

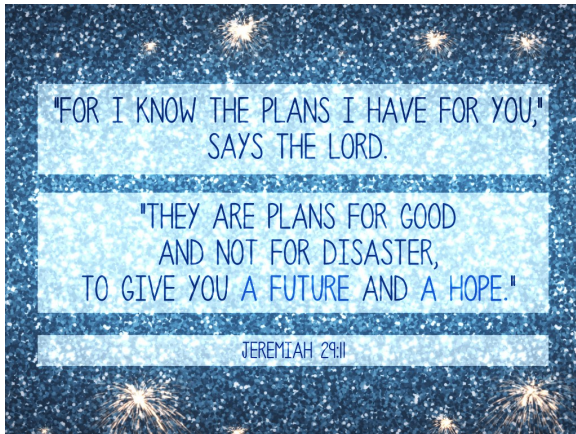


Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania

Winter 2026

Come & Help Us Design the Next Chapter of our Ministry

From Pastor Quentin Wallace



As we seek God's direction for Lincoln Park's future, I'm excited to invite you to a

VISIONING WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 7, 10-12 AM.

Together we'll:

- Review, celebrate, and refresh current ministries
- Explore new ministry opportunities
- Discuss how to welcome new members and strengthen ties with our current congregation

- Evaluate our Mission Statement as it reflects who we are in 2026.
- Consider how to expand our Christian Education to inspire and equip all ages
- Engage in a SWOT* analysis, guided conversations, and breakout sessions that spark creativity, clarity, and forward momentum.

[SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats, a strategic analysis tool to evaluate an organization, to inform better decision-making and planning, according to AI Overview.]

Email linda@lpcumc.org if you plan to attend. Prepare to dream boldly, discern faithfully, and design our next chapter. My hope is for a Spirit-led plan that will position LP Church for vibrant growth, deeper discipleship, and meaningful community impact.



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

Worship Notes

From Mark Villecco, Worship Chair, and Pastor Quentin Wallace



Ash Wednesday
February 18, 7 pm

Prior to the service,
a meal will be provided
by our Food Ministry.
All are welcome to attend.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, March 8:** Spring
forward with **ONE COMBINED SERVICE AT 11 PM.**



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

Please join us on fourth Sundays for a yummy, free breakfast between services 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."**

We'll begin a new Bible Study on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**, at 7 pm, and continue through **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**.

It's possible we may meet via Zoom like the current study has been, depending on the weather and your response. Either way, please join us!

**From Pastor
Quentin Wallace**

Lenten Bible Study



Adult Sunday School Meets at 10:10 am

Join leaders **Barbara Olaewe** and **Randy & Margo Hill** to study:
Jesus: Understanding His Death and Resurrection; A Study of Mark 14-16.

From Richard Auman, Staff Parish Committee



The Staff Parish Relations Committee and our staff want to thank the congregation for the gifts our staff received on Christmas Eve. It's a true blessing that our members are supportive of our entire staff and appreciative of all they do.

Also, your support of the Salvation Army Angel Tree gifts provided an opportunity for us to make the holiday better for a family in need.

Opportunity House, which provides shelter and a learning center in the city of Reading, was the recipient of your generous giving for our 80th Anniversary celebration.

Lincoln Park is a caring congregation.

Thank you so much to our members and friends.

Lent is a time to let God do “spring cleaning” within us. It’s our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the “stuff” that hinders us and then freshen up the “new creature” we are meant to be as followers of Christ.

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!

Renewed Strength for a New Season

From Pastor Quentin Wallace

But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

— Isaiah 40:31

January invites us to pause, reflect, and reset. It’s a natural turning point—a moment to look back with gratitude and look ahead with hope. As we step into 2026, God offers us a powerful promise through the words of Isaiah: renewed strength for the journey ahead.

Isaiah reminds us that strength does not come from pushing harder or doing more on our own. True renewal comes when we wait on the Lord—when we trust God enough to lean into God’s timing, wisdom, and direction. Waiting is not passive; it is an act of faith. It is choosing to believe that God is already at work, even when we feel tired, uncertain, or stretched thin.

God’s renewal shows up in many ways. Sometimes it’s renewed energy when we thought we had nothing left to give. Sometimes it’s renewed enthusiasm—a fresh excitement for worship, ministry, service, and fellowship. And sometimes it’s renewed growth, as God

stretches us beyond where we have been into where God is calling us to go.

As a church, 2026 is a season to seek new vision and renewed purpose. God is inviting us to rise—to mount up like eagles—to see beyond our limitations and trust in God’s greater perspective. We may not always move at the same pace; some days we’ll run, other days we’ll walk. But the promise remains: We will not faint, because God supplies the strength.

As we begin this new year, my prayer is that we look to God for everything we need—strength for today, hope for tomorrow, and courage for the calling ahead. When we wait on the Lord, God does not merely restore us; God renews us for what is next.

Let us step into 2026 trusting that God is still lifting, still leading, and still renewing us—together.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Quentin



Introducing Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church

Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2026

STAFF

Pastor	The Rev Dr Quentin Wallace
Music Director & Organist	Irina Shmeleva
Worship Director, 9 am Service	Mark Villecco
Education Coordinator	Parker Chadwick
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	Mark Bisignaro
Finance Chair	Jerry Manhart
Treasurer	Linda Hope
Financial Secretaries	Richard & Carol Bashore
Nurture Chair	Michelle Drumheller
Missions Committee Chair	Deb Gehr
Nominations & Leadership Development Chair	Pastor Quentin Wallace
Nominations & Leadership Development Vice Chair	Roe Gehman
Worship Committee Chair	Mark Villecco
Staff Parish Relations Chair	Dan Christopher
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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Dan Christopher ('26), Tom Blakely ('26)

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Bisignaro (Chair) Richard Bashore) Linda Mann (Secretary) George Weikel, Jim Gehman, Rick Mann, Bob McFeaters, Brian Geiger, Joe Raber, Brandon Freed, Dave Gehr

Ex Officio: Pastor, Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Jerry Manhart (Chair) Linda Hope (Treasurer) Diane Fisher (Secretary) Rich & Carol Bashore (Financial Secretaries) Geoff Whiteley, Jack Villecco

Ex Officio Members: Pastor, Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference, Church Council Chair, Staff Parish Chair, Trustees Chairs, Endowment Chair

ENDOWMENT FUND

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

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Roe Gehman (Vice Chair) Mark Villecco, Lou Manhart, Linda Hope, Beth Auman

Ex Officio: Pastor (Chair) Associate Lay Leader, Alternate Member to Annual Conference

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Dan Christopher (Chair) Barbara Olaewe, Rich Auman, Michele Bausher, Kweku Addae-Mensah, Jerry Manhart, Sandy Beam

Ex Officio: Pastor, Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference

NURTURE COMMITTEE

Michelle Drumheller (Chair) Jenna Hope Gracias, Minister Brenda Wallace, Nancy Madeira, Krista Gilham, Carol Bashore

Ex Officio: Pastor, Lay Leader

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Krista Gilham & Victoria Whiteley, Co-Chairs, Barbara Olaewe, Lindsey Villecco Guercia, Parker Chadwick

Members at Large: Children's Time Leaders, Sunday School Adult Leaders.

Ex Officio: Pastor, Lay Leader

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Jim Eckert, Chair, Dave Kercher, Victoria Whiteley, Diane Fisher, Jim Eckert, Barbara Olaewe, Deb Gehr, Carol Bashore

Ex Officio: Pastor, Lay Leader

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COMMUNITY IMPACT TEAM (CIT)

Jennifer Gracias, Chair, Hallie Corby, KC Dianna, Linda Hope, Minister Brenda Wallace

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark Villecco (Chair) Kris Wright (Secretary) Ann Heller, Jean Weikel, Karen McFeaters, Lindsey Villecco Guercia, KC Dianna, Deb Gehr, Rick Galley
Ex Officio: Pastor, Director of Music, Lay Leaders, 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, Wanda Brown, Rich Bashore

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

AGAPE WOMEN'S GROUP

Linda Libutti, President

TELLER TEAMS

Team 1: Don Schlosser, Cindy Kercher, Diane Fisher, Sharon Ackelson
Team 2: Nancy Madeira, Linda Mann, Ann Heller

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Meet Two of Our New Lincoln Park Members

From Cheri Fallon, Editor

Amy Semmel... has lived on Harvard Blvd in Lincoln Park since 1997. There she and her late husband Bill raised two sons, who graduated from Wilson HS. Originally Amy is from Green Castle PA, where she attended a UM Church. Amy and Bill met in Baltimore when Bill was in the Army and Amy was an Xray technician at Baltimore City Hospital (now Johns Hopkins.) They later moved to Reading when Bill was hired as Director of Berks County Parks and Recreation.



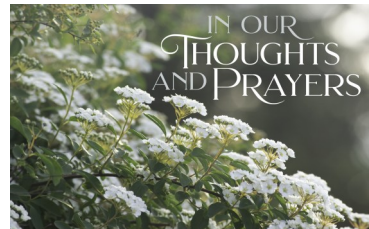
After their sons **William James** and **David** were born, Amy started up her own cleaning service, working for Forino Homes and real estate offices. After Bill died in 2022, Amy has learned to keep busy and content. She enjoys line dancing at Sunnybrook and Encore and meeting new people.

Valerie Swartz... grew up in the Philly area, attended Little Flower Catholic School and graduated from Upper Perkiomen HS. She studied computers and art at RACC where she also received her Certified Nursing Aide Certificate. Valerie has worked at nursing homes and is currently working at the Shillington Giant. She has a daughter and son, both of whom no longer live in the Reading area. Valerie has one grandson and two granddaughters. Currently, she is struggling with her ankle that makes it hard for her to stand all day but she does it any way. She asks us for prayers of guidance right now, about whether she should stay at her current job, and wonders if she can handle a job with so much standing and a lifestyle with so much walking.



Wishing Peace and Comfort to members who've recently lost loved ones :

- ...**Pam Shenk** on the loss of her mother,
- Liane Rinehart**, on December 6.
- ...Family of **Lin Haman**, 102, who died on January 2.
- ...Family of **Sandy Weise** who passed away in early January: her husband **Ralph** and children, **Bryan** and **Sara**
- ... **Fred McCoy's** wife **Dorris** and sons **Matthew** and **Mark**, and his three grandchildren on the loss of their husband, father, and grandfather. Fred spent 40 years educating students of all ages. Dorris was our Director of Education at LP Church for many years.



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PRAISE BAND

Mark Villecco, Lindsey Guercia, Krista Gilham, Jenna Gracias, Dave Gehr, Sandra Tradewell, George Weikel, Brandon Geiger, Kevin Villecco
Sound Team: Jerry Manhart, Dennis Antunes

SENIOR CHOIR

Irina Shmeleva, Director

Jill & Joe Raber, Sharon Ackelson, Ann Heller, Linda Livingood, Joan Sands, Sarah George, Margo & Randy Hill, Cindy Kercher, Phyllis Snyder, Lou & Jerry Manhart, Jack Villecco

BELL CHOIRS

Krista Gilham, Director

Children: Claire & Rynne Corby, Austin & Addie Freed, Alexa & Hannah Gilham, Amissah & Kojo Mensah, Griffin Whiteley
Adults: Sandy Beam, Lou Manhart, Deb Gehr, Hallie Corby, Kris Wright, Carol Bashore, Cindy Kercher, Kris & Krista Gilham

May God Bless Our Leaders and Committee Members

When I started doing our *News-Linc* (in 1988!) I worked in the Education Building at church instead of from home. I was struck by the number of members who came through there on any given day — mostly because they were, in some way, serving our church.

They made soup or cookies in the kitchen, practiced a solo, took care of our buildings, or worked outside. They attended a meeting. At Flea



From the Editor

Cheri Fallon

Market time, people were in and out with donations, or arranging and pricing “fleas.” And, in winter they shoveled snow.

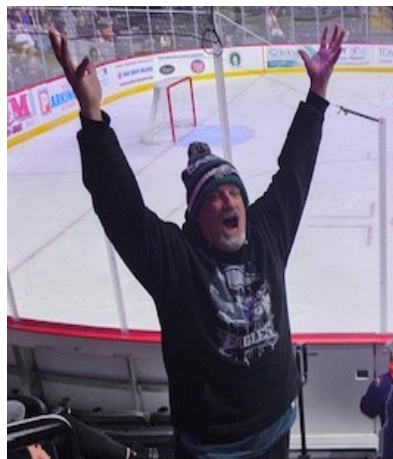
Something I continue to find remarkable and appealing about our church is that *so many* members continue cheerfully helping to make it the loving, giving, and beautiful church that it is!

Thank you to all members who serve our church so faithfully!

Happy LP Spectators at Reading Royals Game January 11



Thank you to Mark Bisignaro
for arranging a fun afternoon
at the Santander!





Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



for our March-April issue

February 15

Births

Hooray! In 2025 **Pamela and Tom Blakely** added two new members to their family. **Rowan Blakely-Huong** was born to parents **Martha Blakely and David Huong**, on August 8, in Colorado

Audrey Ann BlakelyWright and Jacob Wright MD welcomed a son, **Asher August Wright**, who arrived on December 17, in Florida.

Welcome to the world, precious babies!

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 Villecco, Ed Fallon

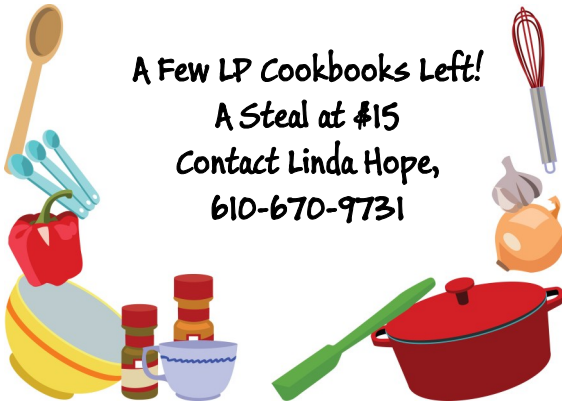


Asher August Wright

Mark Your Calendars with this Breaking News

Vacation Bible School At LP Church, July 12-16

The Theme: Emerald Crossing, An Irish Adventure through Psalm 23



A Few LP Cookbooks Left!

A Steal at \$15

Contact Linda Hope,

610-670-9731

Happy Birthday to...

Suzanne Romig, 99!

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

Office Administrator: Linda Livingood, linda@lpcumc.org

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

Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Margaret DAmico

Custodian: Carl Madeira

Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-914-1875

cherfallon@comcast.net

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

Office phone 610-777-1422

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.

