

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *March– April 2024*

Celebrate Holy Week and Easter Sunday with Us



From Mark Villecco
Worship Chair & Contemporary
Program Coordinator

Palm Sunday

March 24, 9 & 11 am

Holy Thursday Service

March 28, 7 pm

Good Friday Service

March 29, 7 pm

Easter Sunday Services

March 31

9 am Contemporary

11 am Traditional

FLOWERING OF THE CROSS at both services. Flowers provided, but you may also bring your own.

Behold, Christ Has Risen!



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

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.”

Welcome Friends, Family, Neighbors to our Fourth Sunday Breakfasts!

Please join us at 10 am for a free homecooked meal in between services once a month. It’s an opportunity for participants of both services to get together and for catching up with church friends. The food is delicious, too!



March: Breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 24.
April: Breakfast canceled!
Memorial Hall infested with “Fleas” for annual Flea Market, Saturday, May 18.
May: Breakfast resumes Memorial Day weekend, May 26.

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!

Lincoln Park's Got Talent!

Thearren "TeTe" Wallace presented a passionate rendition of *My Shot* from the Broadway Play, *Hamilton*, on Sunday, February 18, at both services. Both performances, consisting of a number of characters dialoguing, were met with standing ovations. The ease in which the words and rhythms flow is phenomenal.

TeTe memorized the entire monologue in just several days for a project in middle school. She has since presented at churches, on BCTV, and at Albright College. Additionally, TeTe is a singer, dancer, and writes poetry and spoken work. We look forward to hearing more from her in the future.



Bring Your Easter Basket On Easter Morning!



deadline for donations is **March 24**. Everyone is welcome! Also, the Easter Bunny will be there if you'd like to get a picture with him and your children or grandchildren.

From KC Dianna

Your kids and grandkids, ages 0-12, are invited for our church and community **EASTER EGG HUNT** between services, at 10 am.

Want to help? There's a donation box in the Wagner Room for candy (**wrapped** and **small** enough to fit in standard plastic Easter eggs).and for monetary donations. The

Please Help Decorate Our Beautiful Church With Flowers ...

From KC Dianna

...and take them home after Easter services. We'll have lilies, tulips, and daffodils at only \$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, call **KC**, 484-955-9402, fill out forms in the Wagner Room, or call the Church Office, 610-777-1422. Checks should be payable to LPCUMC. Thank you!



It's About Trust

From Pastor Quentin Wallace

Then Jesus told him, because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. John 20:29

Once I was listening to a teaching by the late Rev Fred Price. During his sermon he held up his Bible and asked the audience in a crowded auditorium, *Do you believe this is a Bible?* And all who could clearly see that the book had *Holy Bible* inscribed on it, said, *Yes*. The Rev Price responded, *You don't have to believe it because you can see it.*

In our world of new inventions and technological advances, we're asked continually to believe before we see. In the news this past week, I learned that immediately following a celebration of the Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl parade, there was a mass shooting.

Seriously, another senseless act of violence, I thought. *Can this be brought under control?* Yet we're asked to believe gun violence can be curtailed. There are other issues which we're called to believe can be fixed — like homelessness, inflation, or that peace can come where there is war. That's a great deal of believing without seeing.

In the text above, Jesus said to Thomas, *Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*

Why would those who haven't seen be more blessed? That doesn't make sense, because seeing isn't connected to believing?

However, Jesus says true faith is belief without seeing, first based on trust. Because

only a select few of his disciples saw him after the resurrection, millions more would have had to rely on blind faith and trust.

So far, over the past months, we, as people of faith, have had to trust without seeing on many occasions, trusting in the power of prayer after hearing heart-wrenching news or physicians' reports.

Keep in mind: There's one thing we have that the faithless do not, and that is **trust in God**. In March we'll celebrate the resurrection of Christ although we didn't see it. Yet we

(Continued on page 6)



Lincoln Park Selected for Top UMC's Discipleship Award

From Richard Auman



It started as a sharing of ideas, new ministries, and 2023 highlights at November's Charge Conference for nine Reading area churches. It turned into good news for our church.

Back on November 18, as part of the Conference, **District Superintendent Evelyn Kent-Clark** went around the room asking church leaders what stood out in their minds as highlights for their churches during 2023. New ministries, peach and strawberry festivals, and mission projects were among common items shared. While Lincoln Park leaders highlighted similar areas of our ministry, it apparently was when we noted adding 23 persons to our membership rolls and having three baptisms from July 1 to mid-November that we caught the attention of DS Kent-Clark. She took her feelings to the conference cabinet where it was fully supported and submitted to the Discipleship Ministries for inclusion with other UMC Conferences One Matters Awards.

Pastor Quentin received a phone call from our **District Superintendent Evelyn Kent-Clark** who had questions about our profession of faith (in this case, new members) and baptism numbers. A few days later he received another call from her, telling him that Lincoln Park had received the **ONE MATTERS AWARD** for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

This membership-driven award is given to **only one church** in each conference annually by Discipleship Ministries of the Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. As part of the award, our church will receive a plaque and a \$1,000 check. Our District Superintendent confirmed that she'll personally make the presentation at our church.

Pastor Quentin said "I was humbled to have our congregation nominated for the OMA, because we are joyfully doing what Christ has called us to do. We give God the credit for the increase, and we thank the Bishop, DS Kent-Clark, and the EPAUMC for the acknowledgement."

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—Pastor Quentin Wallace

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**It's Time to Get Ready...
Lincoln Park's Flea Market 2024
Save the date: Saturday, May 18, 7 am to 2 pm**

From Jerry Manhart, Chair

We need everyone helping to be successful: before, during, and after May 18. How can you help?

- Donate fleas and books (in clean, unbroken, saleable condition) to Memorial Hall starting **April 1**. We'll accept fleas until **May 11**.
- Help price the fleas. Times to be announced closer to April 1.
- Donate beef barbeque, hot dogs, buns, beef vegetable soup, baked goods, cans of soda, bottled water, bags of ice.
- Work a 2-hour shift or more on Flea Market day, May 18. Jobs include inside sales cashier, kitchen cooks and sales, boutique sales, baked goods sales, book sales, plant sales, outside sales.
- Help clean up at 2 pm.
- Pack up leftover fleas on Monday, May 20, at 9 am. Help distribute leftovers to local charities.

**What Are
Fleas?**

Household items,
Books,
Collectibles &
Toys, Games, &
Puzzles
Baby equipment
Sports equipment
Tools
Garden accessories
Jewelry.

Contact **Jerry Manhart**, 610-777-2347, with questions or to volunteer help. You may signup in the Wagner Room. **Please Help! It's a great way to spend time with fellow church members and friends.**

(Continued from page 4) Pastor's Message

know that Jesus lives. And, in the midst of life's inconveniences, we'll continue to move forward as we trust God to take care of us.

While it's a challenge to believe what we haven't yet seen, we do it all the time.

Let us pray, believing and trusting these words of the apostle Paul.



A former Lincoln Park pastor, who was instrumental in bringing contemporary worship to our church more than 20 years ago, has announced his retirement from full-time church ministry on June 30.



The Rev Andrew Krpata

From Richard Auman

Andrew “Andy” Krpata, Lincoln Park’s Associate Pastor from 1998 to 2002, said: *Under the provisions of the Discipline, I am blessed to have served 27 years cumulatively in full-time ministry and retire only to continue in my call to the church as a pastoral coach (akin to life coaching.) My personal life mission is to grow people into the fullness of who they are.*

Andy’s first year in the ministry was in the North Carolina Conference before he came into the Eastern PA Conference and was assigned to Lincoln Park. After serving here, he was assigned to Roxborough Ridge Avenue Church in Philadelphia. He later served at Emilie in Levittown, Wesley in Bethlehem, and since July 2019, Andy has been the Senior Pastor at Lehman Memorial Church in Hatboro.

Now, at 53, Andy said he plans to live out God’s mission *in my calling to love and support the church in a new way.*

Some LP History: It’s been 22 years since our church started Contemporary Worship under **Andy Krpata**’s leadership.

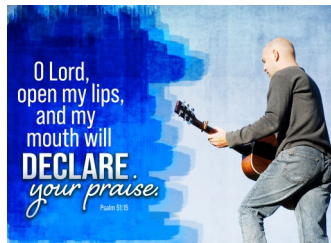
A small group from our church, led by **Linda Hope**, joined Pastor Krpata in an exploration task force for Contemporary Worship. **Den- nis Antunes** (who still works the sound

board for the 9 am Contemporary Service) and **Chad and Rebecca Chelius** were part of the search team. Following considerable research and numerous visits to other churches with this style of worship, they developed a proposal

that was submitted and approved by Church Council.

*Pastor Andy was instrumental in this endeavor and got the service up and running, Linda said. He worked with **Senior Pastor Larry (Carl)** to coordinate the theme and sermon of each service, and decided on music, prayers, and other details while serving as worship leader.”*

The initial contemporary band, now known as the Praise Band, included: **Pastor Andy**, **Lindsey Villecco**, and **Linda** as singers; **Melinda Karpata**, Andy’s wife on piano; **Kevin Villecco** on drums; **Chad Chelius** on guitar; and **Mark Villecco** on bass. Linda says: *Our first worship service was in the spring of 2002.*



Welcome to Our New Members

More to Come Next Issue!
From Cheri Fallon, Editor



Dawn Eyrich...

...of 1640 Liberty Ave, Reading 19607, is a graduate of Governor Mifflin HS. She is the mother of three daughters (also new church members) **Tiffany Welch**, **Ashley Roberts**, and **Lily Eyrich**. Dawn loves driving her Governor Mifflin school bus, and that's how she met our own **Barbara Leas**, who invited her to LP Church. "We really enjoy it," she says of LP Church. Dawn also works at Screpsi's Sandwich Shop. She loves walking with her three dogs, being with her grandkids —**Jason** and **Ella**— and family, shopping, and podcasts.

Darlene Steinmetz...

...lives with her daughter, **Dawn Eyrich**, at 1640 Liberty Ave, Reading 19607. She's also the grandmother of **Ashley Roberts**, **Tiffany Welch**, and **Lily Eyrich**. Darlene is a native Berks Countian and graduated from Governor Mifflin HS. She has worked at Walmart as a cashier and spent a lot of time raising children and grandchildren. "They were always here," she says of her eight grandchildren. "It was never quiet!" She also has two great-grandchildren, **Ella** and **Jackson** who are the children of **Ashley Roberts**. Darlene's husband, **William Steinmetz**, passed away seven years ago. She likes to crochet.

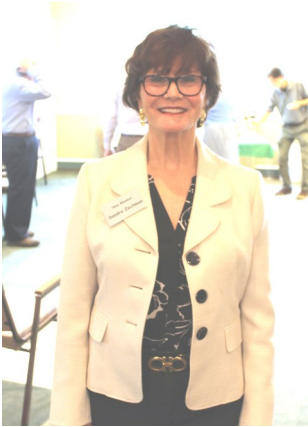


Ashley Roberts...

...and her husband **Jessie** live at 1135 Fern Ave, Reading 19607. They have two children, **Jackson** (8) and **Ella** (2) and also four dogs and 13 guinea pigs! She is a Governor Mifflin graduate who now drives school buses for the district. "I LOVE IT!" Ashley exclaims. "Those kids need tender, loving care." (Who wouldn't love having a driver like Ashley taking their kids to school?) In her free time she enjoys reading, gardening, and plants.

Robert & Sandra Zechman...

...live at 1233 Dauphin Ave, Wyomissing. Sandra grew up in California and Texas; her Dad was in the Air Force. She went to Vanderbilt University and spent a year at Cambridge University in England. Here in the Reading area, she worked at Vanity Fair in Marketing and also at Doneckers. Retired now, Sandra says, “Our lives revolve around our (nine) grandchildren and family.” She loves to read and also says, “We have a dog we love dearly.” Sandra is grateful for LP Church and says, “I can’t tell you how good it’s been for us coming here!”



Robert grew up in West Reading and graduated from West Reading HS in 1961. He has a degree from TriState University, Indiana, in Electrical Engineering. Bob and Sandra have been married for 35 years and have three children and nine grandchildren. Bob worked at MetEd for 39 years as VP of Engineering Operations and Construction. He retired in 2003 after careers at MetEd, PA Electric, GPU Energy, and New Jersey Power & Light. “I grew up poor,” says Bob, “and I learned how to work hard.” Bob has also volunteered over the years for the United Way, St. Joseph Hospital, Olivet Boys’ and Girls’ Club, and the Red Cross.



Come for Bible Study with Pastor Quentin Wallace *The Keys to Happiness, Wednesdays 7 pm*

The International Day of Happiness is observed on March 20 (also the first day of spring this year; coincidence?). Jesus said we’ll be happy (or “blessed”) when we’re meek, merciful, pure and so on (see his Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12). In other words, happiness results from putting others’ needs above our own.

Research confirms that helping others boosts people’s self-esteem, forges strong friendships, offers a sense of belonging and purpose, decreases stress, increases gratitude and sparks others to “pay it forward.” In fact, University of Texas researchers found that the “activism cure” is a great way to overcome bouts of sadness. So get helping — and get happy!



Clothing for Hope Rescue Mission

From Carol Bashore

We hope you saw our 2023 review of all the wonderful support our church gave to local missions last year. Hopefully, we'll have the same generous hearts as we prepare to assist both old and new organizations this year. Please continue to donate to the Ukraine or UMCOR until the bombing and destruction ends.

Starting soon and running through April, we'll have a clothing drive for **Hope Rescue Mission**. Last September they opened a new center called **The Lighthouse**. This new building is designated specifically for women and children. We'll collect clothing for all genders and ages.

They've requested new or gently used shoes, belts, hats, scarves, purses, blankets, and coats for any season. All should be clean. They especially asked for NEW men's underwear, undershirts, and sweatpants medium to XXL.)

There are three containers in the Wagner Room: one for men's, one for women's, and one for children's items. We'll also accept financial contributions through plate envelopes, office mail, or online Vanco. Please mark those contributions specifically for *Hope Rescue Mission*.

Let's all help make this clothing drive another success in Lincoln Park's outreach to those in need. Thanks.



The Fun Continues at LP Church!

From Dr Brenda Ingram-Wallace and Barbara Leas



The Nurture and Christian Ed Teams are planning for upcoming months. Please save the dates on your calendars.

Saturday, May 4, at 2 pm, we'll hold our second community outreach event sponsored by the Dewees grant. **Chris Ivey**, a nationally acclaimed character juggler will be our featured guest. Chris brings a powerful gospel message while entertaining all ages with exceptional juggling skills. His son has joined his act, making it a family affair. This is an interactive event where you might find a new skill as a juggling apprentice. It's free and open to the public. Please invite your family, neighbors, and friends. Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, June 1: End of School Bash

Time to be determined for an outdoor party with games and food trucks. If you know of food trucks that might participate, please contact Barb Leas or Minister Brenda.

Saturday, September 7: Trip to Knoebels. Save the date.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



April 15
for our
May-June
issue

Change of Address

Suzanne Romig
Phoebe Berks Village
1 Reading Dr Apt 144
Wernersville PA 19565
610-927-8730

The Rev Frank Sanders
2075 Cumberland Ave
Reading PA 19606
610-743-4084

Steven & Moira Fallon
455 Miller Rd
Reading PA 19608

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



From Dr Brenda Ingram-Wallace
Our Superbowl Party was an overwhelming success, with a delightful assortment of food and great fellowship. Special thanks to **TeTe Wallace**

for providing a safe space for the children to play. We already look forward to next year. Perhaps your favorite team will bring home the ring. But for this year, GO CHIEFS!



LP's Christian Ed Team
has announced that Vacation
Bible School will be
July 15-19. The theme is
SCUBA!!



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.