

# News-Line

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*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter*  
*Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania* *March-April 2023*

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## **The Rev Dr Quentin Wallace Appointed to LP Church**

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

A Conference announcement, on February 12, both appointed and described our incoming pastor: *Pastor Wallace enjoys drama, music, community outreach, and most of all preaching the uncompromised word of the Lord.*

His passion for music, drama, and community outreach began in 1998 when he founded a Christian ministry theater production company. Since then, he's written, directed, and produced gospel skits and stage plays.

In 2001, Wallace became both an on-call weekend chaplain for Reading Hospital's Emergency Team for Crisis Intervention and Associate Chaplain at Albright College.

Then, after earning a Master of Divinity degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, he received his first appointment in 2003 to New Beginnings Community Church in Read-



ing. In 2008 he became pastor at St. Matthew's Church, with a half-time assignment at Calvary UMC, Wyomissing.

For the last eight years he's been assigned to Covenant Church in Lancaster. While there, Pastor Wallace earned his Doctor of Ministry in Contextual Leadership

*(Continued on page 5)*

## **The Rev Dr Christopher Kurien to Retire**

From Cheri Fallon, Editor

When Pastor Chris joined us in July, 2019, who would have predicted the challenging times he would face as our Pastor? Faithfully, he guided us through a global pandemic with dedication, compassion, and optimism. He kept the church alive,

*(Continued on page 7)*



**9 am: Contemporary**  
**11 am: Traditional**

**Loving Childcare  
Available for both  
services.**

### **Sunday Services also Continue Virtually on Facebook**

To view, go to our website at [lpcumc.org](http://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/>

You may receive a “pop-up,” asking you to log in or create a new Facebook account. **Simply click “Not Now.”**

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## **Fourth Sunday Breakfast Continues Between Worship Services**

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### **10:10-10:50: Children’s Sunday School**

We have a fantastic group of volunteers teaching our children amazing lessons. Every week there’s a short video and activities for the classroom or at home. 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!

**ADULT**  
*Sunday School*

Barbara Olaewe continues a program about the *I am* sayings of Jesus. Please join us between services, in the Library. Bring your favorite version of the Bible, your eBook, or use one off the library shelves.

**THE FAREWELL (COMBINED) SERVICE FOR PASTOR CHRIS  
WILL TAKE PLACE AT 10 AM, ON MAY 21.**

## From Music Director Irina Shmeleva

It's hard to believe that we're already entering the season of Lent. This year, our church family is expecting a big challenge— we're about to part ways with Pastor Chris, and open a new page of our history with **Pastor Quentin Wallace**. **THE FAREWELL (COMBINED) SERVICE FOR PASTOR CHRIS WILL TAKE PLACE AT 10 AM, ON MAY 21.**

Until then, I hope we'll have a spiritual season of Lent that brings us to the celebration of Easter. I'm excited to

have two more choir members- our new Church Secretary **Linda Livingood** is an excellent musician with many years of performing and teaching besides her experience in office administration. And there's no need to introduce Jack Villico, the long time member of the Chancel Choir who is able to join us again.

**Wishing you the joy of the coming spring, full of bird songs and our hearts singing along with them.**

## **READING PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA PERFORMS HERE AT LINCOLN PARK —MARCH 12, 3 PM**

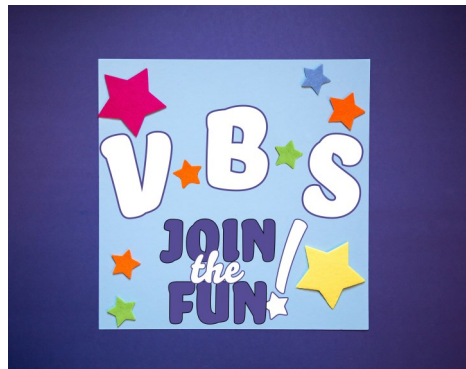
All are welcome and friends are invited. Whatever funds are donated that day will be given to the Reading Music Foundation's Operation Replay program, which solicits unused instruments from donors which can be overhauled and then given to students who do not have funds to buy an instrument to enable them to participate in instrumental programs.

## Save the Dates for Vacation Bible School

From Barbara Leas, Children's Ministry Coordinator

We're exploring three different VBS kits so stay tuned for an update on which we'll do.

I'm still looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School and also to be a helper. Sunday School is still in between the services. If you're interested in helping either with VBS or Sunday School, please contact **Barb Leas, Tori Whiteley, or Krista Gilham** and we will be delighted to hear from you.



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

## From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

Already, we're in the Lenten season, which began Ash Wednesday, February 22, and will continue for 40 days. We don't find the observance of these 40 days of Lent in the Bible.

However, we do read about Noah, his family, and the animals being in the ark 40 days, thus saving them from the flood.

We know about the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness before they were led into the Promised Land. And, we also know about Jesus being in the wilderness for 40 days before He started His public ministry.

**Lent is a time of self-examination, providing opportunity to turn our hearts and minds toward God.** The word *Lent* actually comes from the word *Lengthen* or *Lencten*, which refers to the lengthening of days in spring. Interestingly, *Lent* and *spring* have similar meanings. Like spring, Lent gives way to new life.

In Hebrew tradition, the number 40 implies a sense of completion. Lent ends with the celebration of the Easter. For early Christians there was much joy when they gathered for the Easter celebration.

By now you must have heard about my plans to retire from active ministry this June. After 38 years as an ordained Pastor, I feel a need to slow down, take a

break, and do some things that I've always wanted to do. Due to the busy life of ministry settings Christy and I have been in for many years, we've not seen or spent time with some of our close

family and friends. So, one thing we hope to accomplish is visiting those dear ones during my retirement.

I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had to serve among you, and I'll cherish the memories of our time together. As I transi-

tion into retirement, I want to assure you that my love for our church and its members will continue. I have every confidence that God will continue to bless and guide our community in the years ahead, and I'm excited to see what the future holds for all of us.

**Pastor Quentin Wallace**, who currently serves at Covenant UMC in Lancaster, has been appointed to Lincoln Park beginning July. I've known Pastor Wallace for many years. He is a fine Pastor who will serve Lincoln Park well. I've already extended a warm welcome to him on your behalf, and he looks forward to being at Lincoln Park.

Let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a Blessed Lent and a Happy Easter in advance!

With warm regards and prayers,

*Pastor Chris*



# Celebrate Holy Week and Easter Sunday with Us

**Palm Sunday**

April 2

**Holy Thursday Service**

April 6 at 7 pm

**Easter Sunday Services** April 9

9 am Contemporary and 11 am Traditional

Flowering of the Cross at both services

Flowers provided, but you may also bring your own.



## Bring Your Easter Basket!

From **KC Dianna**

Your kids and grandkids, ages 0-12, are invited for an Easter Egg Hunt between services, 10:15-10:45. Want to help?

There's a donation box in the Wagner Room for wrapped candy or cash donations. Everyone is welcome!



## Please Help Us Decorate Our Beautiful Church With Flowers

that you can take home after Easter services. We'll have lilies, tulips, and daffodils at \$9 each. They can be dedicated as *in honor of*\_\_\_\_\_, *in memory of*\_\_\_\_\_, or to the glory of God. To order, email: [kcb1014@yahoo.com](mailto:kcb1014@yahoo.com), call **KC**, 484-955-9402, or pick up paper forms at church.

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*(Continued from page 1) The Rev Dr Quentin E Wallace*

at Palmer Theological Seminary, Eastern University.

He received his first ordination in 1999 as an itinerant deaconate in the Philadelphia Annual Conference of the African Methodist, and then three years later he was ordained as an itinerant elder. In 2010 he became an elder in full connection with the Eastern PA Conference of the UM Church.

Pastor Wallace has served on a number of committees including District Conference on Ministry, the Cross Racial/Cross Cultural Team, and the ICare team. Currently he serves on the Board of Ordained Ministry and as an Assisting Elder in the West District.

Our new pastor is married to **Dr. Brenda Ingram-Wallace**, a psychology professor and Vice President at Albright College. They live in Spring Township with their three adopted children.

Pastor Wallace will assume his duties at Lincoln Park on July 1.



## Here's Another Opportunity for Helping Others : Hannah's Hope

From **Jim Eckert**, Missions Committee

Hannah's Hope is a transitional housing program, a Christian Ministry serving homeless women and their children in Reading and Berks County.

When you give to Hannah's Hope Ministries, you help a homeless mother stabilize her life, support her children, learn new skills, and gain much-needed hope for a brighter future. Their program leads clients through a 12-18 month period of training and support. They provide assistance including: job seeking and training, literacy, and budget creation. Clients work with a case manager on life skills, stress management, Bible studies, and more.

Located on Upland Avenue, Reading, Hannah's Hope provides a beautiful setting for women wanting to make changes for a lifetime. They offer each family a private suite, including their own bedrooms and a bath. A large, open-concept



gathering area has a living room and dining area, where families congregate for weeknight family dining and programming for adults.

We at LPCUMC have supported this ministry in past years and have been advised again of some specific needs we can help them meet.

We're collecting:

- † 20+ pillows
- † 20+ pillow protectors
- † cleaning supplies
- † paper towels
- † and toilet paper.

Cash donations will be accepted as well. Already underway, our collection will continue into April. Donations can be brought to the Wagner Room at the rear of the sanctuary where a box is provided for supplies and a spot is available for monetary donations.

Thank you for helping these mothers get a fresh start.

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## 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!

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Answers to Baby Collage on p. 11: Top row: **Delilah**, daughter of **David & Rachel (Deibler) Parker**; **Lily Belle**, daughter of **Nick & Lindsey (Villecco) Guercia**

Bottom row: **Ever Klein**, great grandson of **Lee Riley**; **Oliver**, son of **Matthew and Jennifer (Auman) Lundquist**; and **Shiloh**, granddaughter of **Pastor Christopher Kurien** and his wife **Christy**.

(Continued from page 1)

active, and connected, with zoom meetings and virtual church services. He made many phone calls, giving heartfelt attention. Because we were isolated at home, he formed a group who called regularly to check in with other members .

Before COVID, Pastor Chris had offered ideas for our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Many (a banquet, for instance) had to be tabled, but some could still produce good fruit: Over \$10,000 was donated for the *Well Project*, providing wells and clean water to parts of the world in need. We did honor our history with a souvenir booklet. Archivist **Darwin Stapleton** wrote a thorough history. Pastor Chris asked former pastors to send messages for the booklet and also to tape virtual sermons leading up to the anniversary date that September. Former Pastors' pictures were framed and are now displayed in breezeway. The booklet also included members' well wishes, photos, and stories from LP leaders and Senior members.

Finally in September, 2021, we worshipped together in a special celebration of our 75<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.

Pastor Chris brought vibrancy to our congregation with new initiatives:

— Walkers meet each week, going through our community

— A new CARE Ministry provides a monthly meal to members and friends who need one, delivered personally by the committee.

The Missions Committee has flourished in these years, supporting local missions like Helping Harvest, Hannah's Hope, the Salvation Army, and, worldwide, like the Well Project and Operation Smile Train.

And, finally, Pastor Chris's steady guidance in thoughtful sermons has been much appreciated. We thank God for the kind and gentle presence of **the Rev Dr Christopher J Kurien** in our church and wish him well in retirement!



## From Pastor Chris Kurien

Will you consider joining me on a visit to the Holy Land, June 20-29? Steeped in history and spirituality, this birthplace of three major religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - is home to many religious sites.

We'll explore the vibrant culture and history of the Holy Land, stroll through Jerusalem's markets, sample Middle Eastern cuisine, and learn about the region's complex political landscape. Knowledgeable local guides will

provide insights into history and culture. We'll also have time for reflection and personal exploration, allowing us to connect with the spirituality and meaning of this place.

Come with us and create memories in the Holy Land: **June 20-29**. Connect with the spirituality and history of these sacred places. To know more, please contact Pastor Chris, 570-573-1455, [christopherkurien@gmail.com](mailto:christopherkurien@gmail.com). For a brochure go to: <https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/hl23062023a49457#.Y-0ym3bMLX4>.

# LINCOLN PARK FLEA MARKET 2023

Saturday, May 13, 7 am to 2 pm

From Jerry Manhart, Chair

We're moving our Flea Market back to its pre-COVID place — in May. I know it's a short turnaround since last year's, but hopefully you'll find items to donate.

Please bring your fleas (cleaned, unbroken, and in saleable condition) and books to the stage in Memorial Hall starting **March 27**. We'll accept fleas in Memorial Hall until **May 5**. Note that like last year we will **NOT HAVE women's clothing, or furniture**.

## Please help! How?

- Donate fleas, and books.
- Help price fleas. We'll announce times closer to April.

## What are Fleas?

Household items, books, collectibles, toys, games, puzzles, baby equipment, sporting equipment, tools, garden accessories, jewelry. No clothing or furniture, please.

- Donate beef barbeque, hot dogs, buns, cans soda, bottled water, ice, baked goods.



of

- Work a 2-hour shift or more at the Flea Market. Jobs include inside cashier, kitchen cooks and sales, boutique, book sales, outside help.
- Help clean up afterward at 2 pm.

- Help pack up fleas that are left on Monday, May 15, at 9 am.
- Help distribute all leftovers.

Contact **Jerry Manhart**, 610.777.2347, with questions, to volunteer help, or fill out a sheet in the Wagner Room.

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## Tax Time

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

It's the time of year when we must think about taxes. In Luke 20: 25, Jesus says *Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God*. Now you can do both. If you have retirement plan accounts and have reached the age of 72, you must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and pay taxes on the withdrawal.

But you can give yourself a tax break. The Internal Revenue Service says that

IRA owners aged 70 ½ or over can use a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly to a qualified charity such as Lincoln Park Community UMC.

Any amount processed as a QCD counts towards your RMD requirement plus reduces the taxable amount of your RMD. This will lower both your adjusted gross income and taxable income, reducing your overall tax liability, and it also helps pay your financial commitment to Lincoln Park Church.



## Food for Thought

From Jim Gehman, Associate Lay Leader

Our CARE Ministry involves preparing a meal for some of our church family as well as some identified friends and/or neighbors in need of a hot meal. Simply said, this is an outreach ministry to demonstrate that “we care.”

On the second Tuesday of each month, we purchase, prepare, and deliver a meal to 17-27 people who would benefit from a CARE meal. Being involved in this experience is gratifying to those of us who help. Some of our group meet on that Tuesday to prepare the meal. An additional group meets at the church kitchen to deliver the prepared meals. The entire experience is satisfying. I encourage all

of you to become involved and experience this ministry. Why not say.. "Sure, I want to help prepare a meal...I want to help deliver the meals...I want to contribute to purchasing the groceries." All of these involvements provide a feeling of CARING.

We continue to be grateful for **Alan Koeble** and his leadership and pray for his healing.

Do you know of a person or family who might benefit from a monthly, delivered hot meal?

Please call our Church Office and give your suggestion to **Linda Livingood**, our Office Administrator. And, also, tell Linda of your interest in becoming involved with this ministry. You won't be sorry... Just some Food For Thought...



**CHRISTIANS**  
Caring for each other

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### *We extend our deepest sympathy...*

† To the family of **Richard Larsen**, 90, who died on January 26. To his wife **Betty Larsen**; daughter and son-in-law, **Linda** and **Earl Hope**; grandchildren **Jennifer**, **Heather**, **Matt**, and their families.



† To family and friends of **Gloria Kotzer**, 91, who passed away on February 7, in Edmonds WA. Her family is planning for a memorial, celebration of life service here in May.

† To **Matt** and **Jennifer Auman** on the death of Matt's mother, **Judy**, in Hanover PA.

**May God surround you with His love and care.**

# Super Bowl Challenge Scores a Win in the Battle against Hunger

From Richard Auman



We probably collected in just five days enough apples to make dozens of apple pies and potatoes to feed everyone in our congregation with good old Berks County potato filling. That takes a lot of apples and potatoes.

Five days before the Super Bowl, our **Conference Bishop, John Schol**, received a friendly challenge from the Kansas City area conferences to see which groups could collect the most food for each area's food banks. Unlike most food drives, it wasn't about the number of cans or boxes collected but the total weight of food received. So, while all the food received was greatly appreciated, our congregation knew that a bag of potatoes or apples weighs more than a box of cereal. **We met the challenge by collecting 257 pounds of canned goods and lots of potatoes and apples.**

Here are other impressive numbers that made this Super Bowl challenge a super success:

- Number of pounds collected in two Philadelphia Eagles Conferences: 74,560 pounds
- More than 230 churches in the EPA and GNJ Conferences participated.
- Number of pounds collected from Kansas City conferences: 105,367
- Combined food collected: 90 tons in just five days.

Not unlike instant replays in the game itself, there was one call by a major contributor on the Chiefs' side when he registered his count in bags and not pounds. A clarification and adjustments were made.

Bishop Schol summed up the friendly competition: *The biggest team with the biggest score were the United Methodist churches collecting 180,000 pounds of donated food to fight hunger in their communities. Indeed, the most important victory that day was scored in pounds not in points.*

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## We've Got a Deal for You!

**Darwin Stapleton** has 20 complimentary tickets for Top of the Rock, the museum and viewing platform at the top of Rockefeller Center in New York City. The views are fantastic! The tickets are worth \$43 each and expire June 12, 2023. He'll mail you up to four tickets if you make a donation of \$20 per ticket to Lincoln Park Church. You can contact him at [darwin.stapleton@yahoo.com](mailto:darwin.stapleton@yahoo.com).



**April 15**  
for our  
May-June issue

# Lincoln Park's Bulletin

*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



## New Life at LP Church

Can you guess  
who these  
sweethearts  
are?

See p. 6



# 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

Contemporary Program Coordinator: Mark Villecco

Director of Music: Irina Shmeleva, [irina@lpcumc.org](mailto:irina@lpcumc.org)

Office Administrator: Linda Livingood

Accounting and Finance: Marilyn Seiders

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Barbara Leas

Nursery: Kathi Ernst

Custodian: Carl Madeira

Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678-8735, [cherfallon@comcast.net](mailto:cherfallon@comcast.net)

**Church Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 10-1 pm**

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

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Voicemail: Church Office 10

Web: [www.lpcumc.org](http://www.lpcumc.org)

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

For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.

Let's do good to all people.



Galatians 6:10, NASB

