

News-Line

*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania* *March –April 2025*

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



ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5
Dinner 5:30 pm • Worship at 7 pm

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13
9 and 11 am Worship

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17
Service at 7 pm

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18
Service at 7 pm, **Jesus' Seven Last Words
from the Cross** (more info on p. 3)

**Sign Up for
Ash Wednesday Dinner
March 5**

From Kris Gilham
Lay Leader

Before the Ash Wednesday Service, we'll have dinner together, starting at 5:30 pm. The menu will be the same as last year: baked ziti with sweet Italian sausage, salad, and garlic bread. So we can plan how much to make, please sign up by Sunday, March 2, using the sheet at the back of the sanctuary. Or, you can email me at ktg110@gmail.com, or contact me on my cell, 814-577-6187.



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

Good Friday, April 18, 7 pm

Speakers Reflect on the Seven Last Sayings Christ Spoke from the Cross

1. *Father forgive them for they know not what they do.* Luke 23:34
Reflection by **Barbara Olaewe**
2. *Truly I say to you, Today you will be with me in Paradise.* Luke 23: 39-43
Reflection by **Geoff Whiteley**
3. *'Woman behold your Son!'* Then he said to the disciple, *'Behold your mother!'*
John 19:25–27. Reflection by **Michelle Drumheller**
4. *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me.* Matthew 27:45-47
Reflection by **Randy Hill**
5. *I thirst.* John 19:28-29 Reflection by **Lou Manhart**
6. *It is finished.* John 19:30 Reflection by **Nick Guercia**
7. *Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!* Luke 23:46
Reflection by **Jim Gehman**



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

Please join us at 10 am, on March 23 and April 30, for a free, homecooked, 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.”**

Opportunities for Growth and Reflection

Beginning March 12,
Join Pastor Quentin for a
Faithful Living Bible Study
Wednesday evenings, at 7 pm.
All are welcome!



Randy Hill and Barbara Olaewe to Lead Adult Sunday School Class

The Adult Sunday School group will meet in Memorial Hall, at 10:10 am, for six Sundays, March 2 through April 13 (*not* including March 23.) **Barbara Olaewe** and **Randy Hill** will facilitate discussion on the study, *How Do You Walk the Walk You Talk?* by **Kay Arthur**. She is a well-known Christian author of 100+ books, and her studies are always insightful. You won't want to miss it!

Bring Your Easter Baskets

From KC Dianna

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will happen between church services. I'll be collecting wrapped candy donations and cash to purchase small gifts for the eggs. It's easiest for me if you put cash in an envelope and place it with the donations in the Wagner Room, instead of doing it online.



Let's Start Thinking about Flowers and Warmer Weather

From KC Dianna



It's time to order flowers to decorate our church for Easter and take home afterward. We'll have daffodils, tulips, and lilies, at \$9 each. Order forms will be available at church, or please call or email me: Kcb1014@yahoo.com or 484-955-9402. Payments can be placed in the offering plate, in the Church Office, or made online.

Let's Shout About It!

From Pastor Quentin Wallace

The soil makes the young plant come up. A garden causes seeds to grow. In the same way, the Lord and King will make godliness grow. And all the nations will praise him. Isaiah 61:11

Last week the Philadelphia Eagles won the 59th Super Bowl in a very decisive win. The fans of the Eagles went wild. The people of Philadelphia took to the streets; excitement filled the air. Every fan felt like a winner themselves with great pride. Throughout the next week team members were on TV shows and in the spotlight as they were showered with praise.

It's amazing that a winning sports team has the ability to lift spirits. On the Friday after the win there was a parade and rally in Philadelphia, and thousands were in attendance.

It's great to be on the winning side and to share the glory by wearing team jerseys, caps, and putting stickers on cars. In the scripture passage above the prophet Isaiah speaks of how one day godliness and God will be praised throughout the nations.

It was no problem — and even encouraging and exciting — for fans to take to the streets and give accolades of praise for the Philadelphia Eagles team. On another note, how would it be viewed if people took to the streets to praise God the same way?

As we enter the spring months, we pray for accolades of praise for God to grow exponentially. I believe this can occur through the seeds we plant; seeds of gratitude and love.

With God we're on the winning team always...Let's shout about it.

Blessings,
Pastor Quentin



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!



Julie Stites was our Worship Leader for the Contemporary Service more than 10 years ago, before moving to Hershey to be a houseparent at the Milton Hershey School. She played a big role in establishing our Contemporary Service.

You might remember her son John as a typical little 3rd grader. Last spring John graduated from Hershey High School and is now a music major at Susquehanna University. He sings in their choir — which will present a concert at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6th and Washington Streets, Reading, on **SUNDAY, MARCH 23, AT 4 PM.**



John is also on scholarship with the Susquehanna Valley Choir. While he is an accomplished tenor, he sings bass in his solo repertoire and continues to play his tuba.

Julie is planning on coming to the concert as well. Perhaps you might enjoy seeing them and hearing the concert.

Lincoln Park's Flea Market 2025 Saturday, May 17, 7 am to 2 pm

We're hoping you'll be part of this annual church fundraiser before, during, and after May 17. How can you help?

- Donate fleas and books (in clean, unbroken, saleable condition) to Memorial Hall starting **March 24**. We will need help setting up tables that day. If you'd like to help pricing the fleas, we'll announce the times closer to March 24. As always, we look forward to your donations of barbecue, hot dogs, buns, beef vegetable soup, baked goods, cans of soda, bottled water, and bags of ice.

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

We're Blessed to Have Two Christ Servant Ministers "Watching Over Us With Love"

From Richard Auman

In our last *News-Linc* we announced that two of our members were approved to continue their roles as Christ Servant Ministers. Many of our members have never heard of this ministry, so we did a little research on what exactly is a Christ Servant Minister or CSM.

The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, described the job of a CSM as "watching over one another in love." (*Book of Discipline* 2016)

In 2000 **Brenda Ingram-Wallace** felt a call to preach but didn't want to become a pastor. She didn't find anything fitting her needs until she moved to the United Methodist Church where she began the process of becoming a Christ Servant Minister. The CSM track seemed to be the perfect fit. "This was a place where I could serve in my exact niche," Brenda said.

Michelle Drumheller wanted more to do than sit or sing in church on a Sunday morning. So, she began a conversation with Pastor Quentin when he was at New Beginnings Church in Reading more than 20 years ago. When he started talking about the Christ Servant Minister program, Michelle says, "my interest was piqued."

When anyone decides to enter this program of service to church and God, they need their pastor's approval; the Church Council and Charge Conference must vote on them before the District Superintendent gives a final endorsement. Then, they must complete their initial training. Later, to maintain their CSM credentials, they have more training and get approvals every two years from their Charge Conference.

Over the last 20 years Brenda has focused on preaching, assisting the pastor, and teaching and care ministries. Besides serving the local church, Brenda has served churches in Philadelphia, Lancaster, and Bethlehem.

Michelle enjoys preaching, teaching, and nurturing. She's been fortunate to accomplish all three in the past 20 years, at her local church and others, too. She's taught Sunday School, from toddlers to senior adults, and has shared devotionals, prayers, and songs at retirement homes. In January, Michelle assumed the Chair of our Nurture Committee from Brenda and also is currently a teacher in our children's Sunday school.





The Nurture Committee hosted our **SUPERBOWL PARTY** on February 9. Although it was cold outside, we had a great time with fun, food, and fellowship. A big thank you to all who helped.

As you may know, we've started our **MONTHLY CELEBRATION OF BIRTHDAYS** with cake and cards for both services. We'll continue that on the first Sunday of each month to celebrate our Lincoln Park Community UMC congregation.

Looking ahead we have a **NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION** scheduled for March 9 for our newest members. This is a time to come together and learn about Lincoln Park Church and its committees, who is on the committees, and a tour of the church. The time will be announced in the church bulletin. We'll also be celebrating Mother's Day, Children's Day, Father's Day, and Grandparent's Day with something special for each day.

Our goal is to provide opportunities for fellowship as well as provide care for the members of the congregation. Be on the lookout for more activities and ways to better serve our members throughout the year. We're excited to have more opportunities to share the Love of Christ with our family of God. The Nurture Committee is always looking for new members to assist in supporting our congregation.

LP Church Acquires Automated External Defibrillator

From Richard Auman

In January we received our new updated AED device, thanks to LP member, **Dr. Earl Hope**. To help familiarize the congregation—especially our ushering teams—Dr. Hope gave an overview of the Automated External Defibrillator to more than 25 church members between services on January 12.

The AED is designed for non-medically trained people to use on a person who has stopped breathing, having a heart attack, or going into cardiac arrest. He did stress, however, that using the AED does not replace calling 911 and getting professionally trained help to church as soon as possible. The storage cabinet for the AED will be located on the wall next to the lift, outside of the Music Director's office.

Dr. Hope is chief of the cardiology division for Tower Health, Reading Hospital and we thank him for his generosity.

The Rev Steven Pittman to Replace District Superintendent, the Rev Evelyn Kent Clark, as She Completes her Term

From Richard Auman



Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi has announced recently the appointment of **the Rev Steven Pittman** as Superintendent of the

South District. Lincoln Park is one of 96 churches in the South District. His appointment will be effective July 1, 2025.

The Rev Pittman has faithfully served in the Eastern PA Conference as a pastor in urban and suburban churches and in cross-racial, cross-cultural contexts. His

focus is on serving God and humanity in order to bring God’s love and wholistic well-being — *shalom* — to all people.

Steve has a passion for ministry, nurturing spiritual growth, supporting clergy, and making disciples for the transformation of the world. He stresses the importance of developing strategic plans for congregations and promotes the necessity of effective communication. He is dedicated to building bridges and relationships to bring about unity in diversity, fostering inclusivity and equity.

The Rev Pittman is replacing **the Rev Evelyn Kent Clark**, who will be completing her six-year term as Superintendent.

The Mystery of the Missing Bibles

The extra Red Cover Bibles, both regular and enlarged print, that are stored in the closet on the Jefferson Boulevard side of the Wagner Room are diminishing in numbers. These Bibles are used by church members during worship services, Bible studies, and other meetings. If you’ve borrowed one and forgotten to put it back, please return it to the closet. There are numerous versions of Bibles in the Church Library (in the Education Building) that can be signed out and taken home to read.

Thank You, Trustees

The Trustees have been hard at work, applying a fresh coat of paint to the driveway entrance hallway and corridor to the Education Building.

From Carol Bashore, Missions



Thank you to all who contributed to UMCOR on behalf of those who lost their homes in recent wildfires in California. The Missions Committee recently sent UMCOR a \$500 check to help with their relief. As always, we so appreciate your continued support.

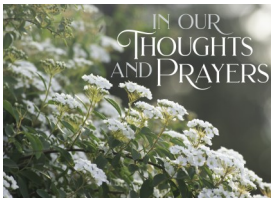
Also, thank you to all who contributed to the Super Bowl Challenge between the UMC Eagles area church conference and the UMC Kansas City conference area. Our church collected 341 pounds of food...More than two years ago. We know the Eagles won the Superbowl but results on this UMC Challenge are still out!!!



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!



Opportunity
House



We extend our deepest sympathy to...
...family and friends of **Darlene Steinmetz**, beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, who died on February 5. **Darlene** is the mother of **Dawn Eyrich** and grandmother of **Ashley Roberts** and **Tiffany Welsh**, who all joined our church in September, 2023, along with Darlene.
May God surround you with His love and care.

Lindsey Villecco Guercia Is Back on Stage

From Cheri Fallon, Editor

Lincoln Park's own **Lindsey Guercia** played Alice Beane in Reading Civic Theatre's recent production of *Titanic the Musical*. Most of us have heard Lindsey's beautiful voice (*O Holy Night* is a favorite.) And we've enjoyed her puppetry. A number of LP members and staff were in the audience.

Lindsey's had much stage experience and training. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting (Magna Cum Laude) from Shenandoah Conservatory. She has trained in voice, acting, dance, stagecraft (and more) and plays the flute, guitar, and tambourine. She can speak in dialects — Italian, British, Cockney, French, and American Southern.

"My favorite role for sure was Francesca in *The Bridges of Madison County*, says Lindsey.. The score was amazing to sing and challenging to do, both vo-

cally and emotionally. Another favorite role was Mrs Banks in *Mary Poppins* because I am a huge Disney fan!"

"Alice Beane was so much fun to play because she is very comedic but also has a ton of heart, so it was important to find the right balance. It was also a thrill to do this show because I've loved everything *Titanic* since elementary school and also

(Continued on page 11)



Lindsey with
her LP fans ⇒

Proud parents
Nancy & Jack
Villecco ↓





Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



April 15
for our
May – June 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 & Jerry Manhart, Mark VILLECCO, Ed Fallon

Celebrating Our 80th Year Anniversary

This year we'll celebrate the 80 years of our church's ministry, with the culmination on September 28.

CALLING POST, the mobile app — which we use for important messages about cancellations and delays— comes from an Oklahoma number with an area code of 405. If you still haven't gotten a call about church closing recently, please notify the office.

It's Children's Day at the YMCA

March 16, 1-3 pm From Richard Auman

From Rich Auman

What could be more fun than enjoying a Sunday afternoon at the YMCA's four-level maze, rock climbing wall, bounce house, game wall and toddler area AND an adult area for grown-ups to sit and enjoy each other's company while watching their kids have a blast.

There is a sign-up sheet and flyer at the back of the church.



(Continued from page 10)

because my last musical theatre production was in 2018 (pre-covid and being a mom.) It was great to be back on stage singing and performing again!"

Lindsey is the wife of **Nick Guercia**, mother of **Lily**, and sister of **Mark** and **Kevin**.

NEWS-LINC

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

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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.