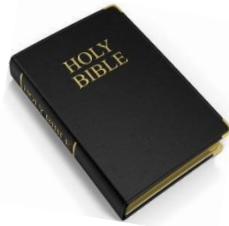


The Linway News

September 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! I have returned to my desk from personal vacation, and I want to thank the Session and the congregation for my vacation time. I also want to thank the Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Russell for providing worship leadership while I was on vacation. I knew you would be in good hands.

Due to the Corona Virus, my vacation time was spent at home working on my list of projects around our house. I can report that a number of significant projects were accomplished. I can also report that a number of new projects have suddenly appeared as if they have crept up from the bottom as I marked things off at the top. At the moment these new items are on hold. They are not critical, but some things that need my attention when I get around to it. I should have suspected as much.

In my first two Sunday services after my vacation, I used the Joseph Story, found in the Book of Genesis, as the text for my messages. It was the one I was required to translate from the Biblical Hebrew Bible into English when I was in my Seminary training. It has always been meaningful to me.

The Book of Genesis starts with the Creation Stories and God's original plan for humans to be in a relationship with Him in the Garden of Eden. How did that work out? Not well. The humans (Adam and Eve) succumbed to the temptation of sin. They had free choice. They chose poorly. We can understand. We

have all chosen poorly from time to time. But God took what happened and then set about to redeem the situation. Take, for example, the Joseph Story. Joseph's brothers chose to sell him into slavery. They didn't have to do so. Potiphar's wife didn't have to falsely accuse Joseph of taking advantage of her. She chose to do so. God has never stripped humans of free will. And this, I think, is when we see the beautiful sovereignty of God come into play. God can take the sins of the brothers, even the lies of Potiphar's wife, and find a way to redeem them, so that God's ultimate will (salvation and reconciliation) is achieved.

The Joseph Story is a wonderful example of how persistent our heavenly Father is to redeem humanity. Sin cannot upend God's desire and plan to bring us back into a relationship with Him. The sins of the brothers cannot stop the radical display of mercy that God pours out on Jacob's family. God's covenant with Abraham goes through Jacob to be a blessing not only to Jacob's family, but to all the families of the earth. This story reminds us that humanity has not been stripped of free will. God's desire is to redeem us (humanity), in spite of the allure with the things that seek to turn our lives away from Him.

Who could have imagined just one year ago that we would be confronted with the upheaval of the Corona Virus Pandemic? So much has changed! Regular routines and activities have been disrupted. For a while, all we could do is record the reading of a Scripture passage, a prayer, and a message to be made available through Facebook and the church's website. We have then progressed to open worship using the protocols of safety

recommended by the Health Department and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. I tell you this: **God will not be thwarted by any of this!** Unfortunately, thousands of our fellow Americans and other citizens of the world have died. I believe that they have been received into God's eternal care. I do not believe that this Corona Virus, or anything else that may come along, will deter our heavenly Father from his objective of redeeming humanity. We need only be reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote:

We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, not anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38

For those who are comfortable coming to worship, I look forward to seeing you. Out of an abundance of caution, you are asked to continue to wear masks and keep a physical/social distance when you come to worship. For the time being, we will continue to observe worship at the 9:15 a.m. hour with the Scripture, Morning Prayer, and Sermon recorded for broadcast on the church's Facebook page and website. I am thankful beyond words to Rich Cornell & Don Augustin for the hours of effort they continue to put in to make this happen. Please take the opportunity to thank them if you can.

Rally Day will take place on Sunday September 13th. While we may not *rally* in the Linway Sanctuary as in the past, we will *rally* around the Word of God, including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which is the Word of God made visible. If you are joining us by way of the broadcast, please be sure to have the elements of bread and juice available for the sacrament and partake as directed.

Please review the information contained in the rest of this newsletter. It can be a great help as we plan our continuing witness. 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



Communion will be held on September 13. For those watching the service online, be sure to have your elements ready so that you may partake of communion at home. For those partaking of communion in the sanctuary, pre-packaged communion cups with a wafer will be used.

Services in the Sanctuary and Online Recordings Continue

We are holding one service on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the Linway Sanctuary wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and following other 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.

The Allegheny County Health Dept. limits indoor gatherings to no more than 25 people but exempted religious organizations from this order. We encourage those who are at high-risk or prefer not to be in public to watch our 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

Next Session Meeting:
September 15 at 7:30 p.m.
and will be held virtually via
Zoom.



"Buy A Spot" Goal Achieved! **THANK YOU!**

THANK YOU for everyone's participation in our "Buy A Spot" project to raise funds to improve our parking lots. Fundraising for this project began in the spring of 2019. Phase 1 of the project involved sealing the East Lot and was completed in August of 2019. Phase 2 of the project is to completely remove and replace the blacktop in the West Lot and will take place before the end of fall. **THANK YOU** for your generosity! Donations are recorded as "Groundskeeping" on your Giving Statement.

Lawn Care Donations Requested



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. 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

August Chicken Barbecue

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with our Chicken Barbecue held on August 15. We sold out of 230 chicken dinners at 4:01 p.m. That's 230 dinners in 2 hours. The chicken, baked potatoes, cole slaw, and rolls were scrumptious, as always! We were blessed with perfect weather and a constant line of vehicles in our lot with folks anxious to get dinner. We again used the drive-up ordering in which folks purchased their meals without leaving their vehicles. This fundraiser benefits the Linway General Fund.



Giant Eagle Gift Cards are available to purchase as a fundraiser for our church. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

Flea Market Cancelled: Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold our annual August Flea Market this year.

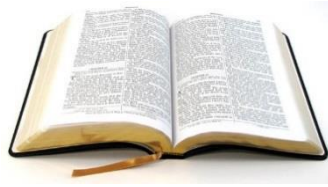


Mission to Feed the Homeless

Due to the pandemic, we have been unable to carry out our monthly Mission to Feed the Homeless in downtown Pittsburgh. At its June meeting, the Session voted to send a donation to the Light of Life Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter on the north side of Pittsburgh, which is continuing to operate during the pandemic. We will provide updates as soon as we are able to resume this mission.



Christian Education Committee



Linway Fall Retreat: Rescheduled to Spring 2021

Unfortunately, the Christian Education Committee made the difficult decision to cancel the one-day Fall Retreat scheduled for October. We are now looking ahead to Linway's traditional, full-weekend retreat at Ligonier Camp & Conference Center which has been scheduled for April 16-18, 2021.

Stay-cation Bible School

Twenty children participated in our Stay-cation Bible School. Instead of meeting inside the church, we are offered on-line bible stories and craft videos. We also prepared Take Home Kits and a pre-packaged snack & juice box for each child. The videos will remain posted on the church website for a little while longer in case you would like to check them out. THANK YOU to those who helped by making videos, preparing craft supplies, assembling the Take Home Kits, or by donating snacks or supplies!



Bibles for 3rd Grade Students

In keeping with our annual tradition, we would like to present our children who are in the third grade with their own new bible. Plans are being formed as to how we will do this under the current circumstances. If your child is in the third grade, please contact the church office to make sure we have him/her on the list.



Meals on Wheels

THANK YOU to those who gave donations of desserts in July. During this pandemic, Meals on Wheels is continuing to operate out of the Linway kitchen 5 days a week to provide meals for their clients.



Start of Classes Delayed Until January Registration Still Being Accepted

The Linway Preschool Board voted to postpone the start of classes until January. If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling a child in the Linway Preschool program, please contact the church office at 412-824-3555.



Please remember the following in our prayers:

Helen Alexander	John Arnold
Dennis Bernhardt	Betty Brinker
Carlie	Clay & Lois
Clark Danner	Dorothy
Cindy Druga	Dziak Family
Mike Feigh	Betty Frommell
Gloria	Jason & Jackie
Karen	Wendie King
Audrey Koppel	Karen Kordalski
Frank Kordalski Sr.	Linda
Chuck Linderman	Edward Lloyd
Rita Marrow	Mary Ann
Nellie Nicholls	Anne Nutter
Nan Oskin	Carol Pascarella
Pat	Fran Pepler
Ann Puscaric	Renee
Rhonda	Doreen Sever
Sherry	Linda Smith
Michelle Smith	Michael Spingola
Peg Torbich	Dick & Donna Trent
Welsh Family	





Happy September Birthday to:

Cindy Trout	Katy Augustin
Irene Young	Kyra Thornton
Kurt Hillgartner	Jane Hayes
James Alexander	Scott Dennis
Jim Wetzler	Gladys Festa
Natalie Hilbert	Nellie Nicholls
Chrissy Eremic	



Happy September Anniversary to:

Teri & Jim Ritz
Timothy & Meredith Hazard



Congratulations to

Kaitlyn Gida who received her Masters of Education Degree from Westminster College. Her focus of study was Special Education and Reading Specialist.



Congratulations to

Frank Kordalski & Wendie King on their engagement to be married.



Congratulations to

Nicholas Eremic on the successful completion of the requirements for the Cub Scout Protestant Religious Award.



Our Sympathies to the Welsh family. Jim Welsh, a long-time member of Linway, went home to be with our Lord on August 12.



Our Sympathies to Bill and Carmella Knight. Carmella's sister, Theresa Wise, went home to be with our Lord on July 24.



Our Sympathies to Joan Pierro & the Dziak Family. Lynn Dziak, former secretary of Linway

Church, went home to be with our Lord on July 25. Lynn's husband, Ed Dziak, went home to be with our Lord on July 28.



To
MA's Pantry

Through
**the Pittsburgh Foundation's
Day of Giving 8/19/20**

Donations from Linway Totaled:	\$4,834.79
<u>+Matched by Pittsburgh Foundation:</u>	<u>\$4,834.79</u>
Double the Impact from Linway:	\$9,669.58

The grand total that will be given to Ma's Pantry from the Day of Giving is **\$24,355**. Thank you for your support of our food bank which helps our N. Versailles & E. McKeesport neighbors in need! The Pantry is operated entirely by volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Rev. Dennis. More information about Ma's can be found on their website: www.maspantry.org



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. Please keep the giving going so we can meet our monthly expenses.

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

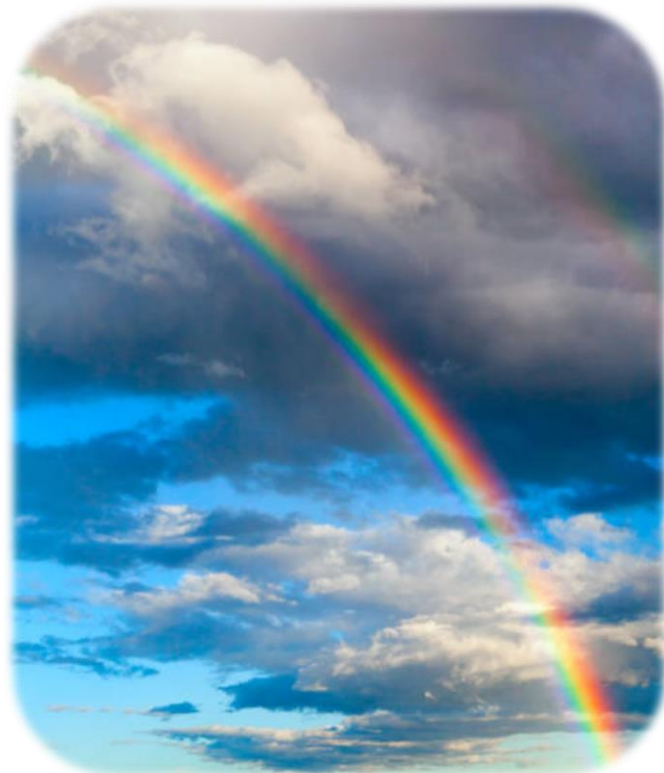
Email: financial@linwaychurch.org

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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Rainbow

A poem by Frank Fawcett,
a member of Linway Church

I am thankful for the rainbow,
For God's promise in the sky.
A reminder for believers,
That His love will never die.
That He will never leave us,
We will never be alone.
We just need to take His word for it,
For His word is set in stone.

One day we saw a rainbow,
Like none we've ever seen.
I could not help but wonder
And ask: what does it mean?
So close, so bright, so beautiful,
It's beauty a sure sign
That God is closer than I thought.
His love is so benign.

That rainbow filled my windshield
And filled the sky above.
So intense it filled my senses
With the measure of His love!!!

