



News-Line



*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania
May-June 2022*

From **Barbara Olaweb**,
Christian Education Co-Chair

Great News! Weekly Sunday School for children is back, meeting in the Education Building each week, through the beginning of June, from 10:10-10:55.



Barbara Leas, our Children's Ministry Coordinator, will be there each week with at least one helper. We'd love to have more helpers and *many more children*! Please invite your family and friends. If you're interested in serving in our Children's Ministry, please contact **Barbara**. Remember that each adult serving with children is required by the law to have child protection clearances on file with the church. They are free for volunteers.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will return this summer! Save the dates July 11-13, in the evenings. Please pray for our planning as decisions are made over the next two months. Be on the lookout for more details and ways to help. Let's make this summer outreach program a church-wide event!

From Barbara Leas
Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator

I'M LOOKING FOR CHILDREN'S TIME VOLUNTEERS. All you'd have to do is record yourself talking about a Bible lesson: something short, about three minutes. I'll help if needed. If you're interested please let me know. I have Sundays available in June and July. Thank you so very much!!



**9 am: Contemporary
11 am: Traditional
Loving Childcare Available
in our Nursery 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.

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 submit your 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/>

LET'S 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, Beth Caswell. Please join in at Lincoln Park!

From our Music Director Irina Shmeleva

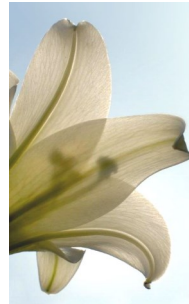
It feels like I blinked my eyes, and two months of my serving God at Lincoln Park UMC flew by. It was a time of getting to know church members, being trained by Mark in using my new email address, laughing with the choir at rehearsals, but mostly, trying to get along with the vibe of this beautiful church family.

Nothing
compares to
the energy
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God.

I'm so looking forward to planning summer music programs. But, most of all, I want to encourage our congregation: Please, don't hide your gift of music. I know that some of you have a good voice— why sit in the pew but not sing with the choir? Nothing compares to the positive energy and happiness you receive while singing in church to praise our God. Not to mention that our rehearsals are just fun-fun-fun. And, my English only makes it funnier.

As you might know, the choir gets together on Wednesday mornings since all the singers are happy retired people, but **(Please, hear me out!) this can be changed like a snap of the fingers.**

**OUR CHOIR IS AWAITING NEW PARTICIPANTS,
AND YOU CAN BE ONE OF THEM!**



*In the
morning
I will sing
of your love.*

Psalm 59:16, NIV

IS THERE A GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY?

Let us know. We'd like to write about their accomplishments, interests, and future plans. Please send information to cherfallon@comcast.net or deliver to my mailbox in the Church Office. Or call **Cheri Fallon**, 610-678-8735.



Greetings and Blessings this Easter Season!

From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

As I write this article on Easter Sunday afternoon, I'm grateful to God for the beautiful day we had at church. Easter is the reason the church has been gathering for the past 2000 years. Just think, if our Lord's resurrection didn't happen, there would not have been a church.

After two years of Covid restrictions, many have returned to in-person worship services. One blessing during the pandemic — for those living far away or those unable to attend services in-person — was being able to gather weekly as a church community through a hybrid model of online worship experience. These services have been available through our church website: www.lpcumc.org.

Just as the resurrected Lord continued to appear to His beloved disciples during post-resurrection days until His ascension, we've been able to celebrate His daily presence as a church community. And this experience of the risen Lord follows us into the joys and struggles of everyday life.

We were delighted to welcome four new members who joined the church on Palm Sunday, and to celebrate a

baptism on Easter Sunday (see p. 10 for a picture of **Jalen Lee Pierson** and his family.)

Also the Easter Egg hunt was a great success. It was a joy (and a lot of fun) to see most of our children and many neighborhood children on our church lawn. It was a lot of fun. Thanks to **KC Dianna** for organizing it.

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Irina Shmeleva, our new Music Director, is getting familiarized with our church family and with the choir. We've also welcomed **Barb Leas** as our Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator. Barb is actively working to organize *in-person* Sunday School and VBS. We also hope to fill the Youth Coordinator position in the future.

During May and June, we celebrate many special days. On Mother's Day, May 8,

we'll praise and thank God for the women who have influenced us with their sacrificial, exemplary lives. Father's Day, on June 19, gives us opportunity to thank God for the men who've made significant contributions to our lives. Also, on the Church calendar we have two important days to observe during coming weeks: Ascension Sunday on May 29 and Pentecost Sunday, June 5.

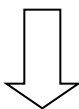
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Our world is going through a difficult time with the Ukraine conflict. The atrocities committed for the past two months have been unbelievable. The people of Ukraine need our prayers and support. Whenever crisis hits the world, our denomination, through UMCOR, is in the forefront to help. Our UMC bishops and leaders in the Baltic region have been involved to offer humanitarian help. Let us continue to pray hard for a resolution of the conflict.

Friends, may we find ways to support and be involved in the life of our church. May the Lord help us to be Easter people.

Peace and blessings, Pastor Chris



IF YOU'D LIKE TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE in the wake of the Russian invasion, you can do that by contributing to the United Methodist Committee On Relief:

Advance # 982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine and to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries. You may give:

- † Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450>, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery
- † By check with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line may be given at or through LPCUMC. **100 % OF YOUR DONATIONS WILL GO TO THE UKRAINE.**

We extend our deepest sympathy...



† to **Kevin and Heather (Hope) Enright** on the loss of Kevin's brother, **Kenny**.

† To **Donald and Jenna (Hope) Gracias** on the death of Donald's father.

May God surround you with His love and care.

Lincoln Park Welcomes New Members



Pictured Left to Right: Kasey, Jalen, Barbara, Lauren, Nick, Pastor Chris

Nicholas Guercia

Born on a snowy night on Friday, December 13, 1986, Nick says he “grew up in a household of Six Italian Women, which he wouldn't change for the world.” He went to Governor Mifflin HS and, then, Penn State Berks Campus to continue his studies in Business Marketing. While at Berks, Nick played Division 3 basketball and helped start the first lacrosse club on campus.

Lindsey Villecco and Nick were in the same friend group for years before truly falling in love and getting married on 09/20/2020 (with our own **Pastor Chris**

presiding.) After marrying Lindsey, Nick was introduced to our church and its community. Nick says he met so many loving and caring people that he has felt a sense of home within the church.

Nick spends most of his time at Maxim Healthcare. He's the Recruitment Operations Manager; his team and office provide nursing and personal care in the home. If he's not at work, he likes to “enjoy new experiences with his wife in this ever changing world.” He also likes to play Dungeons and Dragons every other Sunday evening with high school friends.

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Kasey Pierson

Originally from Portland, Oregon, Kasey spent his youth split between Oregon, Texas, and Arizona. In high school, he spent most of his time playing baseball, basketball, and football. He became the first family member to attend college when he started at Arizona State University. He subsequently went on to medical school at the University of Arizona.

Eventually fate led him to accept a residency in Ophthalmology in Richmond, Virginia. It was there, working in the hospital, that he met his wife, **Lauren**, a nurse in the cardiac ICU. After three years of enjoying the amazing culinary scene in Richmond, they headed to Cincinnati where Kasey completed his fellowship in cornea and anterior disease.

Their journeys would eventually return Lauren to her roots in Wyomissing where Kasey joined Berks Eye Physicians and Surgeons. Here they're raising an amazing family including two dogs, Izzy and Bella, and their one year old son, **Jalen**. In his free time, Kasey enjoys attending sporting events, ComiCons, and walking and hiking with his family.

Lauren Pierson

Born in Williamsport PA, Lauren is the oldest of three sisters. She attended Wyomissing HS and continued her studies at Alvernia University. During college, she played tennis all four years and received a Bachelors of Science in Nursing.

Upon graduation, she initially worked at Reading Hospital before moving to Richmond, VA. There she worked in multiple

areas, including the Cardiac ICU and PACU. In 2016 she met her future husband Kasey; they eventually married on the shores of St. Thomas in 2019. With God's blessing, they welcomed their first child, Jalen, in April, 2021.

Kasey and Lauren joined Lincoln Park a few months ago; they "immediately felt a connection with the church and community." Lauren says, "It was a blessing to have Jalen baptized at the church. We're excited for continued involvement with the church." She spends most of her time chasing Jalen around and taking walks and hikes, but when she can, she enjoys volunteering for local causes and charitable events.

Barbara Olaweb

Born in upstate New York, Barbara was the youngest of four girls in her immediate family. As an adult she learned of two older half-sisters.

She and her husband, **Dele**, recently celebrated their 30th anniversary. They've raised three children and have one granddaughter and one on the way. Barbara was a homeschool teacher for her children during their early years of education. Currently she works at Pagoda Apparel, a printing business she and her husband own and operate in Reading.

Barbara began attending our church in November, 2019. She's always been active in the various churches she's attended. Currently she's a greeter/usher, a member of the Missions Committee, and a Co-Chair of the Education Committee.

We Need Everyone's Help

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

A big **THANK YOU** to the estate of **James and Betty Garraway** for the donation to our music programs. Jim and Betty were members of our Bell Choir and Jim a member of our Chancel Choir for many years. Their donation will help our music programs to continue.

Their donation came at a crucial time since the Finance Committee and Church Council were not able to balance the 2022 Budget. We were unable to cut expenses without stopping essential staff and program ministries and needed maintenance. We can't afford our staff, but we can't afford to *not* have their services if we want to move

forward and be attractive to new members. Hopefully, our reserves will carry us through until we can raise the income level.

We must find ways to **increase attendance and giving**, attract new members, and find **new sources of income**. We'll need **everyone's help** and suggestions to get our church finances moving in the right direction.

One long-time income source has been our **FLEA MARKET**. Final plans have not been set for 2022, but Saturday, August 20, is a possibility, or a Saturday in September or October.

Please help save our church and its ministries.

New Care Ministry Continues



hopefully it's been a positive experience for recipients *and* volunteers! To request a meal, contact **Pastor Chris**, 570-573-1455, or **Jim Gehman**, 610-207-6151.

Join Us for a Neighborhood Walk

Meet us on the church lawn, Mondays at 9:30 am, for a friendly walk through nearby communities. The walks range between 1.5 and 2 miles and the group tries to avoid the long hills.





BRODY MYERS, grandson of **George and Jean Weikel**, is having a great Freshman year at Ursinus College. He is studying Film/Communications and was recruited to be a pole-vaulter for the track team. In his first indoor track season, he broke the school's indoor pole vault record at his first track meet, winning 1st place and setting his personal record at 15 feet 7 inches!

Brody was awarded Conference Athlete of the Week four weeks in a row and was the first student athlete from the Class of 2025 to be *spotlighted* in the *Ursinus Athletic News*. He finished his first season winning Gold in pole vault and Champion of the Centennial College Conference.

George and Jean are, of course, happy that Brody has continued to stay on track for Dean's List with his studies and will join the sports broadcasting department next season, interviewing other athletes. Also, the Music Department recently asked him to join the Jazz Band as lead drummer in the fall, and he is very excited. He's found a close group of friends and already considers the track team part of his family, coaching and recruiting other athletes to help the team.

Right now Brody is starting spring outdoor track season. "His goal is to pole vault over 16 feet and secure a place in the national competition in May," say the Weikels. "Most importantly, he continues to be a happy, kind, and humble young man, and we are all so proud of him!"

Can You Help Us Provide Real, Lasting Change for Local Families?

From Cheri Fallon

Our Missions Committee is supporting a Christ-centered ministry called **Hannah's Hope**. It helps Berks County mothers and their children with transitional housing, training and life skills development, and customized plans for each family. Located nearby on Kenhorst Blvd, Hannah's Hope aims to "change lives once and for all."

We're calling it the *Stay Dry Project* because we're seeking paper products like diapers, paper towels, tissues, feminine products, which can be placed in the collection box in the Wagner Room. Financial contributions can be made out to the LPCUMC with *Hannah's Hope* on the memo line. Contact **Carol Bashore**, 610-451-5211, if you have questions.





AMISSAH and KOJO ADDAE-MENSAH, sons of **Jennifer Ayeh-Gyampoh** and **Kweku Addae-Mensah**, were baptized on January 22!



Jalen Lee Piersol was baptized on Palm Sunday, April 10. He is pictured with his parents, **Kasey and Lauren Pierson**, grandparents, **Greg and Wendy Ertel**, Lauren's sister and grandmother.

May God bless Amissah, Kojo, and Jalen as they grow in faith and love.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*June 15
for our
July–
August 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'd like to thank my LP Church family for the prayers, thoughts, phone calls, meals, and visits to me during my recent surgeries. I had two total knee replacements, the left on October 5, 2021, and the right, on February 9, 2022.

I finished therapy and am now doing exercises at home. I need to strengthen my legs to be ready for spring and working in my flower gardens. My surgeries were not bad experiences, but I'm glad I only have *two* knees.

Thanks again. God is so so good!

God Bless

Love, **Jean Weikel**

♥ To the LP Church congregation,

Thank you for your generous free will offering of \$255. The orchestra has sent these funds to the Reading Music Foundation for *Operation Replay*, a program that repairs donated, used instruments which are then distributed to the underserved musical students of Berks County.

Thank you for hosting our end of winter concert; we look forward to joining you next year.

Sincerely,
Reading Philharmonic Orchestra Musicians

♥ It appears that my 90th birthday on the 28th of February was common knowledge at LPCUMC. I was overwhelmed by the number of Happy Birthday cards that poured in daily during my birthday week. I managed to fill a large scrapbook which someday I will pass on to my children and grandchildren. I thank you all for making the occasion such a pleasure for our family with your kindness and consideration. I can't wait for 95 to arrive.

Richard Larsen

*We Wish
Gene and Betty
Fredrickson
a very Happy
60th Anniversary.*

They live happily at
8140 South 97th Plaza
Apt 220
LaVista NE 68128

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



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

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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

