



News-Line



Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *September – October 2025*

Join Us for Lincoln Park's 80th Anniversary Celebrate Our Service to God, Community, and Each Other

Festivities begin with a combined Sunday worship service on September 28, at 11 am; our Bishop will give the message. Then, two weeks later on Saturday, October 11, we'll enjoy a family friendly banquet at Albright College.

The Rev. Cynthia Moore-KioKio, who became Bishop last September for the Philadelphia Area Episcopacy (which encompasses more than 500 churches in the Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey Conferences) will speak. Our Praise Band, Senior Choir, Children's/Youth Bell Choir, and soloists will also be featured.

After the service, the Bishop and Pastor Quentin will greet the congregation in Memorial Hall where our Food Ministry Team will offer a light lunch with baked goods from our own volunteer bakers.

At the banquet, in the South Lounge of

Albright's Student Center, we'll celebrate our service to God, community, and each other. There will be food, fun, trivia and a juggler! **Chris Ivey**, from Marietta, offers a Christian message. While juggling balls and pins as well as daggers and swords, he recites Bible verses.

Chris brought a similar message to our church at a family program last year. The reviews — from the youngest to oldest — were terrific. They agreed: It's a show worth seeing again.

We're also lucky to have struck a deal with *Double V*, a production company in video recordings. They'll take our extensive historical files and reduce 80 years of history to 10 minutes of *The Best of LPCUMC*. And, trivia questions will tease our memories throughout the evening.

*Where can you hear
Bible verses from
a man juggling
daggers & swords?
LP's
Anniversary Party!*

(Continued on page 9)

WORSHIP WITH US



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



From Richard Auman

BISHOP CYNTHIA MOORE-KOIKOI, will be our guest at our **80TH ANNIVERSARY COMBINED SERVICE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, AT 11 AM.**

Elected to the episcopacy in 2016 at the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference, Bishop Koikoi was assigned to lead the Western Pennsylvania Conference. While there, she was named the Interim Bishop of the Susquehanna Conference.

A bridge builder and advocate for justice, she has ministered in rural, urban, and suburban, with a commitment to fostering diversity and the life-saving love of Christ. With a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit, she leads with the conviction:

“WE GOT GOD, SO WE GOT THIS.”

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

Please join us on fourth Sundays for a yummy, free breakfast at 10 am. It’s a great time to catch up with church friends and meet new people! Sometimes we’re even entertained with skits by our Pastor and his drama team.

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.”**

From Music Director Irina Shmeleva

Dear Church!

I'm writing this on my way to the airport; sadly I'll miss some Sundays of our Music Summer Program. I hope you'd agree with me that this summer we enjoyed absolutely awesome music, performed by our very own **Lindsey Villecco Guercia**, and beloved friends of Lincoln Park—**Donna Danielski** and **Robin Lilarose**. This time Robin brought us her talented student **Lillian Pawling**, they played two charming duets. We had wonderful **Trio Jodie** and brilliant cellist **Crystal Jordan**. My dear friend **Aaron Rucker** brought



us beautiful contemporary songs, and **Jen Rose** shared her gift of spiritual musical meditation—a unique experience! I was absolutely thrilled (so were you, for sure) by the performance of **Erich Cawalla**—what a treat we had that Sunday!



I very much enjoy planning, rehearsing and performing with our fantastic friends. I have no doubt that our summer music means a lot for you, too. I'd like, using this chance, to remind you that you can keep the program going with your generous donations to this project. Together we make our church the better place, and I thank each and everyone for that! See you after my trip to my home country,
Your Irina

We're Receiving New Members September 21

From Pastor Quentin Wallace

Is this where you'd like to grow, serve, and be part of something bigger than yourself? If you're curious or want to take that next step, speak with Pastor Quentin after worship or call him at 610-334-8472. He'd love to walk with you and help you get connected.

A NEW MEMBERS' ORIENTATION WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 7 - 8 PM IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY.

All those interested in becoming members should plan to attend. (You may attend via Zoom and I can send you the link.) Those who complete the orientation will be welcomed formally into the congregation on September 21 in both services.

Building with God

From Pastor Quentin Wallace

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.
Psalm 127:1

As Labor Day approaches, we take a moment to honor the value of work and the people who serve our communities each day. This holiday, which began in the 1880s to recognize American workers, is also a special time to rest, reflect, and refocus our hearts. Psalm 127 reminds us that while our work is important, human effort alone isn't enough.

Without God's guidance and blessing, our labor falls short. Whether we're building careers, families, ministries, or communities, true and lasting success comes only when God is at the center.

The psalm also tells us that children are a gift from the Lord, reminding us that some of our most meaningful work happens at home and in raising the next generation.

This Labor Day, as we give thanks for the work we do, let's also remember to trust God with every part of our lives — at home, at church, at work, and as our children return to school.

A Prayer for Labor Day and Back-to-School

Loving God,

Thank You for the gift of work and the ways You use our efforts to bless others. Help us to remember that we are never working alone—You are our strength and our foundation.

As a new school year begins, we lift up our children, families, and teachers. Allow this school year to be safe and productive. Bless our kids with joy and confidence as they learn and grow. Be with every parent and caregiver—grant them patience and peace. Bless all teachers and school staff with wisdom, compassion, and energy for the year ahead.

May everything we do—at home, at work, and in school—be rooted in Your love. Amen.

Many 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!



From **Pastor Quentin Wallace**

I'm excited to share that this fall we'll gather for Bible Study every Wednesday, at 7 pm, October 1 through 29. Together, we'll explore five powerful yet often overlooked books of the Bible---Obadiah, Nahum, Titus, Jude, and Philemon — from both the Old

and New Testaments. These books may be short in length, but they are rich with lessons, encouragement, and a fresh word from the Lord.

Let's come together with open hearts and discover how God is still speaking to us through these remarkable portions of scripture!

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 25

11 am—1 pm

Bring your decorated car, and maybe wear your costume for a fun event for the church, community, and anyone else who'd like to be part of the fun!



Wedding

Barbara Olaewe's daughter, **Olukemi**, was married to **Nicholas Murray**, on August 9. At B2 Bistro, West Reading, the happy families were surrounded by 30 close friends and family.

Joy, peace, and love to the newlyweds!



Endowment Funds Approved to Upgrade WiFi and Purchase New Carpet

From **Richard Auman**, Endowment Chair

Our Endowment Committee released earnings from 2024 to purchase an upgraded, faster WiFi system for the church and new carpet for the Nursery.

The fund balance as of December 2024 was \$397,558, with earnings for the year of \$6,535. This fund is supported by contributions from church membership as well as persons contributing *in honor of* or *in memory of* friends or relatives.

This year requests were made by the Technology Committee (**Mark Villecco**) to upgrade our WI-FI system at a cost of \$850. The carpet request came from **Carl Madeira**, our custodian, who saw a need for new carpet in 2023. The committee allotted \$1,295 from its 2024 distribution, along with \$1,170 approved in 2023.

Following the fund guidelines, the earnings are to be used for non-traditional budgetary items and requested by a staff person or committee. This year the remaining —→

funds will remain in a designated fund. If there is a need that falls within the guidelines, a request can be submitted to the Endowment Committee . It will consider the request and, if approved, funds will be transferred to the appropriate expense account.

Enjoying the softness of the new carpet are **Austin Freed** (at the table) **Daniel Villecco** (standing), **Maddie Gracias** (left) and **Lily Guercia**.



What Is a Narrative Budget?

It's a way to present the church's financial needs and to show how its budget supports its mission and ministries, rather than just showing a spreadsheet of numbers.

It connects contributors to the church's story, inspiring generosity by explaining what the church does in terms of evangelism, discipleship, and community outreach.

Can a Budget Be a Story? Yes! Of Dreams, of Goals, of Seeking, Learning, Caring, & Sharing

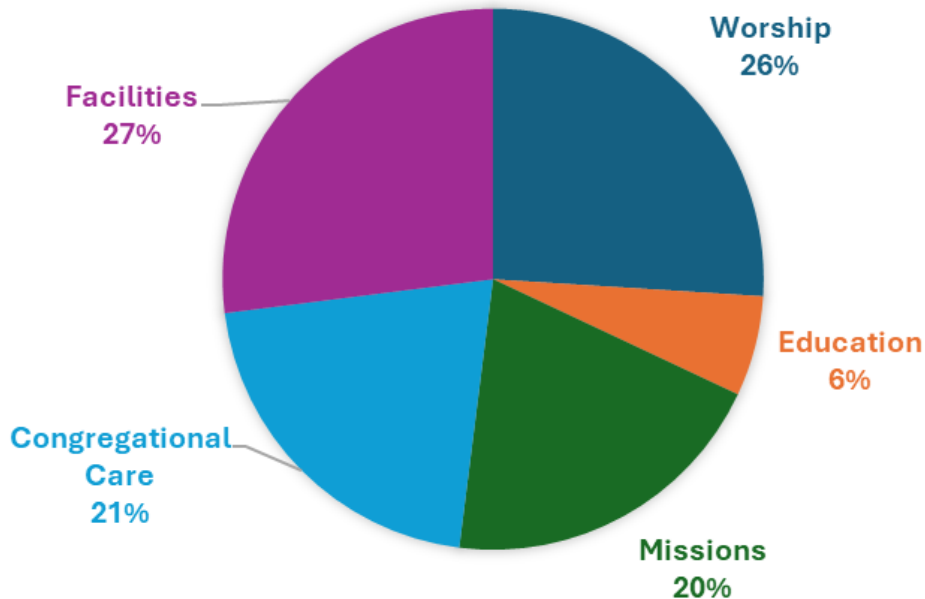
From Jerry Manhart, Stewardship & Finance Chair

In the next few Sundays, we'll present the Lincoln Park CUMC 2024-2025 Narrative Budget. You'll hear and see the accomplishments your contributions have made and our goals for the coming year. You've helped people and changed lives, not only here, but in our community, nation, and beyond.

All ministries/expenses for 2024 were placed in five ministry categories: Worship \$93,977, Education \$20,977, Missions \$73,929, Congregational Care \$76,287, and Facilities \$97,574. Note there is no category for staff salaries. Instead, staff salaries which are included under the ministries they perform; also, not shown in the expense numbers are many volunteer labor hours, food, and material contributions.

Ask questions, make suggestions, get involved, and continue to support your church. Every contribution makes a difference.

MINISTRIES / EXPENSE DOLLAR 2024



Neighborhood Outreach to Be Focus of New Community Impact Team

From Richard Auman

The Staff Parish Relations Committee, in August, approved Pastor Quentin's concept of forming a team of church members to help organize and lead other church committees in neighborhood outreach programs.

The Pastor, as Chairman of the Nominations Committee, plans to use the committee to recruit dedicated volunteers for a new ministry he plans to call our *Community Impact Team*. Final approval is expected at the Church Council meeting on Monday, September 22.

Pastor Quentin started thinking about creating an outreach committee more than a year ago when he saw the difficulty in recruiting volunteers to help with these type of events. This new team "will focus specifically on planning

events and activities that connect us with our neighbors in meaningful ways. But most importantly," he added, "we'll need dedicated individuals with a heart for building relationships and making a difference beyond church walls. We're looking for team members who are creative, energetic, and passionate about sharing the love and witness of Christ through action."

The Community Impact Team would take the lead organizing the event, working closely with the committee that would have the most impact with the event. In the case of Trunk or Treat, for example, CIT would work hand in hand with the Christian Education Committee. Other committees that could benefit with CIT assistance would be Missions and Nurture.



Alexa Gilham, daughter of Kris and Krista goes over the rules of "Opposites" at LP Church's booth during **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** in August, at the Spring Township Police station. Church volunteers handed out updated tri-fold pamphlets on Lincoln Park church ministries along with little "goodie" bags to more than 150 families during the 3-hour event.

The next outreach program, **TRUNK OR TREAT**, to be coordinated by our Nurture and Children Ministries will be held **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25**. This Halloween-themed event attracts hundreds of children and their parents to our church.

We've Got a Game for You!

From Carol Bashore, Missions



The Missions Committee is thankful for all who donated money to the three charities we sponsored these last few months. We were able to send them all a sizeable contribution. Their thank you notes are posted on the round bulletin board in the Wagner Room.

In September we'll assist Helping Harvest, as we do every year, which is much appreciated. To make it more fun this year, we'll add a prediction game to the collection. Anyone who brings food or donates money can play. We'll award a small prize at the end of the project to winners. To participate, fill out a form in the Wagner Room, near the Helping Harvest boxes. Along with your name and phone, write your predictions on how much our drive will produce. For example: *How many food items will we get? How much cash? Which will bring in the greatest amount?* Drop your paper in the box. We'll announce winners at the end of October.

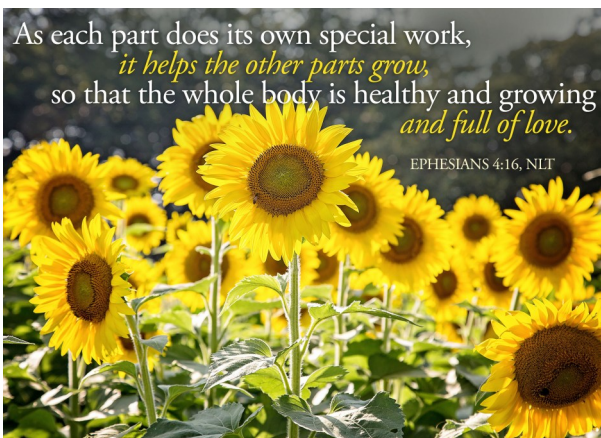
Let's have fun as we help people needing food and nourishment. Thanks, as always.

Continued from page 1) 80th Anniversary

Finally, what's a celebration without food—a staple of United Methodist tradition! Because we don't want members spending hours preparing, we looked to Albright College, where we found good food at great prices. We also wanted the cost to be reasonable so all members can attend. Adults and youth, 15 and older, cost \$20. Children 14 and under, eat free.

The buffet menu is set: salad, lemon chicken breast, roast beef, garlic mashed potatoes, and honey-glazed carrots. For children, we'll have chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, and carrots. And, of course, dessert will be Anniversary Cake.

For reservations, contact **Jennifer Freed, Sharon Ackelson**, or the Church Office, 610-777-1422. Questions, call **Richard Auman**, 610-670-0955.



We extend our deepest sympathy to...

...family and friends of **Nancy Artz**, who died on July 7, at 91. Hers was “a life of service and song,” says her family. A long-time member of LP’s choir, she also participated steadily in the work of our church (including the *News-Linc.*) She and her late husband, **Walter**, owned Reading Home Video, Shillington. Nancy is survived by her daughters, **Deborah Christopher** (husband **Dan**) and **Donna Sweimler** (husband **Chris**) granddaughter **Caitlyn (Christopher) Wojnar** (husband **Adam**) and grandsons **Doug** and **Bradley Sweimler**. Nancy was known for her “unwavering faith, warm spirit, and love for others.”



...friends and family of **Bob Robertson**, 93, who passed away on June 29. His beloved wife **Joyce** died in 2003. He is survived by four children: **Linda Diamond**, **Chris Robertson**, **Cassie Robertson**, and **Jennifer Troxelle**; nine grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

A graduate of Lafayette College and the Wharton School, Bob served in the Army and eventually became Vice President of four different companies in Reading before owning the Schuler Machine Co. In his retirement, he was a substitute teacher at local schools. At Lincoln Park, Bob served on boards and committees, taught adult Sunday school classes, and offered Children’s Time messages. Bob was always positive and cheerful. A fun fact is that he loved Snoopy!

...family and friends of **Barbara Schlosser**, 84, who died on August 15. She was the beloved wife of **Donald**, mother of **Steven Schlosser** and **Deborah Schneider (Walter)** and grandmother of **Laura Hogg Schneider** and **Carrie Hogg**. Barb was a Kutztown University graduate with an English major. Active at church and in community, Barb volunteered for Meals on Wheels and her children’s activities. Here at Lincoln Park, she participated in the choir (for 50 some years!) and also United Methodist Women, counting offerings, baking cookies, and serving on various boards. In her spare time, she enjoyed music, theater, tennis, bridge, crossword puzzles, and spending time with family and friends. Barbara and Don loved to travel — to a large portion of the United States and several countries, frequently with family and friends.

May God surround you with His love and care.



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, 610-914-1875

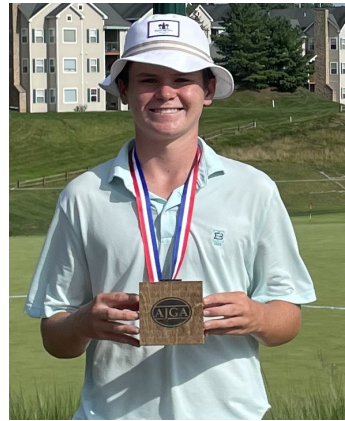
Staff: Diane Fisher, Nancy Madeira, Lou & Jerry Manhart, Mark Vilecco, Ed Fallon



Eleven years ago our church members were asked to pray for 5-year old **Luke Fallon**, son of **Steve** and **Moira** and grandson of **Ed** and **Cheri**. He'd been diagnosed with Perthes Disease, requiring him to have hip surgery and to wear a full

body cast for months. Since then, he's had two more hip surgeries, and you prayed for him each time again.

Luke played soccer and basketball but eventually found golf to be the best sport for him. He practices or plays year round. Now he's a 16-year old sophomore at Wilson HS and plays on their golf team. In the first match of the season against three local schools, Luke shot a two-under par 68 at Manor Golf Club to lead Wilson to the win. Praise God for Luke's doctors and for all who have prayed for his health. Thank you!



Thank You for Your Sympathy

Dear Church Family,



On behalf of the **Christopher, Sweimler** and **Wojnar** families, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love, support, and sympathy you have shown following the passing of **Nancy Artz**. Your kind words, comforting gestures, and presence during this difficult time have been a source of strength and comfort to our family.

Knowing how much Nancy meant to so many people brings us peace, and your thoughtful condolences have reminded us of the impact she had on all those who knew her. Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers and for honoring her memory with your care and compassion.

Much love,

The Christopher, Sweimler and Wojnar families.

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, mv559er@gmail.com

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

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Children & Youth Education Coordinator: Parker Chadwick,
chadwickparker156@gmail.com

Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Margaret DAmico

Custodian: Carl Madeira

Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-914-1875

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**Church Office Hours: Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,
9:30-1:30 pm**

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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.

