

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *September- October 2023*

Join us at 9 or 11 am, on September 10,
for **Anniversary Sunday** at Lincoln Park
Church! Check out our Church Historian, **Carl Ma-**
deira's display of photos and memorabilia about our
beloved church.



Beginning September 10,
our children will start their
Sunday School year, at
10:10 am– 10:50 am, in the
Education Building.

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 your children
or grandchildren join us!



TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

To read about the **Gehmans'** trip to the Holy
Land with **Pastor Chris Kurien** and his wife
Christy, Pastor Bob Wilt, and others, see p. 8-9.

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

We continue to meet at the front of church to walk the streets of Lincoln Park, weather
permitting. Please come on out and join the gang!



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

September 10: Anniversary Sunday

September 17: New Members Received

Sunday Services 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.”**

➡ **CARL MADEIRA** needs a couple volunteers to assist with cleaning up the elements after the 11 am service on Communion Sundays. If you can stick around for a bit after church on the first Sunday of the month, please contact Carl, 610-777-8894.

Welcome Newcomers to Lincoln Park!

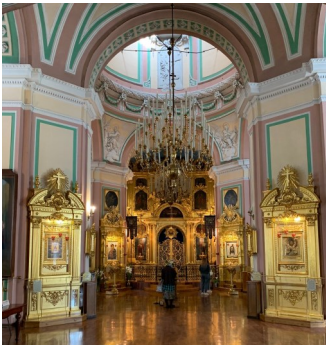
We invite you to any meetings or activities you read about here. Please call the Church Office, 610-777-1422, for names, phone numbers, information, or to speak with our pastor. If you'd like to receive *News-Linc* in the mail, let us know.

Please join in at Lincoln Park!

From Music Director Irina Shmeleva

Our newsletter is dedicated to telling us about our church's life—what's new, what's coming up, what's going on at the moment. Although it's not for telling someone's personal story, throughout the last two months I was receiving more questions and concerns than ever since I began serving for Lincoln Park UMC. I asked our newsletter's editor, **Cheri Fallon**, if it would be ok to write a few words for the next issue about my recent adventure. She said *Yes!* So—here it is.

Due to some circumstances, I didn't have a chance to visit my home country of Russia since we moved to the US. I



had a plan to go there to see my dad last summer, if it were not for this horrible war. From the first day of the war I was both angry

with my people and also scared to go there. I was hoping for the ending of the conflict and a peaceful resolution. We all can see that it's not coming in the nearest future. And my dad doesn't get younger meanwhile. This June, I suddenly realized that you can't wait forever and then regret the things you

didn't do. I ordered tickets, and on July 2, I boarded the plane to meet my father in my hometown.



I spent almost three weeks in Saint Petersburg; finally got to hug my dad, took flowers to the cemetery where my mom is laid to rest. With my own eyes I saw many places in

my home city, dear to my heart. I was able to meet with close relatives and friends. There were many moments when my eyes filled with tears -- I missed it so much.



It is impossible to describe how beautiful my city is, or how the pine forest smells. But it is also impossible to tell you how great it is to be back home with my family. Because your home is where your family is— here, in Pennsylvania.

Back to School: Looking Forward to What's Next

From Pastor Quentin Wallace

*Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior,
and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:5*

*He that began a good work in you will bring it to completion
at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians. 1:6*

It's been a little over a month since my family and I began our ministry with the Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church family, and we're enjoying the journey so far. As we continue together, let us agree to communicate honestly and to share our hearts lovingly as we participate in the ministries directed by Christ through this congregation.

In the meantime, we must understand that change is difficult for some in the congregation and exciting for others. I'm one who is excited about doing new things like seeing new places and meeting new people. For those who find change challenging, there's a way to find a positive outcome; that is through prayer and finding a hopeful perspective.

Let me share a story about a time when I was resistant to change. When I returned to school for first grade after kindergarten, I wasn't happy. My kindergarten teacher, Miss Taylor, had been great, but when I went to first grade and met Miss Walker, I was upset.

My initial thought was to leave Miss Walker's room and run to Miss Taylor's class instead, and that is exactly what I did. However, that did not work out for

me. I had been promoted to first grade. Eventually I adjusted to the change and learned to like Miss Walker, and to look forward to being promoted to the next grades from elementary school through graduate studies.

In a book entitled *Falling Upward*, Richard Rohr explains how each component of our life moves us toward something better. It is God that promotes us. So as students begin school — from pre-k through graduate studies — let each of us look forward to what is coming, not forgetting the past but embracing each experience as a stepping stone upward.

The Apostle Paul says in the Philippians passage above that God has begun a great work in each of us and He will finish what He started. Therefore, we must understand that God is always transforming us. In the passage above, the psalmist shares that our hope is in God, and God is always teaching us truth and that should give us joy. Let us plan to have a great year of learning something new.



Blessings,

Pastor Quentin

Missions Committee Thanks You!

From Carol Bashore



In spring we collected sheets, towels and monetary donations for **Safe Berks**, an organization which provides a safe haven and support system for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. **Diane Fisher** delivered our towels, sheets, and pillow donations, along with a \$300 check. They were thrilled and very appreciative.

We were overflowing with so many school supplies for **Opportunity House** that we needed additional boxes for delivery. Now many children



can begin their school year with a good start. **Thank you all.**

On October 12 **Helping Harvest** is having a *Celebration of Community and Hope*. Therefore, we've chosen another food drive for our next missions project. To make this fun and interesting, we'll make our donations be a game contest. Additional information about how this will operate will come to you by email and church announcements. But get ready for:

FOOD + FUN = FANTASTIC FINALE.



Pastor Quentin will offer a **Bible Study**, in the Library, at two different days and times: Wednesday, September 20, 7 pm, and Thursday, September 21, at 1 pm. His goal is to increase biblical knowledge and provide resources so we may apply biblical principles in every day situations. **Please sign up in advance, if possible**, in the Wagner Room or call the Church Office, 610-777-1422.

“Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way.”

—Martin Luther



From Children's Coordinator, Barb Leas

WOW! Thanks to God and all your prayers, we had a wonderful ROCKY RAILWAY VBS! Last year we had nine children; this year we had **20-25** children! My team and I are blessed that so many kids came out to learn about how Jesus' power will pull us through! We even had new faces from the community!

These volunteers worked hard to make VBS '23 a success. Thank you to:

- ☺ **Barbara Olaewe, Krista Gilham, Torie Whiteley, and Nick Guercia** who helped with planning, as well as preparing and leading each station for the kids.
- ☺ **Mark Villecco** for making flyers, train tickets, a video, and working the sound board.
- ☺ **Deb, Adam, and Dave Gehr, Cindy Kercher, Alan Koeble, Jackie and Maddie Kauffman, Linda Hope, George Weikel, Jenna Gracias, Jae and Tee Wallace, Minister Brenda Wallace, and Pastor Wallace** who were so giving of their time to volunteer in planning, snack preparation, decorating, being group leaders, and/or daily VBS activities.
- ☺ **Jim and Roe Gehman** who made the awesome train and perfect photo op.
- ☺ **Diane Fisher** for cleaning up afterward.
- ☺ And finally, to church members who donated Christmas trees, lanterns, and other supplies!

I look forward to next year's VBS!

Can You Help?

The Christian Ed Committee is asking for donations to revamp the busy bags that our children use when they're in the sanctuary during worship and other activities. There's a box in the Wagner Room for monetary donations. Thank you!



Singing



Learning



Having Fun



From Jim Gehman



After months of anticipation, our departure day arrived. Nine of us jumped into a rented van for the first part of our travel — driving to JFK on Long Island. We left June 20 at 3 pm and arrived at JFK shortly before 8 pm for an 11:40 pm flight to Tel-Aviv, Israel. Check-in was surprisingly easy, and we had time for a bite to eat before boarding. We “eased” into our seats and were soon in the air, heading for our religious journey through the Holy Lands of Israel.

Israel is seven hours ahead of our time zone. Going through customs in Tel-Aviv was smooth, and we were soon greeted by our travel guide, Mona. After a quick welcome, we boarded a bus to join more of our traveling group and begin a two-plus hour drive to Tiberias. We arrived at night to our hotel to find a tremendous buffet of all kinds of food. (We enjoyed this type of food throughout our stay in Israel.) The hotel accommodations were excellent.

What a surprise, after a good night’s sleep, to look out our window and see that we were on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. We knew we had arrived in the Holy Lands. We boarded our bus to find that our group had increased to 39. This would be our travel group throughout

our travels. In addition to **Pastor Chris, Christy, Pastor Bob, Lisa, Jeff, Kate, Linda, Roe**, and me, we were part of groups and individuals from all over the USA. This great group of people made our experience even more enjoyable. There were five pastors in the group, leading us to believe God was protecting us.

Our first stop was Capernaum, the center of Jesus’ ministry around the Sea of Galilee. We sailed on the Sea of Galilee and enjoyed a time of meditation and reflection. We visited the synagogue on the site where Jesus taught and went on to many more churches, such as the Church of the Fish and the Loaves at Tabgha. In Magdala, the home of Mary Magdalene, we visited a first-century synagogue.

We ended our first day with a visit to the Jordan River. Pastor Chris and Pastor Bob assisted in re-baptizing many of our group. We were a bit weary as we stepped off the bus but had thoroughly enjoyed the experience of walking where many of our well known religious stories originated.

The routine we experienced the first day, we repeated for the next seven days. Wake-up call at 6 am, on the bus by 8 am and arrive back at our hotel 4:30 - 5 pm. So much to see and hear about. I must admit by the third day I was in overload. Too many churches, synagogues and chapels...too much information for me to digest. I found myself not listening to Mona, but rather looking at the uniqueness of Jerusalem, the vastness of the desert...the archaeological sites of King

Herod's palaces, especially in the south of Israel at Masada. The stop at the Dead Sea was unique for me. I cannot float...at all; but in the Dead Sea, I floated like

a cork. Another memorable stop for Roe and me was at the Franciscan Wedding Chapel in Cana. Remember this is where Jesus performed his first miracle. (turning water into wine). Roe and I, with several other couples, renewed our wedding vows with

Pastor Bob officiating. Each day was filled with new adventures. Lots of walking, lots of steps, and lots of perspiring...We stepped into the Sea of Galilee, sailed on the Sea of Galilee, visited where Jesus may have been born and a tomb where Jesus may have been buried. We observed re-baptisms in the Jordan River. I floated in the Dead Sea. We visited Masada (over 1,100 ft above the desert) . The temperature was 102

degrees. We visited the Western Wall, walked the streets of Old Jerusalem where Jesus carried his cross to Golgotha, strolled through the Garden of

Gethsemane, and participated in a communion meditation. We had a group picture taken from the Mount of Olives, and walked through Hezekiah's tunnel (no easy feat). So many sights, so many arche-

ological sites, my brain was flashing "tilt".. but we persevered. Our guide, Mona,

was conscious to note that the sights we were visiting may have been authentic but could not be 100% sure. We know, 2000 years of history may be hard to authenticate, but being there, walking the area...made all those Christian stories we have talked about our whole lifetime come alive. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to travel to Israel and enjoy the Holy Lands.



Back row, L to R: **Jeff Nagle, Roe and Jim Gehman, Pastor Bob Wilt, Pastor Chris Kurien**
Front row, L to R: **Lisa Hoopes, Linda Tomlinson, Kate Bobarsky, Christy Jacob**



The Church Mouse would love to have news tidbits about you and your family. She loves to share these with our members. Please send them to cherfallon@comcast.net.

Sammy Dianna and his 12U travel baseball team spent the summer on the diamond. He's the son of KC and Jay. "We traveled through Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and South Carolina," says KC. They played in 10 tournaments, winning seven of them. Their team record was 30-6. Sammy had an amazing season. He hit a total of 15 home runs. Two of them were grand slams. And, Sammy was MVP in the 2023 Dia-



mond Nation 12U Summer Bash Tournament.

He had a great summer with lots of hits, runs, and fun.

Sammy's younger brother, **Joey**, is following closely in his big brother's footsteps. He played for the Wilson 10U Tournament team in the spring and hit five home runs, two of which were also grand slams!



Sammy Dianna

"I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house."

—Nathaniel Hawthorne



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



October 15
for our
November-
December
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, Diane Fisher, Nancy Madeira, Lou Manhart, Mark Villecco, Ed Fallon

Pastor's Office Hours

If you'd like to meet in person with **Pastor Quentin**, please call the Church Office to make an appointment for a Tuesday or Thursday, between 9:30 am-1 pm. He can be also reached Sunday through Thursday on his cell phone, 610-334-8472, or anytime in case of an emergency.

From West Lawn United Methodist Church

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS OF ANY MEDIUM

The Faith in Action Team (Social Justice Team) is having an art exhibition. We welcome exhibitions of any medium that pertains to the theme of Social Justice or Faith in Action.

WHEN: October 7, 2023 from 10 AM-4 PM

WHERE: West Lawn United Methodist Church Community Center

HOW MUCH: Entry Fee - \$20; proceeds go to the Wilson Area Food Pantry

Please contact Jody Anderson at jander678@gmail.com to sign up or for further information.



You're Invited

Pastor Quentin will be meeting and discussing various topics with two groups in September.

Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, September 13,
8 am, Memorial Hall

Agape Circle

Wednesday, September 20,
Noon

Friends are welcome!

Please come!

NEWS-LINC

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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

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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 Quentin Wallace, pastorquentin@lpcumc.org, 610-334-8742

Contemporary Program Coordinator: Mark Villecco

Director of Music: Irina Shmeleva, irina@lpcumc.org

Office Administrator: Linda Livingood, linda@lpcumc.org

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Barbara Leas

Nursery: Kathi Ernst

Custodian: Carl Madeira

Editor: Cheri Fallon, cherfallon@comcast.net

610-678-8735

Let's do good to all people.



Galatians 6:10, NASB



Church Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 9:30-1:30 pm

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.