

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania

Fall 2026



A Fall Harvest Festival

in a

Season of Fellowship

Saturday, October 24

11 am—2 pm

Fun for the Whole Family

We hope to bring neighbors, families, and friends together for laughter, food, and seasonal fun. This community-wide event

features games, treats, crafts, and fall fun for the entire family. We need volunteers to run games and pass out candy and other treats to our little visitors.

Please see the signup sheets at our Welcome Center.

May this celebration create warm memories, strengthen relationships, and offer a welcoming glimpse of God's love through the hospitality of our church family.

In Bible times, lamps were small but essential sources of light, especially during the dark hours of night. Scripture often uses the image of a lamp to represent God's guidance, truth, and wisdom. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," reminding believers that God's Word directs each step of life. Matthew 25:1-13).

In addition, the lamp is sometimes used to symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gift of life itself. Because of these meanings, the lamp has become a lasting symbol of God's guidance, faithful living, and the light of Christ shining in the darkness.





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

From Mark Villecco, Worship Chair &
Contemporary Program Coordinator

**Our Church's
Anniversary**



Anniversary Sunday - September 27

**One service only at 11 am,
following a Fourth Sunday Breakfast
at 10 am.**

JOIN US FOR THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE WORSHIP

Including music, prayer and a message from Pastor Quentin.

It's a perfect worship opportunity for those who cannot attend church on Sunday mornings, or for those who want a mid-week "pick-me-up!"

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

Please join us on fourth Sundays for a delicious homemade breakfast,
brought to you by our Food Ministry: **September 27 and October 27.**

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."**

Join Us for Adult Sunday School

10:10 am in Memorial Hall

From Randy & Margo Hill and Barbara Olaewe.



We're using a video study of the book of Ruth with Biblical Scholar Sandra Richter (PhD, Harvard) who has taught at Wheaton College and is now the Chair of Biblical Studies at Westmont College in Santa Barbara.

She's a gifted storyteller and presents Ruth in a style that will challenge everyone: life, loss, love and loyalty, unlikely heroes, and unexpected redemption make Ruth a valuable lesson for all. Richter has been closely associated with Seedbed, a Methodist publishing House in Tennessee. Classes will meet every Sunday for 6 to 8 weeks, not including Breakfast Sundays.

Being editor of our *News-Linc* has been a blessing to me. I love our church — its dedicated people and peaceful sanctuary. And, putting the *News-Linc* together has been a creative project that took me away from whatever problem I might be having at the time. Best of all, it drew me closer to God.

From the beginning, I knew I wanted the *News-Linc* to be more than information about activities, dates, and times, but something inspirational and about people. I thought that “people like to read about people” and including articles and snippets about them might “link” us together at LP church. I hope it did.

So, we started the Church Mouse column —with its random news about members — and added occasional interviews with seniors, graduates, and newcomers.

Lately, there are so many ways of spreading our news of activities, committees, and announcements—like weekly emails and phone messages from the pastor—that I began thinking of the *News-Linc* as more of a magazine. I tried encouraging our members to tell us about their faith stories, their personal miracles, and encounters with God. I'm not sure I'm done with that project yet! It interests me.

As early as my first issue in 1988, I wrote occasional articles about family squabbles and missing my babies' chubby thighs. I'm grateful for readers who indulged my efforts. I thank you all for your support and encouragement over the years. We have such a sweet congregation. God bless you!



Retirement

Sunday School Starts 9/13 at 10:10 AM in Memorial Hall with

Seasons May Change But God Does Not

From the Rev Dr Quentin E Wallace

*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven. — Ecclesiastes 3:1*

As summer gives way to fall, we see the season change all around us. The long, warm days of summer begin to shorten, air becomes cooler, and green leaves slowly turn beautiful shades of red, orange, and gold.

Summer does not disappear all at once; it gradually makes room for what comes next. And before long, we realize that a new season has arrived.

Perhaps there's a spiritual lesson in that for us. Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, "*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*"

Life is filled with changing seasons. There are seasons of beginning and ending, planting and harvesting, working and resting, celebrating and reflecting. We welcome some seasons with

excitement, while others require adjustment. Yet through every season, **God remains faithful.**

Just as summer gives way to fall,

there are times in our lives when one season must give way to another. We can appreciate what has been without being afraid of what is coming.

We can treasure yesterday while still embracing today. **The seasons may change, but the God who carries us through them does not.**

Fall is a wonderful time to celebrate the seasons of ministry at **Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church!**



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On **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**, we'll celebrate our ...

81st Church Anniversary

with **one combined worship service**. In 81 years, Lincoln Park has experienced many seasons — of growth, challenge, change, celebration, and faithful ministry. Through them all, God has sustained us.

Our anniversary is an opportunity to **remember and give thanks**. We honor those who came before us, celebrate their sacrifices, and thank God for the foundation they built. But we also look ahead with faith and excitement, believing that **God still has work for Lincoln Park to do**.

Saturday, October 24, 11 am—2 pm,

we'll celebrate the season with our

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL!

It will be a fun-filled day for the entire family with **games, food, activities, treats, and fellowship**. More importantly, it will be an opportunity to connect with our neighbors and remind our community that Lincoln Park Community UMC is a place where **everyone is loved, welcomed, and valued**.

So, as summer gives way to fall and the leaves begin to change, remember: **Every season has its purpose**. Some seasons invite us to remember. Some call us to grow. Some bring new opportunities. And some simply remind us to stop, look around, and thank God for how far He has brought us. After 81 years, the seasons may change, **but God's faithfulness remains the same**.

Happy Fall, Lincoln Park! Let's thank God for the season that has been, embrace the season we're in, and look forward with faith to the season yet to come.

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!

There's Joy in Serving

From Richard Auman, Staff-Parish Relations

I think it's safe to say that in your church life you've been or will be asked to serve on a committee, ushering team, kitchen crew, or one of many other areas where you can give back to your church and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Back in October 1988, the Rev. **Sara Davis** asked **Cheri Fallon** whether she'd like to "do our newsletter." And Cheri's response was typical: "I'll think

about it." Looking back, she says, "It seemed like a good job for me since I majored in English and taught it (and Latin) in a Junior-Senior high school. But more importantly, I love Lincoln Park Church."

Cheri also knew it was about the right time to say yes. Her oldest son would soon be off to college and her time raising four children was slowly winding down.

"What I didn't know then was that this 'opportunity' would be part of my life—and a blessing to me—for 38 years. Nor did I have any idea of the way it would draw me closer to church and our God."

As years passed, Cheri was caught

up in the biggest transition in the print industry: moving from manual and then electric typewriters, to laptop computers, smart phones, Google and more.

Cheri says it was a church member, who was walking through the Education Building where "I was working on the next *News-Linc*" to bring about the change. "He saw my tools—a typewriter, paper, scissors, ruler, glue, and white out—laid out on a large table."

When he said, "You HAVE to start using a computer," Cheri admits "I wasn't sure I appreciated his advice at the time, but he was right, of course."

During those 38 years, Cheri tried to put more creativity in the issues. She gave the newsletter a catchy name—*News-Linc*—and started the Church Mouse column which highlighted church members' accomplishments and adventures. She hoped it would interest our congregation. Cheri contacted new members to get short interesting bios and introduce them to our congregation.

She loved interviewing church members; some of her favorites were **Nancy Dettra**, **Ann Wardrop**, and **Susie**



Romig. Many of her interviews with other senior members appeared in the church's 75th Anniversary Book.

Cheri will be first to tell you that it takes a great team of dedicated volunteers and staff to generate the bi-monthly *News-Linc*. It's impossible to name the more than 100 volunteers who helped her over the 38 years. But there was one person Cheri wanted to recognize. "For many years, **Deb Harvey**, a former LP church member, was an amazing helper who helped me put the articles together, arranging art work and text in an appealing way. It was a **monthly** publication then and sometimes 24 pages long!" Deb was also a great proofreader and my go-to person for discussing sensitive issues."

Over the years, a typical newsletter was transformed into our must-read bi-monthly *News-Linc*. Cheri has found it harder to announce her retirement than she did to say *Yes* to Pastor Sara 38 years ago. "I never thought I'd be editing it this long. Our congregation has always been supportive and encouraging, which makes it hard to give up."

It's been a blessing to me," says Cheri.
"I love LP Church and its people." **God Speed!**

Record Set

After reviewing church historical data and talking with long-time senior members, we couldn't find a church member or staff person who held a single position anywhere close to 38 years.

Congratulations
Cheri!

Thank You Bible School Helpers



You're Currently Helping ...

A School in Tanzania for Deaf Children, Survivors of Recent Earthquakes, and Local Men and Women at Hope Rescue Mission

From **Debra Gehr & Jim Eckert**, Missions Co-Chairs

Thank you! With your generous support, our church sent \$1,000 to the **YATOSHA DEAF SCHOOL IN TANZANIA**. We're fortunate to have such a caring congregation, and we hope you'll keep the school and these children in your prayers.

Also, we're grateful for our congregation's recent contributions toward UMCOR'S EARTHQUAKE RELIEF. We collected \$1,052.54. We were able to send this money through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to support both Venezuela and Columbia where earthquakes caused much destruction and loss of life. Thank you for your generosity and support for this mission.



Currently our **CLOTHING DRIVE TO SUPPORT THE HOPE RESCUE MISSION AND LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES** will run from August 23 through September 27. Their greatest need right now is for **NEW** men's underwear and undershirts, gloves, and sweatpants (sizes M-XXXXL)

They can also use clothing, shoes, purses, backpacks, scarves, and coats for all ages and seasons.. Toiletries, like deodorant, razors, and toothbrushes are also good ideas. Collection boxes are in the Wagner Room. Feel free to reach out to **Deb Gehr, Jim Eckert**, or any Mission Committee member.

We plan to continue our **ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE CAMPAIGN IN OCTOBER TO SUPPORT HELPING HARVEST** as well as our **ANGEL TREE PROJECT IN NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER**. Stay tuned! As always, thank you for your continued support!"



Years ago **LINDSEY (VILLECCO) GUERCIA** saw **Dear Evan Hansen** on Broadway with her Dad. The show ran for six years and won several Tony awards. Lindsey has always wanted to play the mother. She recently had a chance to do that after auditioning with First Street Players in Birdsboro.

Excellent job, powerful message, and unbelievable acting, Lindsey!

Check Out this Free Concert on Your Phone or Computer

From Cheri Fallon, Editor



“I had fun doing it, for sure,” says our own **Jack Villecco**, of performing with West Point Glee Club Alumni. The concert—beginning with the West Point Band—is heartwarming and

patriotic, straight from the hearts of soldiers who’ve served our country well. These musicians were in various classes from 1960—2017.

Jack’s road to West Point began with Boys’ State, a summer leader and citizenship camp run by the American Legion; the Civil Service Exam; his congressman; and finally, West Point’s selection board. Once there, he joined the Glee Club, Chapel Choir, and Bowling Team. In his senior year he met his bride, **Nancy**, the cousin of his roommate’s girlfriend.

In the Army Jack was in the Air Defense Artillery, protecting troops from the air. He completed Airborne and Ranger training and was then assigned to army units in North Carolina, South Korea, and Hawaii.

After six years in the Army, Jack worked in Texas for Frito Lay and, in 1993, moved to Reading, with his family of five, to work for Penske Truck Leasing.

Thankfully, the Villeccos found LP Church, which has benefitted from their presence in many ways. Jack’s been a member of our Chancel Choir and has held many leadership positions. He also helps behind the scene—scheduling greeters, ushers, and lectors. He even works in our Church Office, and, when necessary, has duplicated the *News-Linc*.

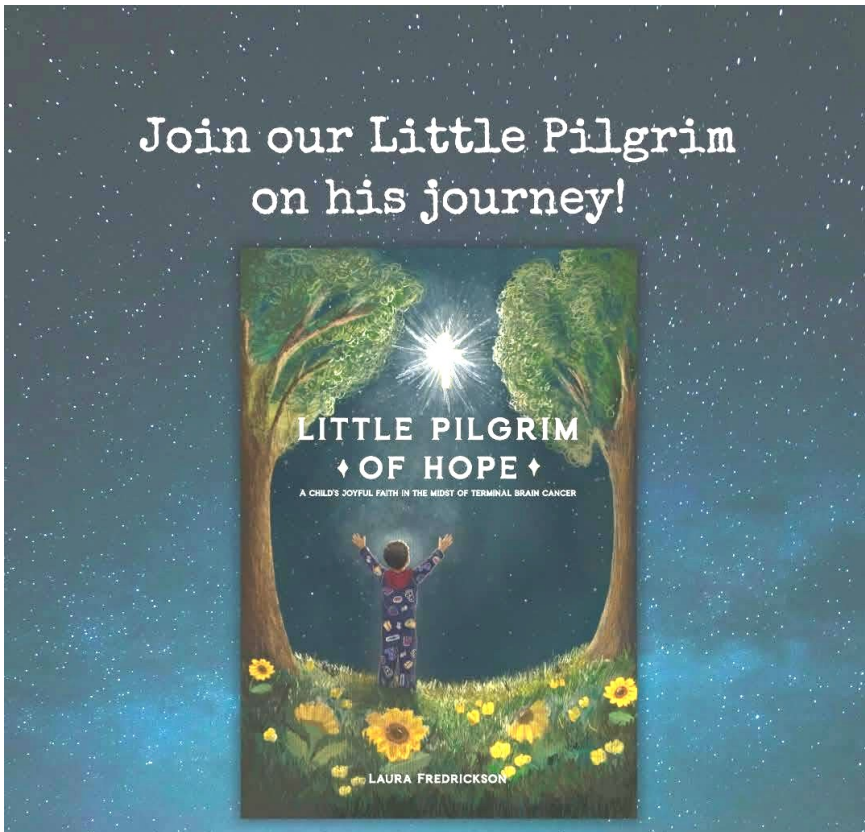
Nancy’s family puppet shows are fondly remembered. **Mark**’s presence as Coordinator of our Contemporary Service, leader of the Praise Band, our audio-visual expert, and initiator of Thursday Night Live, have added a wonderful dimension to our worship.

With her beautiful voice, **Lindsey**’s participation in the Praise Band, dramas, and more, delights us all at both services. And, **Kevin** has served in the Praise Band and helped with audio-visuals.

**THANK YOU, LOVING GOD, FOR THE
VILLECCO FAMILY IN OUR MIDST!**

Here’s Your Link to the Glee Club Concert

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BLDcC2GQ3QqmyWARdFYmY_5KWzlt3oUy/view



Francisco Teased His Priest

Father Bob, I'm going to beat you to Heaven!

From Cheri Fredrickson Fallon

Many of you were touched by my great-nephew, Francisco, and prayed for him through the 18 months he lived with an incurable brain tumor (DIPG.) He was nine when he went to Heaven on December 5, 2024. His joyful spirit was remarkable, and he taught us a great deal about life and death.

His mother, **Laura Fredrickson**, has written a very hopeful book about Francisco which was released by Barnes and Noble on September 14. I'll buy several copies and leave them in the Wagner Room for you to read and share, but it is also available on Amazon.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board

Change of Address

Adam Gehr
368 Camelot Drive
Apartment 2C
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Roe & Jim Gehman
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Wyomissing PA 19608

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.

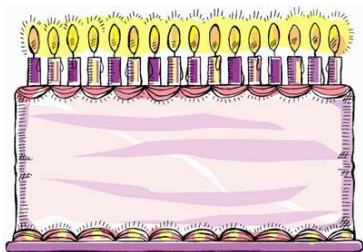
Our staff-
Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-914-1875
Staff: Diane Fisher, Nancy Madeira, Lou & Jerry Manhart, Mark Villecco, Ed Fallon

Births

Congratulations to **David** and **Dena Perez** on the birth of their great-grandson, **Arthur David Perez IV**, on July 25. He is the son of **Arthur David III** and **Chelsea Perez**. **David** and **Dena** will head to Aurora CO to visit him soon.

Barbara and **Dela Olaewe** and welcomed a new grandson, **Ayo-dele Joshua Olaewe, Jr.** on August 2. He is called **AJ** or **Junior**. His sisters **Stella** and **Nike** are happy to have a brother to love..

Welcome to the world,
precious little ones!



Baptism

Brinley Jane Wojnar, daughter of **Adam Scott Wojnar & Caitlyn Rose (Artz) Wojnar**, was baptized at our church by the **Rev. Quentin Wallace**,

on August 30.

Her proud grandparents are **Deb** and **Dan Christopher**. Brinley and her parents live at 96 S Main Street Apt 402 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. She was born on June 8.

May God bless Brinley
as she grows in faith and love.

Happy 100th Birthday
Ann Wardrop
Love You. LP Church

NEWS-LINC

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

Non-Profit Organization

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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)

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For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.

