



News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *Winter 2024*



From Richard Auman

At our annual Charge Conference in November, with our District Superintendent presiding, two members of our church —

Brenda Ingram-Wallace
and **Michelle Drumheller**

— were approved to continue their roles as **CHRIST SERVANT MINISTERS.**

While Christ Servant Ministry has been part of Methodism long before our church (an Evangelical United Brethren congregation) merged with the Methodist Church in 1968, this is the first time that Lincoln Park has had two laity members who have taken this path of service as Christ Servant Ministers.

In our March-April *News-Line* you'll hear their stories and why they chose this ministry.

Needed: Children and Youth Education Coordinator

If you know of anyone who loves serving the Lord, loves children, and who might qualify as our next Children and Youth Education Coordinator, please ask them to apply. The form is on our website, under *About Us-Job Postings*. Or, call **Linda Livingood** in the Church Office, 610-777-1422.

Did you know 80% of people find jobs through people they know?



From Carol Bashore, Missions

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ANGEL TREE FAMILY. We provided everything on our family's wish list as well as gift cards for groceries. We also combined the Christmas Eve plate cash, with sales of Christmas Flea Market purchases, plus \$78 from our Missions Fund to send a check of \$1,000 to Helping Harvest. In the Wagner Room, on the round bulletin board, next to the coffee jugs, you can read thank you notes from each agency we supported in 2024. They're all so grateful for your generosity.



WELL DONE, CHURCH FAMILY!



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

From **Mark Villecco**, Worship Committee Chair

HEARTFELT THANKS to everyone who contributed to the Hanging of the Greens on November 30. Your hard work and dedication helped create a festive, welcoming atmosphere for the holidays. Additionally, a warm thank you to all who participated in making our Advent and Christmas services truly special. Your efforts and enthusiasm brought joy and inspiration to our church and community.



Lent begins on **ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5**
EASTER SUNDAY IS APRIL 20.

During Lent, Pastor Quentin will lead a *Faithful Living Bible Study*, on Wednesday evenings, at 7 pm. They will begin on March 12. All are welcome!

Friends, Family, Neighbors You're Invited for Fourth Sunday Breakfasts!

Please join us at 10 am, on **January 25** and **February 23** for a free, home-cooked, delicious meal and to catch up with church friends from both services, too!

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 and appears at the top of the "Posts" listings, just below the picture of the altar. **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."**

Christmas Cantata Delights



You Can Plan On It: Flea Market '25 May 17

From **Jerry Manhart**, Chair
May 17 has been set for our 2025 Flea Market. If your New Year's resolution is to clean up and make room for your Christmas gifts, please remember that our church has limited space to store fleas.

However, **after the 4th Sunday in March**, we'll set up tables in Memorial Hall and then we'll have plenty of room for all your fleas.

Please reserve these dates:
March 24: Help set up tables in Memorial Hall and
May 17: Be available to help at the Flea Market.

Staff-Parish Committee Update

From Barbara Olawae, Chair

We are blessed to have a great pastor and supporting staff who make our church life and worship feed our souls. As this new year began, we were able to extend blessings to our employees with wage increases. This is only made possible by your continued support. Thank you!

As we move forward into 2025, we are seeking to add to our staff to support our children and youth. The Children and Youth Education Coordinator position is open for applicants. The form is on our website under *About Us-Job Postings*.

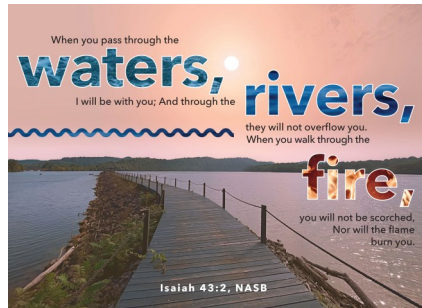
You Can Count On It: God's Spiritual Protection Plan

From Pastor Quentin Wallace

But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. -Isaiah 43:1-2

On Christmas Eve, our dryer — filled with wet clothes — quit on us after 10 years of faithful service . Luckily, a laundromat was open, and we could dry a large load of clothes. In the past, whenever we had a problem with an appliance, we'd simply call the home warranty company. However, we'd allowed the warranty to lapse (after many years of renewing) and we had to purchase a new dryer out of pocket. Although we regretted not renewing our warranty, thank God we had the funds.

At that moment, we realized the importance of maintaining a protection plan. When I worked in sales at Sears in the exercise equipment department, the managers always asked each sales associate to offer customers a maintenance agreement. Some took it; others did not. Those who refused said, *Nothing's going to happen* or *That's just a plan to make more money on a sale*. Sadly, when something happened after the brief manufacturer's warranty ran out, those without a maintenance agreement were stuck



with a repair bill.

In the passage above, Isaiah shares a prophecy from the Lord. It sounds like an all-inclusive protection plan with a covenant from God. In short, we, as followers of Christ —who have been called and redeemed— are covered by a spiritual protection plan that never lapses. We are claimed and cared for. Our God has promised to be with us in all situations, keeping us afloat when problems try to drown us, and not allowing us to be overcome by flames of despair in trying times.

As we begin 2025, always remember three things:

- God is in control,
- God is present with us, and
- God can sustain us no matter what.

To know you have coverage from God is a significant message of promise and hope for the faithful. May each of you have a prosperous, faith-filled new year.

Blessings,

Pastor Quentin

Thank You for Your Service

Bill Lape and **Leonard Motze**, **Deb Gehr's father**, enjoyed a Veteran's Day luncheon at the Heritage of Green Hills on November 11. Both men are veterans of the US Air Force and were long-time neighbors in Lincoln Park!



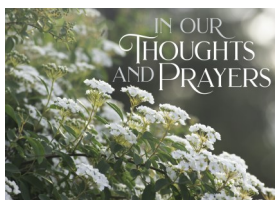
Dear Church Family and Friends,

For those who have asked, my husband **Richard** will be laid to rest in the columbarium at Arlington National Ceremony with full military honors on Friday, January 31. The short service will begin promptly at 11 am. I would like to thank you all for your support and friendship over the last two years.

Betty Larsen

We extend our deepest sympathy to...

...family and friends of longtime church member **Beverly Ruffner**, 80, who died on December 2. She had moved to Arizona during COVID to be closer to her son, **Steven Ruffner**. At church, Beverly enjoyed helping with the Flea Market and also regularly organized the team who collate and mail the *News-Linc*. Steven says, "When she was young she was a look-alike for Elizabeth Taylor." Her memorial service, at Forest Hills Memorial Park, was officiated by **Pastor Wallace**, on December 12.



And, to family and friends of **David Bausher**, who died on December 27. He was the husband of **Michele**, father to son **Edward**, daughter **Susan Smith**, stepson **Jason Tarbonic**, and stepdaughter **Heather Zimmerman**. He had four grandchildren. Dave went to Wyomissing HS and Albright College and served in the Navy for seven years. He joined the Wyomissing Police Department and was Chief of Police for about half of the 34 years he worked there. He served Wyomissing for 55 years, in other ways too, including as Mayor. **Pastor Wallace** officiated at his service on January 11.

Introducing Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2025

STAFF

Pastor	The Rev Dr Quentin Wallace
Music Director & Organist	Irina Shmeleva
Worship Director, 9 am Service	Mark Villecco
Office Administrator	Linda Livingood
Custodian	Carl Madeira
Nursery Attendant	Kathi Ernst, Margaret DAmico

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair	Geoffrey Whiteley
Vice-Chair	Jack Villecco
Secretary	Kris Wright
Lay Leader	Kris Gilham
Associate Lay Leader	Jim Gehman
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Jerry Manhart
Alternate Lay Member to Conference	Jack Villecco
Trustee Chair & Vice Chair	George Weikel, Rich Bashore
Finance Chair	Jerry Manhart
Treasurer	Cindy Kercher
Financial Secretaries	Richard & Carol Bashore
Nurture Chair	Brenda Ingram-Wallace
Missions Committee Chair	Carol Bashore
Nominations & Leadership Development Chair	Pastor Quentin Wallace
Nominations & Leadership Development Vice Chair	Roe Gehman
Worship Committee Chair	Mark Villecco
Staff Parish Relations Chair	Barbara Olawe
Christian Education Co-Chairs	Krista Gilham, Tori Whiteley
Endowment Chair	Rich Auman
Historian	Carl Madeira
Membership Secretary & Native American Ministries	Jack Villecco
Newsletter Editor	Cheri Fallon
Prayer Requests	Kris Wright

**STAFF: Quentin Wallace (Pastor), Mark Villecco (Worship Leader),
Irina Shmeleva (Director of Music)**

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Dan Christopher, Tom Blakely

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

George Weikel (Chair), Richard Bashore (Vice-Chair), Linda Mann (Secretary),
Mark Bisignaro, Jim Gehman, Nick Guercia, Bob McFeaters
Ex Officio: Pastor, Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Jerry Manhart (Chair), Cindy Kercher (Treasurer), Rich & Carol Bashore (Financial
Secretaries), Geoff Whiteley, Jack Villecco, Pam Shenk
Ex Officio Members: Pastor, Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference,
Church Council Chair, Staff Parish Chair, Trustees Chairs, Endowment Chair

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Rich Auman (Chair), Beth Auman (Secretary), Dan Christopher (Treasurer), Nick
Guercia, Don Schlosser, Jim Gehman, Jerry Manhart

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Roe Gehman (Vice Chair), Mark Villecco, Lou Manhart, Linda Hope, Karen
McFeaters, KC Dianna, Beth Auman
Ex Officio: Pastor (Chair), Associate Lay Leader, Alternate Member to Annual
Conference

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Barbara Olaewe (Chair), Kweku Addae-Mensah, Rich Auman, Michele Bausher,
Kasey Pierson, Sandy Beam
Ex Officio: Pastor, Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference

NURTURE COMMITTEE

Michelle Drumheller (Chair), Gretchen Garrity, Barb Leas, Jenna Hope Gracias,
Minister Brenda Wallace, Nancy Madeira, Krista Gilham
Ex Officio: Pastor, Lay Leader

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Krista Gilham & Victoria Whiteley (Co-Chairs), KC Dianna, Barbara Olaewe,
Lindsey Villecco Guercia, Lauren Pierson
Members at Large: Children's Time Leaders, Children's Choir Leaders, Sunday
School Adult Leaders.
Ex Officio: Pastor, Lay Leader

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MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Deb Gehr & Carol Bashore (Co-Chairs) Dave Kercher, Victoria Whiteley, Diane Fisher, Jim Eckert, Barbara Olaewe
Ex Officio: Pastor, Lay Leader

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark Villecco (Chair); Kris Wright (Secretary); Ann Heller; Jean Weikel; Karen McFeaters; Lindsey Villecco Guercia; KC Dianna; Deb Gehr
Ex Officio: Pastor; Director of Music; Lay Leader; Custodian; Lector Scheduling and Paraments - Jack Villecco; Usher Team Captain (11 am) - Richard Auman; Greeter and Usher Scheduling 9 and 11 am - Jack Villecco; Communion Stewards - Assigned Usher Team; Linens & Communion Setup and Removal - George Weikel, Nancy Madeira

FOOD MINISTRY TEAM

Alan Koelble (Chair), Jim & Roe Gehman, Dave & Cindy Kercher, Kris Gilham, Randy & Margo Hill, Lou & Jerry Manhart, Jean & George Weikel, Sarah George, Geoff Whiteley, Karen McFeaters, Brian Freed

AUDIOVISUAL TEAM

Mark Villecco, Kris Gilham, Dennis Antunes Nick Guercia, Jerry Manhart, Jack Villecco, Rich Auman, Geoff Whiteley, Linda Hope

AUDIT TEAM

David Gehr, Beth Auman

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Carl Madeira, Jack Villecco, Cheri Fallon

GARDEN CLUB

Carl Madeira, Jill Raber, Barbara Olaewe, Jean Weikel, Rebecca Kennedy, Joan Sands, Krista Gilham, Pat Mejabi

**“Anyone can be great, because anybody can serve.
You don’t have to have a college degree to serve.
You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree
to serve. You only need a heart full of grace – a soul
generated by love.”**

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

Francisco: The Man, The Myth, The Legend

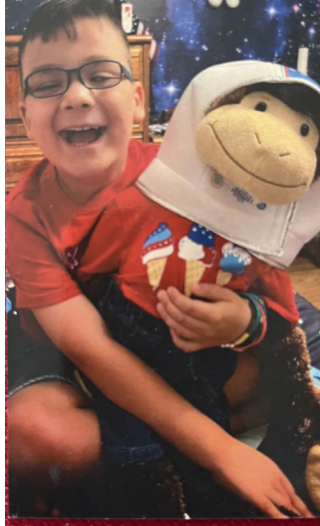
From Cheri Fallon, Editor

That's what they call **Francisco** at school. This lovable guy is our great-nephew, my brother's grandson, and son of my nephew **Ryan** and wife **Laura**.

He battled an incurable brain tumor (DIPG) for 18 months. Francisco was the bravest of the brave, and also funny and charming. He played tricks and made jokes with doctors. He smiled at appointments and research trials.

After a setback in the hospital, he'd returned to school in a wheelchair. I imagine there was concern that he might always be using it. One day, he decided to leave the chair in the hall and walk to his seat. When the teacher arrived, she found him sitting at his desk with a big smile. Classmates, friends, priests, doctors, nurses, and teachers adored him.

Diagnosed at age seven, **Francisco** outlived the disease's eight-10 month average life expectancy. **Laura** and **Ryan** knew that his time on earth was limited. Of course, they grieved and prayed, along with many others (including you and me) hoping for healing, a medical breakthrough, a miracle, peace. They went about making life spe-



cial for Francisco, living one day at a time, and saying *yes* to all opportunities. Like trips to NASA (he loved outer space) the beach, Disney World. Laura wrote journal entries and posted them to a Facebook group, where she shared what was happening, about her heartfelt feelings, and their remarkable faith and gratitude.

Francisco was very religious and didn't know if he wanted to be an astronaut, a priest, or maybe both. His parents decided early on to tell him about his condition, and he seemed to accept it but didn't want to be separated from them. They explained *Time is different in Heaven*, and that they'd all be together again soon. They joked about it: His little sister, **Mariana**, had a reputation for being a bit wild (what three year old isn't?) His Mom said, *Francisco, when you get to Heaven and hear that Mariana is on the way, remember to warn them!* Francisco also liked to tease his priest, saying, *Father Bob, I'm going to beat you to Heaven!*

Sometimes we hear a story like Francisco's and think *Where is God?* But, in this situation, I need to tell you:

GOD WAS EVERYWHERE!

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In Francisco's story, God and His love showed up in parents, grandparents, church, friends, doctors, and **especially** in Francisco's wise, fun-loving soul. His 18-month journey was full of love, gratitude, courage, and a steady confidence in God.

This amazes me: Only a week before learning of Francisco's sad diagnosis, Laura and Ryan got surprising news: They were expecting twins. Wow. Can you imagine having twins while caring for three-year old Mariana and Francisco - who had many appointments, hospitalizations, and research trials? Whew!

But all this chaos and busyness brought more of God's love, kindness, and help into their family life. Their community, church, and school started meal trains, babysitting, and - after the twins arrived - baby-holders. Grandparents stepped in daily, picking Francisco and Mariana up from school, taking him to appointments, even sleeping in the hospital with him when his parents could not. Oh, the beauty of all these people surrounding them with love and care!

The last month of Francisco's time on earth was full, although he showed

more and more signs of his illness. The twins, **Gabriel** and **Mateo**, had their first birthday. Francisco loved these identical boys so much, and we're thankful he lived to know them. For his own ninth birthday, there was a party at my brother's house with food, family, and friends. The Sunday before he died, his parents asked friends to come by to visit Francisco and many did.

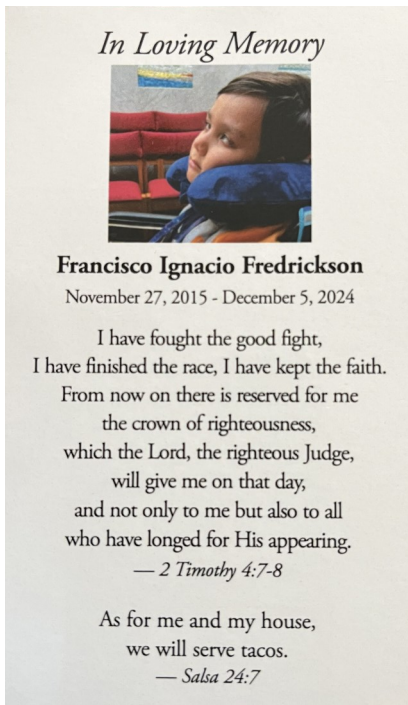
In those last days, he couldn't talk but communicated by typing. Sadly, he wrote to his parents and grandmother: *I'm ready. and It's coming.* **He knew where he was going.**

And so, on December 5, in his Mother's arms and holding his Dad's hand, Francisco slipped away to Heaven. A smile came over his face, Laura said.

Ryan and Laura had talked with Francisco about his funeral; he wanted everyone to wear blue and green, his favorite colors. And, afterward, he wanted a party!! With tacos!!! Desserts!!!

At the funeral, there was sadness but also an aura of joy for having known and loved Francisco; his party afterward was filled with children running around and lots of people hugging. The mood was this:

Thank you God for giving us such a beautiful boy in our midst.





Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



February 15
for our early
March –April issue

Congratulations!

Linda and Earl Hope are excited to announce that their son, **Matthew Hope** married **Fallon Mashkovich** in a self-uniting ceremony. They celebrated afterward with both families at an intimate wedding dinner party at Osteria's, Philadelphia, on November 17. The couple lives in Philadelphia with their dog Bobby.



Fallon is a Neurosurgery Nurse Practitioner at Crozer Chester Medical in Chester, PA. Matt is a first-year Cardiology Fellow at Main Line Health System/Lankenau Medical Center, Wynnewood, PA.

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 & Jerry Manhart, Mark Villecco, Ed Fallon



Bill Lape

101 Inspiration Blvd.

Apt. #209

Reading PA 19607

Birth

Nora Elizabeth Pierson, daughter of **Lauren** and **Kasey Pierson**, was born on October 18, 2024, weighing 6 lbs 13.5 oz. She is the sister of **Jalen** (3 1/2) and **Lucas** (1 1/2.) "They love her a lot," says **Lauren**, "and are being good brothers."



Opportunity
House

LP Church will prepare, deliver, and serve dinner at Opportunity House on **March 4** and **May 6**. Help is usually needed from 3– 7 pm. Come and join us. It feels good to help others!

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 Quentin Wallace, pastorquentin@lpcumc.org, 610-334-8472

Contemporary Program Coordinator: Mark Villecco

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

Office Administrator: Linda Livingood, linda@lpcumc.org

Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Margaret DAmico

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; 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.

