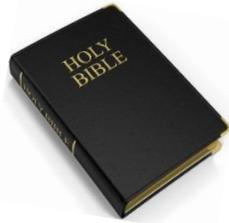


The Linway News

July-August 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! As I write this many of us amateur gardeners have labored this spring and early summer to prepare and plant our summer vegetable gardens. As we enter July and August we will continue to tend them, but I am always amazed at the germination and growth of the plants from tiny seeds to mature plants. Before we know it, we will begin to harvest summer vegetables to enjoy at the table, preserve for the months ahead, or make available to others due to the bounty of the crops.

The Gospel according to Matthew records Jesus sharing a couple of parables about growth in 13:31-33. One is the story of the mustard seed and the other is about leaven (yeast). Of course the seed and the yeast are living organisms and under the right conditions they grow and do what they are intended to do. We have been taught to believe that we live in a cause-effect world. In other words, for this to happen, this first must take place which will result in what finally takes place. You plant radish seeds and you get radishes. You plant zucchini seeds, you get zucchini. You plant corn, you get corn.

I think the parables invite us to look closer. In the parables of the mustard seed and the grains of yeast, Jesus is asking us to see the world as the arena of God's action. The Apostle Paul picked up on this when he wrote his first letter to the community of faith in Corinth 3:6 *I planted, Apollos watered, but God*

gave the growth. Is there room for God in your perception of reality? Could it be that God regularly intrudes, but we have been conditioned to overlook or are oblivious to the possibility?

Miracle is the name **not** for some divine overturning of some natural law. It is the word used to describe anything that God does that is beyond what we humans can do. Life and growth are miraculous matters not under our control. One reason why our culture tries to do away with miracles is that it wants a world in which human actions are the only actions.

The parables of the mustard seed and the grains of yeast remind us that the world does not work that way. We don't have the whole world in our hands. Remember singing *He's (meaning God's) got the whole world in his hands...?* The tiny seed is insignificant in itself and especially when left in the seed envelope and not planted. But when we plant the seed and God gives it growth, it is amazing. I have to believe that one reason Jesus tells these stories it to encourage us to look at things in faith as God looks at things. Left to our own devices, we do not see the love of God poured out in Jesus. This is why the Good News of the Gospel must be told and retold.

These are turbulent times. The Corona Virus Pandemic has turned our world upside down for months with sickness and death. The appropriate cry for social justice has been taken over by those bent on their own agenda of destruction. Disruption of employment and business activity have wreaked havoc on individuals, families, communities, our country, and the whole world. What can we do when

we hear lies and misinformation about how we are to live? **We must remember that God has not forgotten us.** The Psalmist reminds us that even when he felt forgotten, his trust in God's covenant, steadfast love brought him through the crisis. **I invite all of us to remember that this summer of discontent will pass. God's love for all who turn to Him will not be withheld.**

As you have heard, we have resumed worship in the Linway Sanctuary. How wonderful it is to gather again and hear God's Word from Scripture and affirm his meaning for our life! Please review the information in the rest of this newsletter in order to keep up to date on events and activities here at Linway. Faithfulness is not without effort. Let our efforts be in response to the One who gave himself for us in love.

By the grace of God we are one people and together part of the Body of Christ in this time and place. I look forward to sharing with you the worthy and sacred work of worship, mission, and ministry at our Lord's Linway Church.

Grace & Peace,
Eric E. Dennis, Pastor



Summer Communion will be held on July 26. For those watching the service online, be sure to have your elements ready so that you may partake of communion at home.

Services in the Sanctuary Resumed and Online Recordings Will Continue

Services in the Linway Sanctuary resumed on June 28. We are holding one service on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. and everyone is doing a great job following the policies for safety. Should you happen to arrive at church for worship and realize you forgot your mask, we have a small supply available for one-time use. On July 3, the Allegheny County Health Dept. limited indoor gatherings to no more than 25 people but exempted religious organizations from this order. We continue to take precautions and have expanded to keeping 2 empty pews between those attending worship.

We encourage those who are at high-risk or prefer not to be in public to watch the online video recording of the service on our Facebook page or the church website where it will be posted no later than by Monday at noon.

Session Notes

The Session is taking a well-deserved break and will not be meeting during the month of July.

Next Session Meeting: August 18 at 7:00 p.m.



“Buy A Spot” Project Almost There: Less Than \$1,000 Left to Raise!

Donations have continued to accumulate, and we are happy to share there is less than \$1,000 left to raise to replace the blacktop on the West Lot. Donations may be mailed to the church. Please designate that it is for the “Buy A Spot Project”. **THANK YOU** for your generosity! Donations are recorded as “Groundskeeping” on your Giving Statement.



Lawn Care Donations Requested



It's Grass Cutting Time! We would appreciate donations toward our Lawn Care Fund to help defray the cost of the lawn mowing service that takes care of the church's

lawn and landscaping. Each weekly cut of the grass costs \$40.00. If you are willing and able to help with this expense, please mark "Lawn Care" on your check memo line. Thank you so much for helping us keep the church's lawn and grounds looking nice.

**WE PUT THE
FUN
IN FUNDRAISING**

Fundraising Committee

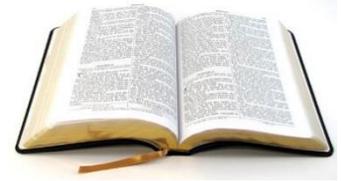
June Chicken Barbecue

Thank you to everyone who helped with our record-setting Chicken Barbecue held on June 6. We sold 224 chicken dinners in less than 2 hours and had to turn 5 cars away that were waiting in the parking lot and hoping to get some of the last few meals. We apologize to those who came to the church expecting to get a chicken dinner only to find we were all sold out. We know it was a combination of our well-known, delicious Linway BBQ chicken, plus the first weekend Allegheny County was in the Green Phase and everyone was finally able to be out and about. Many enjoyed the new drive-up ordering and the ability to purchase meals without leaving their vehicles.

Giant Eagle Gift Cards and Sarris Candy Bars

are available to purchase as a fundraiser for our church. If you are interested, please contact the church office. The remaining candy bar flavors are Peanut Butter, Almond, and a very limited amount of Crispy Rice.

Christian Education Committee



Stay-cation Bible School

The Christian Education Committee is working hard on our Stay-cation Bible School! Instead of meeting inside the church, we are offering a Bible School that kids may complete at home! We have been busy recording and editing our bible story and craft videos and preparing Take Home Kits. We'll contact those who have signed-up when the Take Home Kits are ready to be picked-up and when the videos are posted on the church website and ready for viewing.

Monetary donations towards VBS may be mailed to the church office. Please mark that your donation is for VBS. Thank you, in advance, for your donations!

Linway Retreat Date: Saturday, Oct. 1

We will be holding a Fall Retreat at Ligonier Camp and Conference Center with most of our regular activities compacted into a single daytime retreat. We'll have the use of a portion of the cafeteria and the outdoor pavilion with a fireplace to make 's'mores and hot dogs in the evening before we drive home. We're excited to try this one-day retreat with the fall colors in full display. More information will be coming!

Summer
is here!

**This is the day the
LORD has made;
let us rejoice and
be glad in it!**
Psalm 118:24





Mission to Feed the Homeless

Due to the pandemic, we have been unable to carry out our monthly Mission to Feed the Homeless in downtown Pittsburgh in order to follow the guidelines of social distancing. We will provide updates as soon as we are able to resume this mission.



Preschool Registration for the 2019-2020 School Year is Being Accepted

If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling a child in the Linway Preschool program starting this August, please contact the church office at 412-824-3555. There are some openings in the 3-Year Old Classes that meet Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m. A few spots remain in the 4-Year Old Afternoon Class that meets Mon, Wed & Fri 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Meals on Wheels

Donations of desserts from Linway will be needed July 20-24. Due to the pandemic, MOW is not able to accept any home-made items. If you are interested in donating a dessert, please purchase pre-packaged items. Please also consider donating sugar-free items. You may bring your dessert to the kitchen Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and use the James Street entrance near the kitchen. Thank you!



Please remember the following in our prayers:

Helen Alexander	John Arnold
Dennis Bernhardt	Betty Brinker
Bill Chobanic	Clay & Lois
Clark Danner	Dorothy
Cindy Druga	Mike Feigh
Betty Frommell	Gloria
Jason & Jackie	Karen
Wendie King	Audrey Koppel
Linda	Edward Lloyd
Rita Marrow	Miller Family
Nellie Nicholls	Anne Nutter
Nan Oskin	Carol Pascarella
Pat	Fran Peppler
Ann Puscaric	Renee
Doreen Sever	Linda Smith
Michelle Smith	Cindy Taylor
Jim Welsh	Irene Young



Happy July Birthday to:

Kathy Berger	John Masters
Laura Shawley	Mia Sivrich
Mary Lou Fawcett	Deanna Walters
Nancy Hilbert	

Happy August Birthday to:

Kristopher Daugherty	Linda Wirth
Camden Daugherty	Jamie Stewart
Tatiana Ritz	Mike Marrow
Helen Alexander	Keith Eremic
Don Watt	Thomas Hazard
Jeannette Briggs	





Happy July Anniversary to:

Melanie & Brian Blackall
Chrissy & Keith Eremic
Fran & Nick Sivrich
Peggy & Nick Sivrich
Bill & Carmella Knight
Linda & Ted Wirth
Kris & Shannon Daugherty
Judy & Don Augustin
Pam & Scott Susan

Happy August Anniversary to:

Amy & Wayne Gida

Online Giving Through Tithe.ly

Tithe.ly is a secure way to give to Linway Church through credit cards or your bank account from anywhere at any time. There are two ways to give via Tithe.ly:

- Website: <https://tithe.ly/give>
- App: Downloaded to your phone (<https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>) from either the Apple App Store or Google Play. Note: When searching for Tithe.ly, select the Finance App.

Once on either the website or the app, the registration process is very quick and secure. To find Linway, click on Search, type Linway and select Linway United Presbyterian Church. If you have any additional questions, please contact Christine Stewart, our Financial Secretary, at financial@linwaychurch.org.

Also, the Church mail continues to be checked daily for church offerings that are sent through the U.S. Post Office.

Thank You!

Thank you for all the prayers, calls, cards, and well-wishes we have received. We are happy to share that after 5 long years, Jim had his last cancer treatment on July 7. We thank our church family for your continued support.

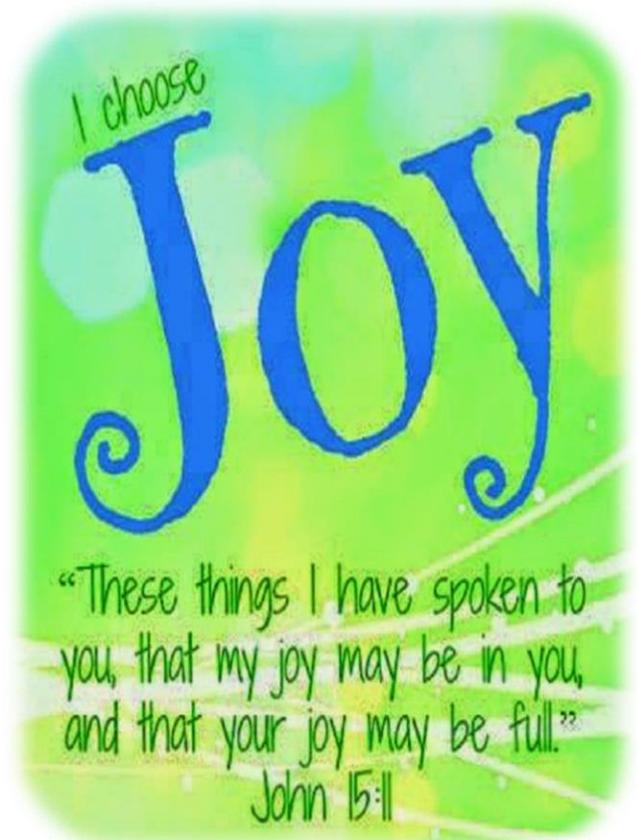
-Jim & Linda Wetzler



Summer Newsletter

This is the combined July/August edition of the Newsletter. The next Linway News will be available in September.

If you would like to place an article in the September newsletter, please have information to the office by Wednesday, August 19.





MA's Pantry

Matching Donations for MA's Pantry Through the Pittsburgh Foundation's Day of Giving

The Pittsburgh Foundation will match online gifts given to them on August 19 for our local Food Bank, MA's Pantry! This was a very successful fundraiser for the Pantry last year, and their goal this year is to raise \$22,000. Linway will collect monetary donations for MA's Pantry through August 18 and will make one online gift from Linway.

MATCHING GIFTS

1. YOU DONATE.
2. THEY MATCH.
3. DOUBLE THE IMPACT.

This is a great opportunity to double your monetary gift for the Pantry! Since we are combining all donations given through Linway, no monetary amount is too small. If you'd like to help, **please mail your donation to Linway or place in the offering plate. Checks should be made payable to "Linway Church" and in the memo line mark that it is for "MA's Pantry".**

Thank you for helping those in need!

MA's Giving Tree Suspended For This Christmas

At it's July Board Meeting, MA's voted to suspend the December Giving Tree Program in which church members purchase & wrap presents for Pantry recipients. Instead, MA's would like to give each recipient a Christmas gift card and is asking those who normally purchase a gift, to instead make a monetary donation through Linway by August 18 so that it may be matched by the Pittsburgh Foundation. This way, the amount you normally spend on a gift at Christmas may be doubled and Ma's can use those funds to purchase gift cards.



The Linway News

Linway United Presbyterian Church
600 Lincoln Highway, N. Versailles, Pa 15137
Church Phone: (412) 824-3555
www.LinwayChurch.org
LinwayChurch Facebook Page

Church Office Hours are limited:
Telephone messages, email messages,
and US Mail are being checked daily.

Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Eric E. Dennis

Email: pastor@linwaychurch.org

Church Office Manager: Leanne Cornell

Email: contact@linwaychurch.org

Financial Secretary: Christine Stewart

Email: financial@linwaychurch.org

Choir Director: Margaret Dennis

Organist: Nancy Kelley

Deadline for newsletter information is usually the Sunday before the last Sunday of the month unless noted differently.

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