

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *November– December 2023*

Lincoln Park Church Reaching Out in Our Community

From Dr Brenda Ingram-Wallace

We've received a Dewees grant to increase our impact on our community and reach more families. This grant enables us to have four fully funded events:

- a December Family Christmas Dinner with KooKoo the Magician and gifts for registered children
- an Easter Family Fun Fest with Chris Ivey, Christian Juggler, and an Easter Egg Hunt
- an end-of-school Summer Fun Bash with KooKoo, Wacky Patty, a balloon artist, and food trucks
- and a summer community trip to Knoebels Amusement Park.

We'll be reaching out to neighboring school districts and community. We're excited for the opportunity to invite neighboring families into our church for food, fun, and fellowship. We're asking our members to help get the word out and assist with events as needed. If

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Saturday, December 2, 10 am
You're invited to help!

We Welcome New Members

From Cheri Fallon, Editor

Over the last few months our congregation has gained almost 30 new members. We're blessed to have you all at Lincoln Park and hope you can call it your church home for a long time.

We'd like to hear about each one of you for our first issue of 2024: where you're from, your family, school, job,

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

From Mark Villecco

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent
One morning service at 10 am

Christmas Eve

5 pm Family Service,
10 pm Communion Service

Sunday after Christmas
December 31

ONE SERVICE AT 11 AM



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.”

Join Us for Breakfast on NOVEMBER 19!
Between Worship Services
Note the change this month to the THIRD Sunday due to the
Thanksgiving holiday.

I'm Thrilled to Share Great News with You.

From Music Director Irina Shmeleva

**On November 26 we'll host the performance
of *Sing Messiah* in our church.**

Here are some facts about one of the most world popular oratorio of all times:



Handel composed *Messiah* in a remarkably short time. He began August 22, 1741, and completed the work in 24 days.

Deeply inspired,

Handel claimed to have seen a vision of heaven and wrote the *Hallelujah Chorus* in a burst of creative fervor. The libretto for *Messiah* was compiled by Charles Jennens, a wealthy landowner and devout Christian. He selected verses from the Bible emphasizing the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Messiah was first performed in Dublin, Ireland, on April 13, 1742, with huge success. It quickly gained international popularity and is now performed worldwide, especially at Christmas time. While *Messiah* is often associated with Christmas, originally Handel composed it for Lent and Easter. But, the oratorio has been performed in various ways over the years. Handel himself made changes to the piece for different performances, and modern renditions can vary in terms of orchestration and soloists. Although it's often performed with large choirs, Handel composed it for a relatively small ensemble before adapting it later for larger

Conducted by William W. Snelling
With Soloists

Katherine Crusi, Soprano
Maria Damore, Mezzo-Soprano

John Coakley, Tenor

Milo Morris, Bass-Baritone

Accompanied by the
Berks Chamber Orchestra

Please bring your own score
Separate seating for non-singers
Handicapped accessible
Donations accepted

groups.

The *Hallelujah Chorus* is one of the most famous parts of *Messiah*, and it's customary for the audience to stand during this section. This tradition is said to have started with King George II's spontaneous standing during the performance.

I'm looking forward to this with huge excitement. It'll be a completely new experience for me to take even a small part in the performance of this majestic music. So, Lincoln Park, get ready! Start practicing in the shower. Find your own *Messiah* music on the book shelf. **To support this wonderful event - please consider a donation, specifying that it goes toward the *Sing Messiah* fund.**

Family, Fun, and Faith

From Pastor Quentin Wallace

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

1 Peter 4:8-11

For nearly seven years, I worked at a college as the Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs Director and International Student Advisor. During my tenure I heard many stories from students and I'd like to share this one.

Each year, many on campus felt that it would be great for our campus professors, administrators, or American students to invite international students to their homes over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. While I didn't think it was a good idea, I'm a team player so I promoted the idea on campus.

Not to my surprise, only a few administrators responded and, as a result, a few students were hosted by a couple of American families. However, it didn't go well to say the least. Immediately following the weekend, several international students came to my office upset and traumatized, and here's why.

Apparently when they went to the home of one family for the weekend, a family fight ensued as the foreign students watched. They were terrified. Because of that outcome, I no longer

encouraged international students to go to the homes of Americans for the holidays. Instead we opened one dormitory for international students to use over the holidays and provided van service for them. They were very appreciative.

Why did I share that story? Glad you asked. As we prepare to come together

with family over Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's, conversations may ensue in the midst of our gatherings that may cause arguments, debates, and divisions. The times in which we live can bring forth all types of opinions, emotions, and feelings that create family rifts.

Therefore, we must keep Christ in the center and the importance of family, fun, and faith at the forefront. Family is the foundation of society and that's why families are so often under spiritual attack. The Apostle Paul, in Ephesians 6, explains that, in contentious moments, we're not confronting mere humans but spiritual wickedness manifested.

Continuing patiently with one another in love is the key to familial

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longevity and unity. No subject matter should ever divide the family so that compromise cannot occur. Keep family first.

One way to keep family together is to have fun, and create time for smiles and laughter. The family that plays together stays together. Special moments of fun will last lifetimes. Plan fun-filled events.

Further, we must be people of faith by displaying the love of Christ. At this season, preach often with actions and deeds, not only words. Show your family the love of Christ and they will begin to see Christ for themselves. Faith-filled parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles show by example that the Christian life can be lived even in the midst of a sinful world.

Finally, let's go through this season with thanksgiving in our hearts for all God has blessed us to experience. As we celebrate God sending Christ into the world for our redemption, let's live as the redeemed, being constantly in prayer, following the words of Peter the Apostle, *by being humble and patient and bearing with one another in love.*

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.

Pastor Quentin



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you're willing to help in any way, please see **Minister Brenda**. Our first event is December 9. Stay tuned for more details. Please save the date.

You're Invited

**You're Invited
December 9**



**Family Fun
Featuring KooKoo the
Magician, Food, Magic
Show, and gifts for all
registered children
To reserve your place,
call 610-777-1422.**

.From Music Director, Irina Shmeleva

A special musical treat is coming our way,
A **CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND PLAY**,
including our kids and guest musicians.
Tentative date is **Sunday, December 17**,
in the afternoon.

Hello Church Family!

From Jim Gehman

Recently our Food Ministry Committee met to evaluate our projects in terms of reaching goals, encouraging participation, and controlling finances. The major item discussed was *How can we encourage more of you —our church family—to become involved in this ministry?* Here's what the Food Ministry is all about

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE: We prepare and serve six meals a year there to approximately 75 to 85 people. We decided that preparing one or two types of meals for the year will help control costs and meal preparation less complicated. Keeping the cost to \$200 a meal means an estimated yearly cost of \$1,200.

How can you help?

- ♦ Volunteer to help make the meal in our Church Kitchen, with four-five others, for about three hours.
- ♦ Volunteer to serve the meal at Opportunity House at 7 pm.
- ♦ Financially support this ministry. Can your family underwrite one meal a year? Or, could two to three families or individuals combine to finance a meal? **Any** monetary contribution helps cover costs of these dinners.

CARE MEAL: We continue to prepare a CARE meal for recipients identified by the committee. At present, we prepare seven meals for church members and 10 for non-members. We make and deliver them on the second Tuesday of each

month. We try to keep the cost per meal between \$4-\$5.

How can you help?

- ♦ Volunteer to prepare and/or package the meals in our kitchen. Four-five volunteers are needed for several hours.
- ♦ Volunteer to deliver meals which are ready for delivery at 5 pm.
- ♦ Financially support our CARE Meal ministry. Your family could underwrite a monthly CARE meal once a year. **Any** monetary contribution will help with costs of this ministry. Do you know anyone who might need a CARE meal? If so, please notify the Church Office.

FOURTH SUNDAY BREAKFAST:

We serve breakfast every fourth Sunday, at 10 am. Scheduling it between services allows our entire church family to eat together. We strive to provide a diverse menu with something for everyone.

This ministry continues to grow. Our October breakfast fed about 80 people. If you haven't attended, give it a try. It's a great way to meet members of our church family whom you don't normally see.

We've created a menu that costs approximately \$100. To help with costs and allow our talented congregation to share, we'll ask three members each

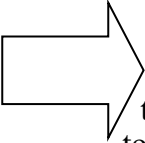
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month to provide a dessert. We'll also continue a "Good Will" offering designated for local missions.

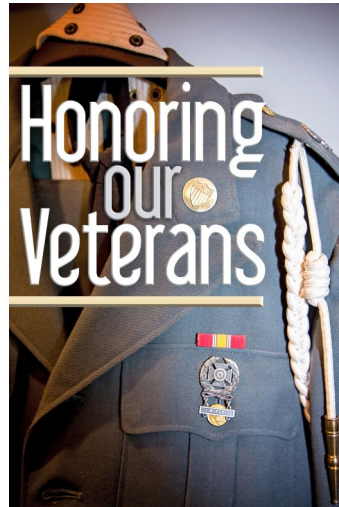
How can you help?

- ♦ Volunteer to prepare the meal (which takes about two hours) before the 10 am breakfast.
- ♦ Clean up after the meal.
- ♦ Fund a meal once a year. Perhaps two or three families could fund a meal once a year.
- ♦ Be one of three volunteers to prepare a dessert each month. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Wagner Room.

 *I consider you all members of the Food Ministry. Please think about the various ways to help. Are you willing to volunteer several hours to one or more of these valuable ministries? If more people help, no one feels overwhelmed.*

I hope you choose to support at least one of these ministries. Your family can fund one meal a year; two or three families can join forces to do the same; or you can make a monetary contribution of any amount. **Please be sure to identify where your contribution should be used.**

I strongly believe in the *Power of Positive Thinking*...so please include the Food Ministry in your prayers and consider how you can help. I know there is something there for each one of you.



The ashes of **Rolland Ackelson**, a long-time church member who died February 23, 2022 were interred with full Military Honors on Friday, September 1, at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. Rolland's widow, **Bernie**, is a resident at the Highlands.

Trunk or Treat 2023 Is Better than Ever

15 decorated cars, 130 children collecting treats, a Praise Band, hot dogs, and desserts on a

beautiful, warm and sunny day: Perfect!



Thank You for Your Generosity

From Carol Bashore, Missions

Our Missions Committee finished its recent food drive for **HELPING HARVEST**, packed the foods you donated, and wrote a check for money you gave to help the hungry in Berks County. Again, with your help we surpassed our goals for giving.

It's almost time for the **ANGEL TREE PROJECT**. Soon the Salvation Army will match us with a family or families in need, and we'll collect gifts and money to give them a joyful Christmas. They provide us with a list



of gifts, and we can choose what we'd like to buy and which family member we'd like to buy for.

Stay tuned for details.

Our congregation has a reputation for being very reliable with our giving!

The Missions Committee is thankful and amazed by the continual support you've shown for our projects.

From Jerry Manhart, Stewardship and Finance Chair



A big THANK YOU to the estate of **Arlene R. Lentz** for the donation to our church. Arlene was a member of our church and a past member of our teller counting team.

The donation came at a critical time since our expenses and ministries have outpaced income and contributions. It will also help in planning our 2024 Budget.

This fall we intend to try a new way of presenting the budget, called *Creating a Narrative Budget*. It will show the impact of our mission and ministry. We want to align the congregational budget with the mission and vision of our church. The church budget is an expression of a church's commitment to its mission. Our mission statement is **Seeking and Sharing Christ**.

We extend our deepest sympathy...

† To family and friends of **Arlene Lentz**, 99, who passed on July 18 in the Highlands. **The Rev Dr Quentin Wallace** officiated a Celebration of Life service on September 30. Arlene was a teacher and principal before retiring and becoming a real estate broker.

† To the family of **David Miller**, 79, who died on October 18. He was the loving husband of **Loreen Miller** for 56 years before she passed in September, 2021. David is survived by two children: **Donna Pitkoff**, wife of **Barry**, and **Richard Miller**, husband of **Elizabeth**, and grandchildren **Brodie**, **Benjamin**, and **Corrine**.



† To **Joan Smith** on the loss of her husband, **Wilbur ("Bill") Smith**, 91, on October 11. "He was a generous, loving man," says Joan. He is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

† To **Michael Sands** on the loss of his father.

† To **Bill Lape** on the passing of his sister, **Beverly**.

May God surround you all with His love and care.

Bring on the Poinsettias !

From KC Dianna

We all especially enjoy worship in our beautiful sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons. One way you can help decorate is by ordering red, white, or pink poinsettias.

The cost is \$9 each; they can be dedicated *in honor of*, *in memory of*, or to the *Glory of God*. They'll be decorating our sanctuary on December 17 and Christmas Eve, and you can take them home after Christmas Eve services.

Orders (on inserts in the Sunday bulletin) and payment (cash or checks) 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 or email, kcb1014@yahoo.com. I cannot accept cash.



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hobbies, perhaps why you joined. We have photos of most of you, but, if you prefer one of your own, you can send that too. Please email cherfallon@comcast.net, leave a note in my mailbox in the Church Office, or mail it to me there.

Welcome!

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS ARE:

Tiffany Welch, The Rev Dr Quentin Wallace, Dr Brenda Ingram-Wallace, Jaedon, Quenel, Thearren (TeTe) Wallace, Dawn Eyrich, Darlene Steinmetz, Lily Eyrich, Ashley Roberts, Kimberly Birts, Tyler Birts, Michelle Drumheller, Thomas Lasher, Brandon and Jennifer Freed, Kateryna Bobarsky, Dottie Lefever, Joan Jepsen, Robert and Sandra Zechmann, Joseph and Kathy Cafoncelli.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



**December
30**
for our early
Jan-Feb
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

**Happy Anniversary
Cindy & Dave
Kercher**

married in our
church 45
years ago

36 People Came Out for Apple Picking



**Happy
Thanksgiving**

Let us give thanks!

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!

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, 610-334-8472

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.