS. ...We’ve recorded and watched this all year on TBN. The narrator, Dave Stotts, who drives a Jeep (sort of recklessly) to all these Biblical locations, is easy to listen to and watch. I doubt we’ll ever go to these Biblical sights, but the show gives a picture of what they were and are like. If you can’t get it on your TV, you can buy the DVD’s on Amazon and other sites. Even Walmart. If you still have a DVD player.



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!

Thank You, Lincoln Park for Your Never-Ending Generosity!

From Cheri Fallon, Missions Committee

We're grateful to our congregation for your generous contributions of pillows and protectors, cleaning supplies, paper products and cash donations for

Hannah's Hope. Committee member Jim Eckert says, "When you give to Hannah's Hope, you help a homeless mother stabilize her life, learn skills, and gain hope for the future." **Dave Kercher** and **Diane Fisher** will soon deliver your donations. Thank you for helping where help is needed.



In May and June, the committee will direct its efforts to another local organization:

Safe Berks, formerly Women in Crisis. This organiza-

tion provides a safe haven and ongoing support system for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. We will collect twin bed sheets, towels, washcloths, and monetary donations. Look for more details in the weekly announcements about how you can help.

Coming Up: Music Sunday, June 11, at 9 and 11 am



Amelia Deibler Joins Pro Football Team

From Richard Auman



I wrote this article on Amelia Deibler, who, while going to Governor Mifflin and then St. Joe's, always helped my ushering team out before moving west.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR CHURCH'S 77-YEAR HISTORY WE HAVE ONE OF OUR MEMBERS PLAYING PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL ON A NATIONAL TEAM.



2013 Gov Mifflin graduate **Amelia Deibler**, daughter of **Valerie and Dave Deibler**, this year joined the Oregon Ravens in Portland, which is part of the Women's National Football Conference. Their spring schedule started on April 1 and runs through mid-May.

Amelia received her Bachelor's and MBA from St. Joseph's University in 2018 and then moved to Portland, Oregon, where she began a career in marketing.



Amelia, who is playing tailback and line-backer for the Ravens, reflects on her decision to join a professional sports team: "As someone that has been involved in sports at a competitive level from a very young age, playing women's football with the Oregon Ravens brings back a sense of community and commitment to personal development that I've missed dearly. There's something incredibly special about a group of individuals coming together,

giving 100% in such a physically challenging environment, and working towards a common goal."



June 15
for our
July-August
issue

Welcome to the World, Little Ones

- ♥ Congratulations to **Nicki (Mann)** and **Bill Rosenbaum** on the birth of a baby girl, **Avery Harper**, on March 27. Also to her proud grandparents, **Linda** and **Rick Mann**, and her great-grandfather, **Ron Schucker**.
- ♥ **Milo Morgan Enright**, son of **Heather (Hope)** and **Kevin**, was born on April 3. He is the grandson of **Earl** and **Linda Hope** and great-grandson of **Betty Larsen**. **Milo's** older brothers, **Liam** and **Finn**, are happy with their new little brother
- ♥ On April 6, **Lauren** and **Kasey Pierson** and son **Jalen** welcomed a little brother, **Lucas Gregory**. Congratulations also to his grandparents, **Wendy** and **Greg Ertel**.

May God bless and surround these families with His love and care.
Best wishes to all!



- ♥ I would like to thank you for your thoughtfulness for the prayers, cards, phone calls, meals, and support you have all given me and my family over these past several months. Our church family has been such a blessing during this difficult time. Your words of comfort, encouragement, and kindness will always be treasured, and I will forever be grateful for your support. My children all expressed that they felt better leaving me after meeting so many of my church family.

With deep gratitude,
Betty Larsen



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, Diane Fisher, Nancy Madeira, Lou Manhart, Mark Villecco, Ed Fallon

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)

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

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Nursery: Kathi Ernst

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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

