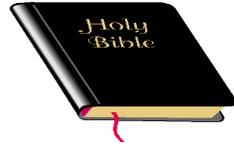


The Linway News

January/February 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings and Happy New Year to you and yours! What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time we looked forward to a year of excitement with a certain degree of anticipation. Little did we know that the Corona Virus would become a Pandemic, and all bets were off for a continuation of what we had known and even expected. We have been humbled, and some folks' ability to earn a living has been devastated. Our country has suffered a major upheaval that has affected our economic, social, and political lives. We have had to make major adjustments in our daily life. Sheltering at home has taken on a new meaning. Nothing is as simple as we thought it was before. And we ask, what will the future bring?

Ready or not, we enter this year with hope that vaccines will be successful in halting the Pandemic. We also are unsure of the lasting economic, social, and political impact the Corona Virus will have. The Session of our Lord's Linway Church has continued to make plans for worship that will include as many as possible. As you know we have been recording the Scripture Text, the Pastoral Prayer, and the Sermon for broadcast on the Church's Facebook Page and on the Linway Website and at the least, that will continue. Additional licenses have been purchased to allow us to make plans to *livestream* the entire service, however, this is not as easy as it sounds. It is filled with technical challenges, and our thanks

can only go out to our Technology Committee as they seek to make this possible. Additional information will be shared when it is available.

All of this points to the fact that we can expect some new dimensions to present themselves to us in this new year. Are we ready for what 2021 will bring? The honest answer is that, just like in 2020, we will have to meet the challenges as they come because we don't know what this year will bring. What will be required is to have faith that with the assurance of God's grace, mercy, and love, we can face tomorrow.

It would do us well to once again remember the account of the Christmas story as presented in the gospel according to Luke. Baby Jesus was taken by Mary and Joseph to the Temple in Jerusalem after his circumcision and the days of purification *to present him to the Lord*. There, an old man by the name of Simeon seemed to grasp the mysterious nature of what God had set in motion with the birth of Jesus. Simeon was in the Temple when Mary and Joseph entered with the baby Jesus. According to Luke's account, he greeted the family and took the baby Jesus in his arms, gave thanks to God and said:

"Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for my eyes have seen thy salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and mother marveled at what was said about him;

and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,

“Behold this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed” Luke 2:29-35.

Simeon knew that, on the surface, little had changed: Herod was still king and was looking to do away with the foretold coming Messiah, and Roman troops still occupied Israel and especially Jerusalem. However, underneath, everything had changed! God’s promised redemption had arrived! Things would never be exactly the same again. From our perspective, we must remember that the cradle without the cross misses the true meaning of Christ’s birth. Jesus’ earthly future was in God’s hands. Our future is in God’s hands. Today we all have the privilege of greeting that future one day at a time!

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



Save These February Dates:

Sun., Feb. 7 Soup-er Bowl of Caring –
donations for MA’s Pantry

Wed, Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday Service &
Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Annual Congregational Meeting: January 31

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, at 11:30 a.m. after the worship service. We will hear reports from the various Committee Chairpersons on the items that highlighted Linway over the 2020 calendar year. This will be a hybrid meeting with some attendees present in the Sanctuary while others may join the meeting virtually by way of Zoom technology. Please use this log-in information to join from home via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89812279886?pwd=d2pRL3k3M3NWclQzUGRhYUw5YmdXZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 1227 9886

Passcode: 935549

Committee Chairpersons: Don’t forget to please prepare a short presentation about your committee’s activities in 2020.

A Moment of Thanks



-Thank you to those who helped Linway give \$1,266 in monetary donations to Ma’s Pantry in December! In place of the Giving Tree, Ma’s was able to give Walmart or Giant Eagle gift cards as presents to help those less fortunate.

-Thank you to those who gave monetary donations towards Operation Christmas Child. Linway sent \$815 towards purchasing items to fill shoe boxes that will share the love of the Lord with children around the world.

-Thank you to those who added to the beauty of our sanctuary by purchasing a poinsettia “in honor” or “in memory” of a loved one.

-Thank you to the Deacons and everyone else who lent a helping hand to decorate for Christmas & then put it all away the beginning of January. As always, the church looked beautiful during Advent & Christmas, but this year it was particularly comforting having the decorations and poinsettias to enjoy.

-Thank you to Elder Scot Gray for sharing his message of God’s Holy Word with us while Rev. Dennis enjoyed a vacation day on Dec. 27.

Session Notes

Next Session Meeting:

Feb. 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Nominating Committee

Thank you to the Nominating Committee for working to fill the officer positions for 2021.

Finance Committee

Thank you for the support, both financially and prayerfully, that has been given to our church during this difficult year.

If you would like to pick up your Box of Giving Envelopes for 2021, please contact the church office during the week and we can meet you at the door/bring your box to your car.

Please remember to pay your 2021 Presbytery Assessment. This is the amount each assessed member of the church is responsible for paying to the Presbytery which goes towards the operational expenses of the Presbytery. The **Per Capita** listed on the blue envelope is incorrect and should be **\$34.79**. The envelope is in the front of your 2021 Box of Giving Envelopes.

Property Committee

The committee is working with an electrician to power the security cameras around the building instead of relying solely on battery power. They are also looking into installing remote switches for the sanctuary lights in place of using the breaker switches to turn the lights on/off. Also, in order to examine the condition of the drain pipes leaving the kitchen, a camera will be used to scope the drains.

Fundraising Committee

Thank you to those who participated in our Fun Pasta Sale and our On-line Vendor Event in December. Both were very successful! Look for another Fun Pasta Sale in the spring.

Giant Eagle Gift Cards in \$25, \$50, and \$100 amounts are always available to purchase as a fundraiser for our church. Please contact the church office to purchase.

Joint Session/Deacon Meeting

The Session has voted to wait to hold this meeting until the Fall when, it is hoped, the meeting will be able to be held in-person.

Deacons

The Deacons held a virtual meeting via Zoom on January 20. During the meeting, the Deacons voted to give a donation to Ma's Pantry. For 2021, Glenn Marrow volunteered to serve as moderator, Frank Kordalski will serve as vice-moderator, and Tim Mitchell will serve as secretary. Thank you to Tim Mitchell who previously served as the moderator.



Valentine Boxes

The Deacons will be preparing Valentine Boxes for our college students and members in the military. Monetary donations to help with purchasing items and shipping can be placed in the offering box or mailed to church. Please mark that it is "For Valentine Boxes". Thank you, in advance, for your donations.



Christian Education Committee



Soup-er Bowl of Caring: Sunday, Feb. 7

Monetary donations for our local food bank, Ma's Pantry, will be collected through Feb. 7. To donate, look for the soup pots near the Sanctuary doors after the worship service. Donations can also be mailed to church. Please mark that it is "For the Soup-er Bowl". Please be as generous as you can to help with the good work done by Ma's Pantry for those in need in our local community. Thanks!



Congratulations to Our 2021 Officers

We offer our congratulations to the following individuals who have been elected as Elders and Deacons for 2021. The Ordination and Installation of our newest Church Officers was held both in-person and virtually during the worship service, on January 10.

Serving a three-year term as an Elder are:
Wayne Gida and Jim Wetzler.

Serving a one-year term as an Elder is:
Christine Stewart.

Serving a three-year term on the Board of Deacons are: Leslie Gray, Gwenn Heshizer, Frank Kordalski, Wendie Kordalski.

Serving a one-year term on the Board of Deacons are: Scott Gray and Marissa Lapp.

Samantha Stewart and Trent Cornell will again be serving one-year terms as Junior Deacons.

We would like to say "Thank You" to those who, at the end of 2020, completed their terms as Church Officers. On the Session, we thank: Don Augustin, Scott Gray, Jamie Stewart, and Linda Wetzler. On the Deacons, we thank: Rich Cornell, Amy Gida, Kaitlyn Gida, Nancy Waszkiewicz, Ed Waszkiewicz, and James Alexander. We also thank Trent Cornell and Samantha Stewart for serving as Junior Deacons.

Never be lacking in **zeal**,
but keep your spiritual **fervor**,
 serving the Lord.

Romans 12:11

Linway appreciates all the time, service, and effort that the outgoing Elders and Deacons have put into serving over the past several years.

Roster of 2021 Linway Church Officers

The Session Class of 2021:

Keith Eremic
Sandy Hillgartner
Jaime Ruffing
Christine Stewart

The Session Class of 2022:

Leanne Cornell
Sallie Kaser
Sue Keller
Lila Sedlak

The Session Class of 2023:

Wayne Gida
Jim Wetzler

The Deacons Class of 2021:

Judy Augustin
Scott Gray
Barb Harvey
Debbie Keating
Marissa Lapp
Tim Mitchell
Stephanie Spingola

The Deacons Class of 2022:

Mary Lou Bernhardt
Chrissy Eremic
Nick Hunter
Glenn Marrow
Sandi Szmuc
Rob Trout

The Deacons Class of 2023:

Leslie Gray
Gwenn Heshizer
Frank Kordalski
Wendie Kordalski

2021 Junior Deacons:

Trent Cornell
Samantha Stewart



Linway's 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. Linway continues to make a donation each month to the Light of Life Ministries, an organization that helps the homeless in downtown Pittsburgh.

Salvation Army & Homeless Clothing Donations

We are currently not able to receive any more clothing donations for the Salvation Army or for the Homeless. At the current time, please take your clothing donations directly to the Salvation Army rather than placing them in or beside our Salvation Army Collection Box.



Linway Preschool

The Preschool Board and teachers met in December

and made the difficult decision to extend the suspension of classes through the end of this current school year. All involved are disappointed not to have been able to hold classes this year, and are looking forward to the day when the children may be safely welcomed back into our classrooms.

Registrations for the 2021/22 school year will be available in March.

Advice from a Snowman



- Be a jolly, happy soul
- Avoid meltdowns
- Spend time outdoors
- Be well-rounded



Please remember the following in our prayers:

John Arnold, Tracy Augustin, Charlotte Ban, Pat Brant, Betty Brinker, Clark Danner, Janet Doherty, Mike Feigh, Betty Frommell, Richard Hickox, Nancy Kelley, Kim, Audrey Koppel, Jean Lawton, Linda, Linderman Family, Edward Lloyd, Lois, Rita Marrow, Carol Pascarella, Bill Patterson, Dorothy Churchfield Pavlik, Joey Pecar, Ann Puscaric, Renee, Patty Rodgers, Michael Spingola, Rose Stark, Barbara Stoop, Tom Szmuc, Wilma Taylor, Thornton Family, Peg Torbich, Ed Waszkiewicz, Ted & Linda Wirth, and Irene Young



Happy January Birthday to:

Ariana Trout	Kathy Bahr
Jan Krisantz	Alyssa Bernhardt
Glenn Marrow	Allie Mitchell
Lori Frye	Ellie Mitchell
Wayne Gida	Ava Mitchell

Happy February Birthday to:

Addison Bernhardt	Tyler Hayes
Brian Bernhardt	Kathryn Blackall
Kim Bernhardt	Nick Hunter
Beverly Harcum	Marianne Buick
Ed Waszkiewicz	Jesse Gerkins
Zachary Young	John Crandall
Benjamin Gida	Sarah Cornell
Joey Pecar	Nancy Kelley
Ron Dudash	

There are no January or February anniversaries that the office is aware of. If you would like to share your birthday or anniversary, please contact the Church Office.

Meals on Wheels

During this pandemic, Meals on Wheels is operating out of the Linway kitchen 3 days a week to provide meals for their clients.

Thank you to those who provided a dessert during the weeks of January 18th & 25th.

Linway Church will be providing desserts for Meals on Wheels the following dates in 2021:

-April 12-16 and April 19-23

-July 12-16 and July 19-23

-Oct. 18-22 and Oct. 25-29

At this time, Meals on Wheels is only able to accept store-bought, prepackaged desserts. No home-made. Monetary donations toward a dessert is also accepted. You may mail monetary donations to Linway and indicate it is "For Meals on Wheels".

MA's Pantry

2 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MA's Pantry is in immediate need of two, able-bodied volunteers to help load and unload a small truck twice each month. The volunteers will report to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank in Duquesne at 9:00 am two Friday mornings each month and help load the truck (inside loading dock). There are other volunteers. This task takes about ½ hour. The volunteers then go to MA's Pantry in East McKeesport to unload the truck. It is not a difficult assignment, but an essential one. We have a truck, a driver, a supervisor and two other volunteers. We just need a few more hands. "God's work; our hands." Please call Ed Sites at (412) 848-1407 if you can help.



We extend our sympathy to the Waszkiewicz Family.

Ed's sister,

Joanna Detwiler, went home to be with our Lord on December 31.



We extend our sympathy to the Bernhardt Family. Dennis Bernhardt, a long-time member of Linway, went home to be with our Lord on December 15.

Thank you to my church family for the cards and gifts I have received. Your kindness has been a great comfort to me after Dennis' passing.

-Mary Lou Bernhardt



We extend our sympathy to the Watt Family. Don's mother, Betty Watt, went home to be with our Lord on January 11.



We extend our sympathy to the Pepler Family. Fran Pepler, a friend of Linway, went home to be with our Lord on January 15.

The family of Fran Pepler would like to thank the Linway congregation for remembering their mother in prayer.



We extend our sympathy to the Thornton Family. Tom's father, John, went home to be with our Lord on January 19.



**"Be still and know that I am God."
Psalm 46:10**



Many thanks for all the cards, prayers, and expressions of concern I have received during this trying time. All were very much appreciated.

-Nancy Kelley



Congratulations to Frank Kordalski and Wendie King who were married in our church on Sunday, December 13. May the Lord bless your lives together!



Congratulations to Natalie Hilbert and Justin Peel who are engaged to be married. May the Lord bless your lives together!



Congratulations to Sarah Cornell for receiving her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Media Arts: Computer Animation with a Minor in Graphic Design from Edinboro University in December.



We wish all the best for Andrew Dennis as he begins a new chapter in his life moving and starting a new job in eastern PA.

If you would like to send Andrew a note, his address is: Andrew Dennis, c/o The Millers, 418 South Main Street, Perkasie, PA 19844

2021 Chancel Flowers Order Form

Orders for the 2021 Chancel Flowers "in memory" or "in honor" of a loved are now being taken. The cost is \$12.50 per vase. You may order one or two vases per Sunday. If there is a particular date you would like to reserve, please do so as early as possible. The deadline to reserve a particular date is two weeks beforehand. To order, please complete this form and place it in the collection box with your payment or mail to the church office.

I would like to order:

_____ 1 Vase of Flowers for \$12.50

_____ 2 Vases of Flowers for \$25.00

For the Date:

Flowers Given By: Please include your name & phone number

"In Memory Of"or..... "In Honor Of" (please designate)

Name(s): (please include relation - parent, grandparent, child, aunt, friend, etc.)

neither HEIGHT nor DEPTH,
nor ANYTHING else
in all CREATION,
will be ABLE to SEPARATE
us from the LOVE
of GOD that is in
Christ Jesus our LORD.
Romans 8:39

Communion Dates for 2021

February 17	Ash Wednesday
April 1	Maundy Thursday
May 23	Pentecost
July 25	Summer Communion
September 12	Rally Day
October 3	World Communion Sunday
November 28	First Sunday of Advent
December 24	Christmas Eve



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.

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God Is Spirit

by Frank Fawcett

His Spirit fills our Bible
With knowledge, truth, and grace,
With knowledge of His only Son
To help us win the race.
With every step He orders,
We walk in truth and light,
Enables us to be strong in the Lord
And in the power of His might.
The Spirit moved upon the earth,
Gave us a place to stand
To view the awesome universe,
The works of God's own hands.
The Spirit fills the universe
And fills our hearts with love.
We know these things are ever true.
We know our God is love.
Again we know these things are true,
God's Son, the living proof.
Now, let us worship our true God
In spirit and in truth!

*"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the
spirit saith unto the churches."*

Revelations 3:22.



*"As a gift, he scatters the snow
which falls in flakes like fleecy wool."
-Psalm 147: 16*