



News-Line

*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania
September-October 2024*

**From Krista Gilham,
Christian Ed Co-Chair**

Sunday School for All Ages

Kindergarten-6th, 7-12th grade, and
Adults, beginning September 15, at
10:10 am



Are you interested
in teaching pre-
created lessons or
being a helper?
Speak to or email
Krista Gilham,

klgilham@yahoo.com, or **Victoria
Whiteley,** vwhiteley@gmail.com.

Exciting news! The kids'
chime choir has started learning the
handbells too! Look for them to debut
their new skills sometime this fall! Un-
til then, come and see them play their
chimes as part of Anniversary Sunday.

Barbara Olawae will lead the Adult
Class in Memorial Hall. This prayer-
focused devotional and prayer time at
10:15 each week begins September 15.



What's Happening?

Saturday, September 7, 9 am-7 pm

A fun-filled **TRIP TO KNOEBELS AMUSE-
MENT RESORT.** Tickets are free for LP
children and we'll go together by bus to
the park. There's still room on the bus.
Call the Church Office if interested.

**Sunday, September 8, Anniversary
Sunday,** One service at 10 am.

Saturday, October 26, 11 am-1 pm

TRUNK OR TREAT. Look for car
sign-up and hot dog donation
information.



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

Anniversary Sunday : We're Celebrating 79 Years!

From Mark Villecco, Contemporary Service Coordinator
Worship Chair

On Sunday, September 8, join us for one special combined service at 10 am, with activities to follow, as we unify in celebration. The guest speaker will be our District Superintendent, **the Rev Evelyn Kent Clark**. Our theme is "Growing in Grace" (Acts 2:47). Let's come together to celebrate and reflect on our journey! And, a special treat: The kids' chime choir will play.

"Praising God and enjoying the people's favor. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." — Acts 2:47

Upcoming Special Sundays, 9 am and 11 am

- **Laity Sunday — October 20**
- **All Saints Sunday — November 3**

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

Please join us at 10 am, for a free, homecooked, and delicious meal. It's a good time for catching 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 (EDT) and appears at the top of the "Posts" listings, just below the picture of the altar area of our sanctuary.

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."**

A Brotherly Bond and a Shared Vision

From Music Director Irina Shmeleva

The relationship between John and Charles Wesley is a great example of how siblings can be friends and work together. Both brothers were deeply committed to Christian faith and the renewal of the Church. This shared vision provided the foundation for their partnership and their collaborative efforts in founding Methodism. Even though they had different personalities, their differences actually helped Methodism grow. John was the thinker and planner, while Charles was really good at writing poems and hymns. John is often called the "Father of Methodism and Hymnody" and is an important figure in Christian history. It's hard to imagine, though, what he could have done without his brother, Charles.

Both Wesley brothers believed that music and singing were vital for spiritual growth. They saw hymns as a way to teach about religion, to inspire and bring people together. If you think about the brothers' personalities, it's easy to see why their contributions to hymns are so different.



Charles is usually known as the main hymn writer, while John was more of a translator. Charles wrote over 6,000 hymns, and many of them are still sung in churches today. He often wrote hymns to go with his brother's sermons, to teach a specific religious message, and for people to sing together as part of worship. Some of Charles' most famous hymns are "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," and "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing."

Unlike his brother Charles, John Wesley wasn't a big hymn writer. But he was important in bringing German hymns to English-speaking people. His exposure to Moravian hymns during a transatlantic journey inspired him to learn German, and he subsequently translated many hymns into English. He was also a careful editor and made changes to many of his brother's hymns for Methodist hymnals. He wanted the hymns to be accurate and clear, so he often changed Charles's original words.

Together, their efforts significantly impacted the growth of Methodism and the development of Christian hymnody.

“May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may.”

—John Wesley

If You Build It They Will Come

From Pastor Quentin Wallace

*Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him.
You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.*

Psalm 128:1-2

I must be honest: In my grade school years, I always hated “back to school” signs appearing in August. School had seemed endless until my senior year when, at last, I would receive the fruits of my labor by graduating. Who wants to work for nothing?



In the above scripture, the unknown composer of Psalm 126 shared a roadmap to acquiring fruitful work in two parts: reverence and obedience.

- **REVERENCE** is honor and respect, felt intrinsically, deeply and outwardly demonstrated.
- **OBEDIENCE** is complying to a request or order and being willing to submit to another’s authority. Biblically, it is hearing and cherishing God’s word and being willing to joyfully and diligently follow it.

Some may think what God wants us to do is difficult and unrewarding. However, the Psalmist begs to differ, saying that God gives a reward to the faithful. As I stated earlier, who wants fruitless labor?

Let me share this...During my tenure as pastor of a small congregation in Reading nearly 20 years ago, several members and I would schedule a Saturday workday task for church repairs, and we assumed we could successfully complete it

on the scheduled day. However, I recall at least two work days of planned tasks that were totally nonproductive. My opinion.

One was the day we intended to install portable air conditioners, and the other was the day we planned to insulate the building by adding plexiglass and plastic to the church windows to save energy costs. We planned to meet at the church early and promptly start the work.

Sadly, we spent most of those two days running to Lowes for supplies we hadn’t anticipated needing, and subsequently we had to schedule another Saturday workday to actually complete the task. In short, by the end of both days we felt we hadn’t accomplished anything;

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

we didn't see the fruit of our labor, but we would eventually. That said.

As we resume our ministry here at Lincoln Park Church after Labor Day, let's pray that we continue to see the fruits of our labor as we witness the blessings of God in our personal lives, our community, and our church. We thank God that our weekly worship attendance — both in person and online — is growing, and new people are joining us in ministry and being added to the church rolls.

After one year of ministry at Lincoln Park Church, we —my family and our congregation — are witnessing the fruits of our labor. One indicator for this year is that Lincoln Park Community UMC is celebrating 79 years in ministry, and our church received the *One Matters Award* for making disciples from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Let us continue to invite people to church and to deliver inspiring, passionate worship. You never know when someone will accept your invitation. Please, keep telling others about our thriving programs, like our food and clothing ministries which assist the disadvantaged locally. We see the fruits of our labor in our ministries for children, young families, empty nesters, and our seniors. Keep on building this spiritual house of worship because I trust and believe the whisper, from the movie *Field of Dreams*,

**“IF YOU BUILD IT,
THEY WILL COME.”**

Meet Two New Members

Leslie Snyder



Leslie was born in Reading and went to Muhlenberg HS. She became a member at LP Church on May 12.

She has been an Insurance Agent for 45 years, starting in her Dad's business (Snyder, in Kutztown) and now with DJI Insurance.

She also helps out nights and weekends as a caregiver for her neighbor —who happens to be the daughter of church member **Gloria Beamesderfer**.

Leslie says, “I had been praying for a church to go to.” When Gloria asked Leslie to bring her daughter to church on Palm Sunday this year, she did. She says, “I walked into church and heard Pastor Wallace,” and she knew that God had answered her prayers. “I thank Gloria for bringing me to LP Church. I feel excitement coming on Sundays, and everyone's so nice.”

Although she doesn't have much free time, Leslie enjoys trail walking and also kayaking, fishing, and swimming on vacations to see her sister in St Petersburg, FL every Memorial Day weekend.

Leslie believes that “God puts everything in place for us!”

(Continued on page 10)

Two Ways You Can Help Others this Fall

From Diane Fisher and Carol Bashore, Missions Committee



The Missions Committee will again collect food for Helping Harvest in September and October. There will be labeled boxes at the back of the sanctuary for your donations. Some suggested items are canned fruits and vegetables, breakfast items, drinks, pasta and sauce, peanut butter and jelly.

In 2023, more than 9.5 million pounds of food, valued at just over \$17 million, were distributed by Helping Harvest in Berks and Schuylkill counties. Let's join together to make 2024 an even more successful year.

Thank you, in advance, for your

participation in this missions project to help neighbors struggling during these difficult times.

You can help some Albright students with their back to school needs through a program the school calls *Uplifting Lions*. These young people mostly need financial help for living expenses and books, as well as toiletries. They could also use warm weather clothing: scarves, mittens, hats, or sweatshirts, etc. Please use the containers



in the Wagner Room where a friendly lion is also accepting your monetary contributions. You can send donations to the Church Office, too.

The final missions project for 2024 will be our Christmas Angel Tree.



We extend our deepest sympathy...

Kerry Leber and his family upon the death of his brother, **John Leber**, on July 19. John was a longtime member at Lincoln Park and had been caring for his younger brother, Kerry, before he died. Cards can be sent to Kerry c/o **Lori Binkley**, 184 Sianna Circle, Wernersville, PA 19565.

From Jerry Manhart, Stewardship and Finance Chair

In the next few weeks, you'll see and hear about our 2023-2024 Narrative Budget. Unlike political ads telling you how bad a candidate is, or how poor our living conditions are, you will see and hear instead about the good things your contributions to LPCUMC are doing. About how you're helping people and changing lives, not only here at LPCUMC, but in our community, nation, and beyond. How our church accomplished its mission in 2023 and so far in 2024.

Our expenses and ministries for 2023 were placed in five ministry

categories: Worship, Education, Missions, Congregational Care, and Facilities. Notice there is no category for salaries. Instead, the staff salaries are distributed under the ministry they perform. Some staff members' salaries, such as the Pastor's, are split under several ministry categories.

Each week, beginning September 22, one ministry category will be introduced in a *Narrative Budget Moment* during morning worship. You will also receive a brochure in the mail. Ask questions, make suggestions, get involved, and continue to support your church.



Remember, every contribution to LPCUMC makes a difference.

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!

VBS Scuba Was a Huge Success!

From Krista Gilham, Christian Ed Co-Chair



A total of 35 kids brought their energy to our church to learn about God, and they kept bringing their friends. There were 12 kids from LP Church, plus 22 kids from the community!

I want to ***thank my amazing team*** of station leaders, decorators, and volunteers who jumped in to help everything run smoothly: **Torie and Geoff Whiteley, Jen and Brandon Freed, Jenna Gracias, Margo Hill, Barb Leas, Nick Guercia, Mark Villecco, Jae, Brenda, & Pastor Wallace, Kris Gilham, Deb and Adam Gehr, Heather Enright, Hallie and Jason Corby, Rich Auman, Carol and Rich Bashore.** A special thank you to **Jim and Roe Gehman** for making the **red submarine!**. This year, many decorations were donated from West Wyomissing Chapel, and many of them were used again at Mount Calvary UMC in Harrisburg for their VBS too!



Come on out for a 4-week Bible Study with Pastor Quentin. The theme is *Faithful Living*.
Wednesdays, 7 pm, in the Wagner Room
September 18, September 25, October 2, October 9
Please sign up in the Wagner Room.

“No One Can Argue With Your Personal Story”

From **Dorinne Bilger**, Storyteller, and **Cheri Fallon**, Editor

That’s what **Pastor Quentin Wallace** said at a recent Bible Study, emphasizing the importance of telling our stories...about our faith journey, about how we came to believe and trust God, and about our personal encounters with Him.

Maybe you’ve heard of Squire Rushnell, author of books about “God Winks.” The term was coined by him...meaning “an event or personal experience, often identified as coincidence. So astonishing that it’s seen as a sign of divine intervention, especially when perceived as an answer to prayer,” according to Wiktionary.

Early this year **Dorinne Bilger** returned to church after a terrible fall in her yard requiring a long recuperation. She told me her story and I thought it worth sharing with you. So I asked her to write it up, which she did, and here it is, the first of our stories of encounters with our God.

This has been a year to remember — good times and also hard times which have taught me patience. On October 10 the “hard times” began.

My fall was from the hillside above the sunken patio. Airborne for 15 feet (my son Dan measured it) I landed on the brick floor. At the beginning of the flight,

my head was lower than my body, and I knew that it was time for God.

The spirit spoke one word that echoed in my mind: “TRUST.” So I did. I survived. I was immobile for six weeks with deep muscular damage and system disturbances, and this was my lesson in patience.

During my recovery, good things came from many people. My neighbors— the Zaidovs and the Oswald-Arnolds— were a tremendous help. Jenn even did my laundry for weeks. They took out my garbage and recycling. I knew that I had friends beyond my neighbors, but the outpouring of support that I received was truly a surprise. Friends pitched in with shopping, brought complete meals, and

made up a list of chauffeurs who took me for doctor appointments and tests. My sister Lynda Ann and her hubby came for Thanksgiving - brought and prepared the holiday meal.

You name it —my neighbors, friends, and family — did it. It makes me teary when I think of how much they all blessed me.

If you have a story to tell, please contact me, 610-914-1875, or send it to:

cherifallon@comcast.net .

We won’t argue with you.





(Continued from page 5)

Dottie Lefever

Dottie graduated from Wilson HS and went on to study at Keystone Jr College and Kutztown University. A widow, Dottie has one older brother and a daughter, **Jennifer Lefever**. “She comes to see me often,” she says.

She lives at the Highlands and enjoys participating in various meetings, Aqua Zumba, corn-hole, movies, and Ceramic Palooza.



DAVE KERCHER and five friends were in Key West on July 28. They landed this 427 lb marlin, coincidentally, on the same Sunday Pastor Wallace spoke about the loaves and fishes!

The Lord certainly works in mysterious ways!

ANNE WARDROP had a grand old time celebrating her 98th birthday at her daughters’ homes, in Easton and in Chevy Chase MD, and at lunch here in Reading with friends.



The Church Mouse loves news from you and your family to share with our readers. Contact: cherfallon@comcast.net.



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, 610-678-8735
Staff: Nancy Artz, Diane Fisher, Nancy Madeira, Lou & Jerry Manhart, Mark Villecco, Ed Fallon



Anne Wardrop, 98!!

August 18
1 Reading Dr, Apt 266
Wernersville PA 19565

Marian Longenecker, 95!!

August 9
The Highlands
Personal Care Rm 662,
Wyomissing PA 19610



Walk with Us!

We'd love to have you join us. We meet Mondays, at 9:30 am, on the corner near the church sign. All are welcome!

Congratulations to **Caitlyn Christopher** and **Adam Wojnar** who were married August 10, in our church, by former pastor, the Rev David McMillan. Cait is the daughter of **Dan and Debbie Christopher** and granddaughter of **Nancy Artz**.

Wedding



Opportunity House

LP Church will prepare, deliver, and serve dinner at Opportunity House on **September 3** and **November 5**. Help is usually needed from 3– 7 pm. Come and join us!

**A BIG
Thanks!**

Thank you to all my LP Church friends who sent lovely notes and cards on my 98th birthday. They were very special to me!

Anne Wardrop

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

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

Office Administrator: Linda Livingood, linda@lpcumc.org

Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Margaret D'Amico

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; Ed Bldg 15; 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.