

The Linway News

June 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! It appears that our country is in the process of coming out of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Your Session is monitoring the situation, and with increased immunizations taking place, it appears that we are moving toward returning to a semblance of what was normal. I'm sure you join with me by saying *so may it be!* Please read the enclosed Worship Service Policies that were approved by the Session on May 18.

For over a year we have been faced with challenges of one kind or another. It makes us ask: *what are our most important daily needs?* A neuroscientist named Nicole Gravagna has developed a list of six human needs. At the top of the list is *foods*, which provides the calories and a variety of nutrients necessary for life. Next comes *water*, also necessary for life and gives the body the ability to process food and remove wastes.

The third most important necessity is *shelter*, which protects our body from the blazing sun or freezing temperatures as well as the wind and the rain. The human body does not do very well with extreme temperatures without some form of shelter. Number four on her list is *sleep*, which almost always is best experienced in the protection of shelter. After all, Eskimos have their igloos!

Now these top four human needs will not come as a surprise to anyone. We all know how important it is to have *food, water, shelter, and sleep*. Jesus commands us to give food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty, and

in doing so *as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me* (Matthew 25:40).

Number five on Nicole Gravagna's list is *other people*. Regular connection with others allows us to maintain a sense of well-being. We cannot thrive in isolation. Isn't this at least part of what we have been struggling against during the Pandemic? One of the sad commentaries that recently came to light was a fourth grade student who actually came across his teacher in the grocery store and she did not recognize him without his mask on. Being connected to other people is key to our emotional and spiritual health. One of our greatest human needs is other people. God created us for community, not isolation.

According to Nicole Gravagna, the sixth human need is *novelty*. She wrote: *novelty creates the opportunity to learn and the ability to fail*. I'm not keen on the use of the word *novelty*. I much prefer the word *purpose*. Without a sense of purpose, any motivation wanes and a healthy sense of well-being is lost. Don't you feel better when you get up in the morning with a sense of purpose and have something to accomplish? Sometimes purpose comes to us during the course of the day. Sometimes it is the result of making a commitment to someone.

My hope is that you have a commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ. A commitment to him will lead to a purpose to look beyond our self to the needs of others. Isn't that what Jesus was saying to his disciples in the 25th chapter of the gospel according to Matthew? I think that commitment to our Lord and Savior is expressed and given witness in a variety of

ways in our life. We do not all have the same gifts, but we are called to serve the same Lord Jesus Christ.

As we move into the summer season we look forward with faith and hope. Worship opportunities are being expanded to resume the early 9:15 a.m. Contemporary Service on Sunday mornings, beginning on Sunday June 6th. The Church Picnic at the Maple Pavilion in White Oak Park is ON for noon Sunday June 13th. As conditions warrant we will see the relaxing of restrictions for physical distancing and the use of face masks. O HAPPY DAY!

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ has not been diminished. The love of God has not been withdrawn, nor has the fellowship of the Holy Spirit departed from us. I hope you plan on being in worship when you feel it is safe. Your presence and participation strengthens our earthly witness. After all, God did call us into a community called the body of Christ.

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



Summer Worship Schedule
with the Return of the
9:15 a.m. Service

Beginning on Sunday, June 6, the summer schedule for worship times will begin. The 10:30 a.m. Service will continue at 10:30 and the Contemporary Service will once again be held each Sunday starting at 9:15 a.m. This schedule will remain in effect through September 5.



The Christian Education Committee invites you to the Church Picnic on **Sunday, June 13 at noon at the Maple Pavilion in White Oak Park.**

Due to Covid precautions, this will not be a covered dish. The committee will be serving hot dogs, individual bags of chips, individual drinks, and a pre-packaged dessert. Plates, napkins, and plastic ware will be provided. If you would like, individuals may bring a side dish for themselves/their family.

Those attending are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and/or card table from home in order to further social distance. Even though we will be outdoors, we ask that masks be worn except while eating or drinking. For planning purposes, please note on your attendance card if you will be attending or contact the church office.

Kids (and kids at heart) can bring along water balloons, water squirters, and buckets. Reminder: The picnic pavilion is the Water-Free Zone. Please do not throw balloons/squirt anyone who is under the pavilion.

Maps with directions will be located at the sanctuary entrance.

Directions from the Church:

1. Take Route 30 East into North Huntingdon.
2. At the Sheetz, make a right onto Carpenter Lane/Muse Lane.
3. Continue straight on Carpenter Lane/Muse Lane as you pass Angora Gardens.
4. At the stop sign, continue straight onto McClintock Road and the park will be the first turn on your right.



Fatherer's Day:
Sun., June 20

We wish a very
Happy Father's Day!

to all of our fathers and grandfathers and also to all of the men of Linway who share their concern and care for others! We also fondly remember the men in our lives who have gone home to the Church Triumphant.

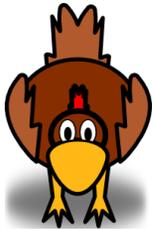
"A righteous man who always walks in his integrity; how blessed are his sons after him."

Proverbs 20: 7

The Session

Please read the enclosed **Worship Service Policies** that were approved by the Session on **May 18**. We thank you for your cooperation in following these updated policies.

Next Session Meeting: June 15 at 7:00 pm
This will be a virtual meeting via zoom.



Fundraising Committee

Chicken Barbecue: THANK YOU!!!

New Record: 230 chicken dinners sold out in 1 hour and 45 minutes! THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way with our chicken barbecue!

Property Committee

Work continues in the basement. Thank you to Rick & Ricky Morgan who have been doing the bulk of the work and to the extra hands and backs that have also helped with this project.

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 use one of the all-purpose

pew envelopes and designate it for "Lawn Care" or mark it on your check memo line. Thank you so much for helping us keep the church's lawn and grounds looking nice.

Deacons

Thank you to the Deacons for hosting a reception on the Lawn on May 16 after the Cross and Crown Service. It was great to gather for hot dogs and conversation on the beautiful spring day.

Next Deacon Meeting: in-person meeting on Sunday, September 12.

Christian Education Committee

Sunday School Teachers & Helpers Needed

Session approved that we may begin holding Sunday School every other Sunday starting July 4. The kids would wear masks, sit apart from each other, and each child would have his/her own baggie of crayons, scissors, & glue stick. At the moment we have a limited number of teachers and helpers, so that is why we are offering it every other Sunday. If you would be willing to be a teacher or a helper, please contact the church office. Adults teaching or helping with Sunday school would need to have their clearances on file in the church office. There is no charge to get your clearances, and the office has more information on how to do this.

July 10 VBS: Help Needed

Plans are tentatively being made to hold a one day Vacation Bible School the morning of Saturday, July 10 at East Field in East McKeesport. This activity is in the early planning stage and is contingent upon the amount of help we have. If you are willing to help in any way with VBS, please contact the church office or a Christian Ed member asap. We can't do it without help!

Linway Preschool

Registration for 2021-2022 School Year

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 and we can mail you a registration form or provide more information. Classes are held August thru May. Three-year olds meet Tuesdays and Thursdays. Four-year olds meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. More information is also on our church website.

Now Hiring: Custodian

- September - May
- Monday – Friday 2 Hours/Day
- \$8.50 per hour
- No medical benefits

Contact Lila Sedlak if interested at sedlaklila@gmail.com or 412-672-6820.

Mission to Feed the Homeless

Unfortunately due to the pandemic, we have been unable to carry out our Mission to Feed the Homeless in downtown Pittsburgh. At their May meeting, the Session again voted to give a donation to the Light of Life Ministries who assist the homeless in Pittsburgh.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels operates out of the Linway kitchen 5 days a week to provide meals for their clients. More information on Meals on Wheels is available at: 412-327-6908.

Women's Breakfast

Ladies! Ready for breakfast?! Let's meet Monday, June 7 at 10:00 a.m. at North Versailles Eat 'N Park. Any woman from the church is welcome to come. Contact Nancy Waszkiewicz at 412-823-3916 with questions.

Need for Prayer



Please remember the following in our prayers:

Helen Alexander, John Arnold, Tracy Augustin, Alyssa Bernhardt, Betty Brinker, Janet Doherty, Richard Eboli, Bobby Fazio, Mike Feigh, Betty Frommell, Jim Hawthorne, Richard Hickox, Nancy Kelley, Kim, Bill & Carmella Knight, Audrey Koppel, Jean Lawton, Linda, Lois, Rita Marrow, Loretta Matsko, Carol Pascarella, Joey Pecar, Renee, Rick, Ed & Debbie Ruffing, Barbara Shoop, Ellen Stevens, David Swauger, Cindy Taylor, Wilma Taylor, Ted & Linda Wirth, Irene Young

With Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Sandi and Tracey Szmucz and their family. Sandi's husband, Tom Szmucz, a long-time member of Linway, went home to be with our Lord on April 29.

We extend our sympathy to Jaime, Ed and Jecquelyn Ruffing and their family. Ed's father, Edward Ruffing, went home to be with our Lord on May 2.

Thank You!

Thank you for the prayers and cards during our temporary stay in the nursing home.

-Bill & Carmella Knight

Thank you to the Deacons and to those who have reached out to me.

-Joey Pecar

Free Twin Bed Frame

The Augustins have a free twin bed frame in need of a new home. Please contact Judy at 412-999-7157 and leave a message.

Happy Anniversary!



Happy June Anniversary to:

Jackie & Tom Thornton
Jaime & Ed Ruffing
Linda & Jim Wetzler

Happy Birthday!

Happy June Birthday to:

Tom Thornton	Marissa Lapp
Willie Marrow	Caden Sivrich
Duane Welty	Pam Susan
Deanna Buchman	Scott Susan
Cathy Walters	Dale Frye
Ed Matko	Ellen Hardy
Samantha Stewart	Stephanie Spingola



Congrats Grads!

Two students were recognized on May 16 during our annual Cross and Crown Ceremony to honor our high school graduates:

Samantha Renee Stewart,

Plum Senior High School

Samantha is the daughter of Jamie and Christine Stewart. At Linway, Sami is currently a Junior Deacon and helps with bible school and many church fundraising dinners.

Her activities during high school include:

- Captain of the Plum Girls Soccer Team which was the 2019 & 2020 Section Champions and also the 2019 & 2020 WPIAL State Runner-up
- Coach for the Plum U8 Girls Soccer Team
- Coach for Quick Skills, teaching soccer skills to kids throughout the region
- Vice President of the Girls Leadership Assoc.
- Member of Future Educators Club
- Sports Photographer for Plum & other districts
- Counselor at Summer Blast Church Camp

Samantha is also a member of the National Honor Society, was recognized for being on the High Honor Roll for 4 years, and was named 2019 Referee of the Year. She has won numerous dance awards during her participation with the Studio G Dance Center.

Sami was awarded the Clarion University 1867 Scholarship and the Clarion University Academic Scholarship. She plans to attend Clarion University to study Speech Pathology and Audiology with a minor in Coaching/Business.

Trent Joshua Cornell

East Allegheny Junior/Senior High School

Trent is the son of Rich and Leanne Cornell.

At Linway, TJ is currently a Junior Deacon, projector operator, choir member and helps with VBS & many church fundraising dinners.

His activities during high school include:

- Pit Section Leader for EA Marching Band, Concert Band, & Indoor Percussion Ensemble
- First Chair, First Violin for Orchestra
- EA Choir and Musical
- STEM Club, BotsIQ & SeaPerch Robotics Clubs
- Carnegie Science Center Volunteer

Trent is also a member of the National Honor Society and was recognized for being on the High Honor Roll for 4 years. He received the 2021 EA Band Director's Award, and was named 2021 Music Department Student of the Year and EA Technology Student of the Year.

TJ was awarded the East Allegheny Businesses Assoc. Scholarship, EA Education Assoc. Scholarship, and the Cal-U Board of Governors Music Talent Scholarship for full tuition.

Trent plans to attend California University of PA to study Mechatronics: Mechanical & Electrical Engineering and Robotics.

Congratulations! To Kaitlyn Gida, who completed her Master of Education in Special Education and her Reading Specialist Certification in August. She participated in the graduation ceremony at Westminster College on May 8. Kaitlyn is a special education teacher at East Allegheny.

Congratulations! To Natalie Hilbert who was selected as the East Allegheny 2020/21 Teacher of the Year, where she teaches HS science.

Memorial Day Service: May 31



Rev. Dennis will be giving the prayer at the annual Memorial Day Service to honor and remember our Veterans at 11:00 a.m. at the Grandview Cemetery at 1301 Lincoln Highway in North Versailles. Please consider making some time in your schedule to attend this moving ceremony and proudly wave your American Flag. For comfort, we suggest you bring along a hat, water bottle, & folding chair.

No Video on May 30

Due to the holiday, there will not be a recording of the Sunday, May 30 worship service. We apologize for this inconvenience. Recordings will continue on June 6.

Special Music for the Summer

We are seeking individuals who would like to provide any type of Special Music for a Sunday service during the summer. If you would like to share your gift of music at one of the summer services, please contact the church office.



Our Daily Bread

The June-July-August 2021 edition of *Our Daily Bread* is available at the Sanctuary entrance. Please pick-up your free copy of this daily devotional booklet and grow your relationship with our Lord.

*“Whatever is true,
whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely...
think about these things.”
Philippians 4: 8*

Projector Operators Needed

We are in need of a few more folks to help video and run the slideshow during the worship service. Please contact the church office if you are willing to lend a hand.



Summer Office Hours



The office will be closed on Memorial Day and then will be open during the summer the following times:

Monday thru Thursday 9:00 - Noon.
As always, please leave a message on the machine, and we will get back with you.

Next Newsletter: July/Aug

A reminder that the next Linway News is the July/August edition.

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 Summer Hours:
Monday thru Thursday 9:00- Noon

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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