



# News-Line

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*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter*  
*Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania* *March - April 2026*

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**Join Us March 22 – 3 pm**  
**A Seder, Followed by**  
**a Kosher Meal**  
**From Rich Auman**

For more than 3,000 years and before Christianity was recognized, our Jewish ancestors celebrated Passover, one of the most important Jewish holidays. This year, it will start at sundown, April 1, and end at sundown, April 8. One Jewish author wrote, of

the Passover: “We don’t just tell the story of the Exodus, we see, smell, feel, and taste liberation.”

We’re fortunate that **Mike and Pat Marcus** will join us **SUNDAY, MARCH 22, at 3 pm**, to help us understand and experience a seder style meal and the symbolic seder plate. They are the founders and leaders of Brit HaShalem Emet, a Messianic Jewish Congregation in York County.

Mike and Pat have led the Messianic congregation for 15 years. Mike’s father is Jewish, his mother a Roman Catholic and Pat’s father a Methodist minister. Messianic Jews are Christ-followers who believe in Jesus and affirm the resurrection.

As we focus on repentance, fasting, and the journey to the resurrection of Jesus during Lent, Passover focuses on freedom, redemption, and the passing over the

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*(Continued on page 7)*

## **BRING YOUR EASTER BASKETS... From KC Dianna**

for our annual **Egg Hunt**, between services at 10:15 am, on the church lawn.

I’m collecting individually wrapped candy donations or cash (not online payments to buy candy and small gifts for the eggs. Please put cash in an envelope and place it with the donations in the Wagner Room.



**WORSHIP  
WITH  
US**



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

*Palm Sunday - March 29 - 9 & 11 am*

*Maundy Thursday - April 2 - 7 pm*

*Good Friday - April 3 - 7 pm*

*Easter Sunday - April 5 - 9 & 11 am*

*Please bring flowers to adorn the cross*



**Sunday, March 8:** We will *spring forward* with **ONE COMBINED SERVICE AT 11 AM.**

**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.**

**Looking Forward to Easter Flowers?**

From KC Dianna

You can soon order flowers to decorate the church for Easter and take home afterward. Daffodils, tulips, and lilies will be available for **\$9 each**. Order forms will be available at church, or contact me: [Kcb1014@yahoo.com](mailto:Kcb1014@yahoo.com) or 484-955-9402. Please order by March 22. Dedications will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Payments can be placed in the offering plate, sent to the Church Office, or made online.



## From Our Music Director – Irina Shmeleua

As we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection, I'd like to share some short stories about our most famous and beloved hymns, glorifying Christ's rising from the dead. The great theologian Charles Spurgeon once said, *The singing of the pilgrims ... is the most delightful part of worship and that which comes nearest to the adoration of heaven.*

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today* is one of the most popular Easter hymns, and some may be more familiar with a slightly different version, *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*.

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!*

*Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

This hymn is one of the oldest on record. In 1739, the composer Charles Wesley wrote a poem entitled *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*; his poem was quickly put to music and soon became a favorite. While Wesley is credited with composing as many as 6500 hymns, this particular hymn stands out and is still used in Easter services around the world.

Alfred Ackley, a musician and preacher, wrote *He Lives* in 1933. Many know the hymn by its first line:

*I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;  
I know that He is living whatever men may say;  
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,  
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.*

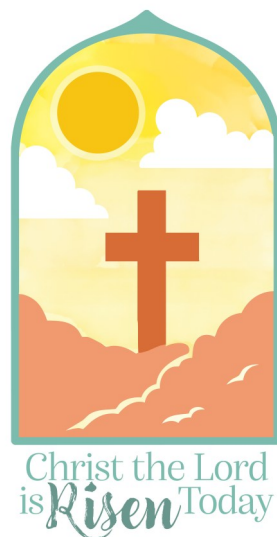
At the time, Ackley was challenged by a young student, confused as to why Christians worshipped someone who had died centuries earlier. In response, Ackley is quoted as saying, "*He lives! I tell you, He is not dead but lives here and now! Jesus Christ is more alive today than ever before. I can prove it by my own experience, as well as the testimony of countless thousands.*"

Fueled by the student's questions, Ackley wrote these popular lyrics. His refrain is joyous, reminding us all that Jesus rose from the dead as promised and remains alive today in the heart of every believer. Refrain:

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me Along life's narrow way.  
He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.*

We are fortunate to have so many beautiful Easter hymns to sing together, as one body. And it doesn't matter if our voices are choir-worthy or off-tune—we know that our God takes great pleasure in hearing our voices raised to Him in worship.

Source: *Favorite Easter Hymns and Their Histories* by DaySpring



# Building Spiritual Muscles

From Pastor Quentin Wallace

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*  
—Hebrews 12:1–3

**Lent** invites us to a time of reflection, renewal, and spiritual growth. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that the life of faith is like running a race — one that requires perseverance, focus, and endurance. We're encouraged to lay aside the weights and distractions that keep us from growing closer to Christ and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Just as physical muscles grow stronger through intentional exercise and discipline, our spiritual lives grow stronger through practices like prayer, fasting, generosity, repentance, and time in God's Word. Lent is not simply about giving something up for tradition's sake — it's about



making room for Christ by releasing what slows us down spiritually.

Jesus gave up so much for us. He endured suffering and the cross so that we might experience forgiveness, grace, and new life. In response to that love, Lent becomes an opportunity to ask ourselves: *What can I*

*give up so I can grow closer to Christ?*

From Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, may these 40 days be a time of spiritual fitness, when we intentionally build our spiritual muscles. As we travel this Lenten path together, may we be strengthened for the journey and steadfast in faith, trusting Christ who leads us forward.

Blessings,  
**Pastor Quentin**

## PRAYER OF FAITH

Gracious God, strengthen us during this Lenten journey. Help us lay aside the things that distract us, and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Build our faith, renew our spirits, and guide us closer to you each day. In Christ's name, Amen.

# Visioning Workshop Produces New Ideas and Programs

## From Pastor Quentin Wallace



Thank you for making the Visioning Workshop inspiring and enlightening. In two hours we accomplished a great deal. **Jerry Manhart** gave us a financial snapshot. **Kris Gilham** listed our current ministries and how they bless others *in* and *out* of our church. **Mark Villecco** shared his vision for an expanded Praise Band, and Irina expressed her desire to expand the choir to 20 voices for more versatility.

To evaluate our ministries, we used *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase:

- † Radical Hospitality,
- † Passionate Worship,
- † Intentional Faith Development,
- † Risk-Taking Mission and Service,
- † and Extravagant Generosity.

We also conducted a SWOT analysis, discussing our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. Following that, we agreed to begin adding new ministries and to explore modifications to one or two areas of our physical plant to better support ministry and hospitality.

Afterward, we expanded our Mission Statement, which will accompany our

current tagline in conspicuous places and on the church website.

### Mission Statement

*We share the gospel in a loving, Christ-centered community, reaching out to all people in love and faith.*

**Tagline:** *Seeking and Sharing Christ*

To fulfill our expanded Mission Statement, we are adding several ministries. Below are some ideas we plan to implement before our follow-up meeting in August 2026:

- † Community Coffee Hour weekly
- † Thursday Night Live Worship 7 pm  
Third Thursdays
- † Morning Conference Call Prayer  
6 am, Friday mornings (call number to be provided in the bulletin)
- † Weekly prayer meeting via Zoom  
(day of the week TBD)
- † Summer Bible Study led by our teaching team
- † Developing new small affinity groups (for example: sewing or quilting group, cooking group, book club, etc.)

Special thanks to **Jim Gehman** and **Alan Koeble** for the refreshments. Please share this information with your teams.

# LINCOLN PARK FLEA MARKET 2026

Jerry Manhart, Stewardship & Finance Chair

## Saturday, May 16, 7am to 2 pm

With all the snow and cold weather, probably the last thing you're thinking about is our annual Flea Market. However, it will soon warm up and we'll all start thinking of cleaning out your fleas.

Starting April 1, please bring your fleas — clean, unbroken, and in saleable condition — and your books to Memorial Hall. We'll accept your items in Memorial Hall until May 11. We'll pack up unsold fleas on May 18.

## Please Help! How?

- ◆ Donate fleas, and books.
- ◆ Help price fleas. We'll announce hours closer to April.
- ◆ Donate beef barbeque, hot dogs, buns, cans of soda, bottled water, ice, or baked goods.
- ◆ Work a 2-hour (or more) shift on the day of the Flea Market. Jobs include *inside cashier, kitchen cooks and sales, boutique sales, baked good sales, book sales, outside sales and hot dog sales.*
- ◆ Help clean up at 2 pm.
- ◆ Help pack up leftover fleas on Monday, May 18, at 9 am, and help distribute all leftovers.

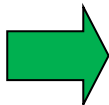
## What are Fleas?

Household items, books, collectibles, toys, games, puzzles, baby equipment, sporting equipment, tools, garden accessories, jewelry.  
No clothing or furniture.

Contact **Jerry Manhart**, 610-927-7657, with questions or to volunteer. Forms for volunteers or donations are in the Wagner room.

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## From Pastor Quentin Wallace



We'll begin a **NEW BIBLE STUDY** on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, at 7 pm. It will be in-person and will continue through WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25.

### 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.*

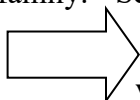
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homes of the Hebrews as described in Exodus. Now we connect Christianity and Judaism when Jesus, a rabbi, celebrated with his disciples the Last Supper, a seder meal.

During the Seder, the seder plate is displayed, containing the key elements of Passover. It is carefully prepared and placed before the head of the household or the one conducting the Seder, who dispenses the foods to participants. It serves as a centerpiece and holds five or six items, symbolizing parts of the Passover story.



The presentation is for the whole family and is really a hands-on experience. Because the meal is prepared in advance, please call the Church Office, 610-777-1422, or email Linda at [info@lpcumc.org](mailto:info@lpcumc.org) by Monday, March 16, to RSVP, OR sign up in the back of the sanctuary, including the number of adults and children in your family. Seating is limited to 80 people.



**The last chapter of our Passover experience** — and a promise that **you'll not go away hungry** — will be a kosher-style meal prepared by

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## **They Said YES to our New Visitation Ministry**

### **From Pastor Quentin Wallace**

Seven faithful LP Church members have stepped forward to serve on our new visitation ministry: **LoveBridge of LPCUMC!** They will partner with me in caring for our church family by checking in on those who may be ill, hospitalized, in rehab, or homebound. If you find yourself in one of these situations, please know you are not alone — you can expect a caring call or visit from a member of the **LoveBridge** team, offering prayer, encouragement, and Christ-centered compassion until I can visit personally. This is one more way we can live out our mission of loving and caring for one another as the body of Christ. We truly care about you.

Please join me in celebrating and thanking those who have said **yes** to this ministry of presence and encouragement:

**Dorris McCoy, Jean Weikel, Sandy Beam, Lou Manhart,  
Wanda Brown, Michelle Drumheller, and Rich Auman.**

Glory to God for hearts willing to serve and for a church family that continues to build bridges of love and care.

## Meet Two New Lincoln Park Members

From Cheri Fallon, Editor

**David & Dena Perez...** came to LP Church after “hearing good things about the Pastor.” Originally from Texas, Davide has six children, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Dena and David met through an online dating site (called Plenty of Fish.com) and were surprised to learn that they only lived a mile away from each other. They exchanged pictures and profiles and, “After that,” says Dena, “It was a whirlwind!” They’ve been married for 13 years..



They live in Lily Fields, an over-55 Community off the Fritztown Road in Sinking Spring, where they enjoy many activities— “Cards bingo, trips, breakfasts! You name it,” says David. These two are fun to talk with so look for them for lively conversation at our Sunday breakfasts, which they enjoy quite a bit. They are hardy souls, I know, because when we ended our conversation, they were heading out for a walk on one of this winter’s freezing cold days.

**Wanda Brown...** graduated from Albright College where she met our own Minister Brenda and Pastor Quentin Wallace. “I was with them at New Beginnings Church in Reading,” she says .Wanda has two grown daughters and six grandchildren (three attend college at Amherst, American, and Kutztown.) Tragically, Wanda lost her 17-year old son in 2008. Unknown to them, he had cardiomyopathy and collapsed suddenly on a basketball court.

A retired accountant and certified fraud examiner, Wanda worked as Associate Chaplain at the Reading Hospital “walking with others in their losses and anxiety.” She is a “licensed minister for traumatized people.”

“I love to learn,” she says, “I must have 50 certifications,” such as case management and advocacy training, for instance.

Wanda has already attends Bible study and joined our Food Ministry team. “I love Bible study,” she says emphatically. And, she’s also excited about getting started on our new Visitation Committee, **LOVE-BRIDGE**. (See p. 7) Wanda will speak on Good Friday about one of the seven last words of Jesus.



# Food Ministry: 2025 Reflections

From Jim Gehman

2025 was another successful year for our Food Ministry.

- ♥ We prepared, delivered, and served meals for 80 residents at Opportunity House every other month.
- ♥ We prepared 291 CARE Meals for LP members and friends.
- ♥ We made a 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Breakfast for 70 - 80 people monthly.

We accomplished all this because of a dedicated Food Ministry Committee, headed by **Alan Koelble**. The ministry was filled with conversation, laughter, and gratitude. Menus were created; food was purchased, prepared, delivered and served. Then we washed pots and pans and reset Memorial Hall so the next group could use it. God's blessings and your contributions of food items have allowed us to provide for all these food programs for less than \$2,900.

Our congregation has financially funded our Food Ministry. We are grateful for your support. Our church Agape group has also contributed: These ladies provided CARE meals for January and November. Thank you!

## A ministry filled with conversation, laughter, and gratitude

In 2026, our Food Ministry is looking for new ideas..

- Do you have menu ideas for our CARE meals? Let us know.
- We invite you, as a family, a church committee, or small group of people to prepare a monthly meal for our CARE recipients.

You take the initiative; we'll help.

- How about an Opportunity House meal for 80 people? An entree, a side dish, and a dessert.
- As our 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday breakfast continues to grow in attendance, what would you like to see on

our menu?

Perhaps you have an idea for another food program. Please let us know your thoughts. Talk to **Alan Koelble**, **Jim Gehman**, or any Food Ministry committee member (refer to our Church Directory for committee members.)

Your financial support is appreciated. Please continue to make contributions as you have been, designating your contribution *For the Food Ministry*. Thank you!

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## From Debra Gehr, Missions

The Missions Committee will meet in the beginning of March to discuss possible projects for 2026. If you have a suggestion or a particular organization you'd like us to consider, please let **Deb Gehr** or **Jim Eckert** know by March 9.





## Our Youth Will Be Cooking Dinner

From Parker Chadwick

**Please come for a home-cooked meal by our youth:**

**March 15, 5-7 pm**

**RSVP: Sign Up in the Wagner Room  
at the back of the sanctuary**

## Good news: A Confirmation Class

will be coming for our youth very soon. Parents can meet with Pastor Wallace **on March 1** for information, at 10:10 am, in the Education Building.



Confirmation, a rite many churches celebrate each spring, has biblical roots. In Acts 8, Peter and John are sent to lay their hands on new believers and pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. In the early church, new Christians — usually adult converts — received baptism and confirmation as one ceremony. As more children were brought for baptism, pastors and priests would baptize, but only bishops would “confirm” a baptism, or make it official. Thus, the baptized were granted full membership in the church through confirmation.

Now confirmation allows young people, often after intensive Christian education, **to profess for themselves the faith into which they were baptized.** Confirmation serves as an important faith milestone as young adults purposefully embrace a life of discipleship.

## 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 Bulletin Board



for our May-June issue  
**April 15**

*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

## Birth

Congratulations to **Dave and Dena Perez** on the arrival of their third great-grandchild!

Welcome to the world,  
precious boy!

## *In Our Mailbox*

Thank you to Pastor Quentin and our church family for all your prayers, cards, and hugs during the illness and loss of Lou's brother. Our church is truly a warm and caring family.

**Lou & Jerry Manhart**

Dear LPCUMC Staff and Members,  
Thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed upon me for the last 70+ years. I will miss your hugs every Sunday and Pastor Quentin's dynamic sermons.

You will remain forever in my heart!

Love, **Anna Wardrop**

**WE MISS YOU!**

## There's a Poet in Our Midst

From **Valerie Swartz**

To be pure of heart  
Is just a start  
To be holy for self  
Is right on the mark  
To be holy in marriage  
even at dark  
To be humble before God,  
And have no sin in mind  
Will give blessings to hide  
Finding forgiveness,  
Then pride, worth, answered prayer,  
Walking God's will not scared  
A life given to Jesus,  
Bloodshed on a cross, Christ's reason  
God's ascension to all chosen  
The stars above, only one  
Many more stars have chosen  
Soul contracts to ascend  
From the Alpha to Omega  
One God, on universal trend.



# NEWS-LINC

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

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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](mailto:pastorquentin@lpcumc.org), 610-334-8472  
Contemporary Program Coordinator: Mark Villecco, [mv559er@gmail.com](mailto:mv559er@gmail.com)  
Director of Music: Irina Shmeleva, [Irena@lpcumc.org](mailto:Irena@lpcumc.org)  
Office Administrator: Linda Livingood, [linda@lpcumc.org](mailto:linda@lpcumc.org)  
Children & Youth Education Coordinator: Parker Chadwick,  
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Nursery: Kathi Ernst,  
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Custodian: Carl Madeira  
Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-914-1875  
[cherifallon@comcast.net](mailto:cherifallon@comcast.net)

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

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