



# The Linway News

*Linway*  *United*  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
CHURCH

*Celebrating 125 Years*

*1897 - 2022*

**November 2022**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! Do you feel like the pace of everyday life is speeding up? Well, if so, you are not alone. I can't help but feel that we are racing toward the end of the year and the holidays, but there is so much to do before we get there. Does anyone else feel the press of time? So much to do. So little time to do it. It is a busy season in the life of the church as well.

We greet the month of November with the change back to Standard Time on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. That is also the day we celebrate our All Saints Day recognition as part of our 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. We will remember those church members and loved ones who have completed their life journey on earth and have joined the Church Triumphant. We will acknowledge the Memorial Gifts made in loving memory or in honor of a family member or friend. What a wonderful way to begin the month.

On the following Tuesday, November the 8<sup>th</sup>, our country observes our national midterm Election Day. Let me once again encourage all registered voters to go and cast your ballot for the candidates of your choice. The freedom to vote is a privilege that many others in the world do not have, as is the freedom to worship according to the dictates of our conscience. I hope you will exercise your freedom to come to worship if you are able and to cast your ballot for the candidates you believe will best serve the people.

The following Saturday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, Linway will host our Annual Fall Festival with our doors open to the community from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you haven't been approached or volunteered to help in some way, consider doing so. It certainly never hurts to let your friends and neighbors know that they can come for lunch, browse the vendor tables, purchase baked goods of one kind or another, have children tell Santa what they want for Christmas and select gifts from "Santa's Shop," and let's not forget reviewing the Gift Basket Room before purchasing tickets for the basket you hope to win. It sure will be a busy day!

Once again we are participating in Operation Christmas Child. The deadline for boxes to be brought to the Church is Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. We will dedicate them at the 10:30 a.m. Service and later that week take them to the local collection center. Specific information about this program can be found in this month's newsletter. It is a wonderful second mile mission project that lets children in third world countries know that our faith announces the Good News of the Gospel is for them and that they are loved.

The Fall Harvest tables will soon be in the Sanctuary to receive your non-perishable food items for our local food pantry: MA's Pantry. This is a local ministry that Linway Church helped to establish many years ago. It has grown in the number of individuals/families served over the years. The need has not lessened. MA's is especially in need of donations of soup.

Later in the month we will dedicate the Pledges of Support for Linway in the New Year. Yes, it is time to once again

look ahead and plan for the coming New Year, because it will be here before we know it! Although economic activity is currently going through an unsettled time, our pledge of support for our Lord's Linway Church is a sign of our commitment to the work and witness, mission and ministry of our Lord and Savior.

The Thanksgiving holiday falls on November 24<sup>th</sup> this year. Although this holiday is not a specifically theological holiday, it is grounded in giving thanks for our blessings. According to our faith, our blessings come from Almighty God. As we gather with family and friends to observe our Thanksgiving celebration, let us not overlook the source of our thanksgiving. This is faith in action, and it is the least we can do.

Finally, the last Sunday of the month, November 27<sup>th</sup>, is the First Sunday of Advent. The Sanctuary will be decorated with the symbols of the season. We will light the first Advent Candle in the Advent Wreath, and celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In doing so, we begin the journey to Christmas where we once again celebrate our Savior's birth. I hope you will be present in worship and join in the many activities of this very busy time of the year. Your participation is a sign of the faith we share.

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



### **All Saints Memorial Service: Sunday, November 6**

In the Protestant Church calendar, we observe "All Saints Day" as a special time to give thanks for the believers who have preceded us in history. We believe, as did St. Paul, that all who put their trust in Jesus Christ and follow him are made separate and filled with his grace. The "Saints" are beloved of God, called to be different from this world, and bearers of Christ's truth and love. During our 10:30 Worship Service on November 6, we will be remembering those who were beloved among us and this past year have passed from our sight, but we trust are in the care of our Lord.

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### **Fall Harvest Tables: Nov. 6 – Nov. 13**

Tables will be in the front of the Sanctuary for the collection of non-perishable grocery items for MA's Pantry. They are especially in need of soup. Monetary donations may be mailed to the church or placed in the pew Giving Envelopes & select "MA's Pantry" on the envelope. MA's is able to use monetary donations to purchase food items at a large discount from the Pittsburgh Food Bank.



### **Advent Readers/ Candle Lighters Needed**

We are seeking individuals, families, or friends who are willing to read the Advent Reading and light the corresponding candles for one of the four Sundays in Advent or Christmas Eve: Nov. 27, and Dec. 4, 11, 18 & 24. Please contact Lila Sedlak or the church office if you are interested in helping.

### **Christmas Eve, Christmas Day & New Year's Day Services**

Dec. 24 Two Services: 5:00 pm & 7:30 pm  
Dec. 25 One Service: 10:00 am  
Jan. 1 One Service: 10:00 am

## The Session

**Next Session Meeting:** Nov. 15 at 7:30 pm



### **Stewardship Pledge Cards**

The Stewardship Pledge Campaign will soon be under way. When you receive your 2023 Pledge for Giving Card, please complete it with your estimated giving plans for 2023 and return it to the church. This greatly helps with budgeting for the coming year in time for our pledge dedication service. Thank you!

### **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is seeking members-at-large, (meaning members not currently on the Session), to serve with them on this year's Nominating Committee. Individuals on the Nominating Committee are: Scott Gray (chairman), Wayne Gida, Jamie Stewart, and Leslie Gray (Deacon Representative).

The committee is also accepting recommendations for Linway Elders and Deacons for three-year terms which begin in January 2023. Please prayerfully consider serving a term as an officer of your church. Any current Elder or Deacon whose term expires at the end of this year and who has served two consecutive three-year terms, must remain off that board for a period of one year before being considered

for another term. However, a person can move from one board to another without any lapse of time.

If you have questions, please contact a member of the committee.

### **Fundraising Committee**



Our Fall Festival's almost here! Plans include:

- Assorted Crafters and Vendors
- Huge Basket Raffle
- Home-Baked Desserts
- Delicious Foods to Eat-In or Take-Out
- Kid's Santa Shop
- Photos with Santa Claus 11:30-1:00
- Crafts for Kids 10:00-1:00

Please share this date with your family and friends and invite them to attend. All are welcome. Flyers are available at the church entrance or contact the office.

If Allegheny County's Covid-19 Community Level is HIGH, masks will be required except for when sitting & eating, during photos with Santa, or for children under 2 years old.

### **We Can Use Your Help:**

- in the Kitchen
- in the Dining Room
- in the Basket Raffle Room
- at the Baked Goods & Dessert Table
- at the Santa Shop
- Social Hall Set-up Th Nov.10 at 8 pm
- Cleaning-up afterwards

Sign-up on the Volunteer Sheets or call the church office. Thank you very much!

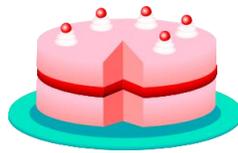


### Fall Festival Basket Raffle Donations

One of the highlights of our Fall Festival is the Basket Raffle. In order to make this a success, we are in need of raffle basket donations. Be creative and make a basket that is fun, practical, or unique! Please turn-in raffle baskets Friday Nov. 11 from 1:30-3:30 using the James Street (kitchen) entrance. To turn in your basket prior to Nov. 11, please bring it to church the Sunday before or call the church office to drop off during the week.

### Fall Festival Baked Goods/Desserts

Please sign up on the sheet near the church entrance if you are willing to donate a scrumptious item for the Bake Sale. Everyone loves Linway's home-baked desserts! Bring your delicious goodies to the church the morning of November 12 by 10:00 a.m. so they'll be ready for the Bake Sale.



### Fall Festival's Santa Shop



The Christian Education Committee is seeking donations of new or VERY gently used items for men, women, kids, and teachers to be sold at the Santa Shop. Please, no clothing except gloves or scarves, etc., and only un-used earrings in their store package. Please label donations "Santa Shop" and leave on the table in the upstairs workroom. Thank you!

Sarris Candy: is now available after the worship service or by contacting the church office. \$1 for Candy Bars (Milk Chocolate, Almond, Peanut Butter, or Crisp Rice flavors) and \$2 for 2 Choco-covered Pretzel Rods.



### Giving Bean Coffee & Tea On-Going Fundraiser:

Online orders may be placed directly with Giving Bean at any time and Linway will earn 25% of the sale. Orders will then be shipped directly to you. Items available are: Ground Coffee, K-Kups, Whole Coffee Beans, Cocoa, Artisan Loose Tea, Chai, & Shortbread Cookies  
Use this link to order from Giving Bean: <https://www.givingbean.com/store/home.php?partner=83fa1#.YgaOeJbMJPY>

### Gift Card Sale: Orders Due Nov. 13

The Fundraising Committee's order form for various restaurant & retail gift cards is included with this newsletter. The church will receive a percentage of the value of the purchased gift cards. Use the cards when doing your shopping or purchasing meals. Gift card orders will arrive Nov. 20, just in time for Black Friday shopping! They also make great Christmas stocking stuffers!

Gift Cards: Giant Eagle Gift Cards in various amounts are always available for purchase after the 10:30 worship service or by calling the church office. There are also Denny's, Dunkin'Donuts, or Chili's gift cards available for purchase. The church receives a percent of each gift card that is purchased.

### Property Committee Lawn Care Donations Requested

If you are willing to help with this expense, please use one of the pew envelopes or mail your donation to the church and designate it for "Lawn Care". Thank you so much for helping us keep the church's lawn and grounds looking nice.



## Deacons

**Next Deacon Meeting:** Sun., Nov. 6 at 9:00 a.m. in the Friendly Fellowship Room.

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed towards our treat boxes for our college students.

### Decorating for Christmas!

Extra hands will be welcome Sun., Nov. 20 following the 10:30 Service when the Deacons decorate the church for Christmas. Many hands make light work!



## Music Ministry

**Chancel Choir:** The Linway Chancel Choir practices on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. New choir members are always welcome to sing joyfully to the Lord. Please use the West Door (near the grand piano). If you have any questions, please see George Hawkins.



**Handbell Choir:** The Linway Handbell Choir meets for practice on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. Previous experience is not needed. If you would like to give it a try, you are welcome to come. Please use the West Door (near the grand piano). Talk to George Hawkins if you have any questions.



## Christian Education Committee

### Children's Sunday School

Sunday School will continue to be offered every other Sunday during the 10:30 Service, based on teacher availability. It will also be posted on the Linway Facebook Page when Sunday School will be held. If you would like to help be a Sunday School teacher or assistant, please contact Jaime Ruffing or the church office. Clearances are needed, but the office can assist you.

### Kid's Club

Kid's Club meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the lower level of the church. There is a Bible lesson, game, craft, and snack. The current CDC Covid-19 guidelines will be followed. If Allegheny County's Covid-19 Community Level is HIGH, masks will be required except when having a snack.

Kid's Club is open to children in Kindergarten through 6th grade, regardless of their church affiliation or school district. Please encourage your child/children to invite friends to Kid's Club and feel free to share information about our program with other families that have children in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Please contact the church office for registration forms. Any child coming with someone who is not their parent/guardian must have these forms completed/signed in advance and bring them when they arrive at the church. Please use the James Street entrance at the back of the church when you come inside to sign-in/sign-out your child.

We hope your kiddo(s) can come and join in the fun! Contact the church office if you have any questions.

### Santa Shop Donations Needed

The Fall Festival's Santa Shop is a place children may shop for very reasonably priced gifts for their loved ones, so they may experience the joy of giving. The children get assistance with making their selections and gift wrapping. Thanks to your generosity last year, we have plenty of wrapping paper, gift bags, and tape. Please see info about items needed under the Fall Festival section in this newsletter or in the bulletin. Thank you very much!



## Bless a Child with a Shoebox Gift!

### Operation Christmas Child: Return Your Box by Nov. 13



It's time again to fill shoeboxes with gifts for needy children all over the world. Each box is a tangible expression of God's love and brings the Good News of Jesus Christ. Children receiving a box are also given the opportunity to participate in a discipleship program where they learn about God's love through Bible stories.

### There are many options in which you may help:

**1. FILL A BOX:** Take an empty box from the sanctuary home with you, fill with your choice of appropriate items for the age group you select, and return the filled box. There are detailed instructions on how to fill your box. **All boxes need to be returned to Linway by Sun., Nov. 13.**

**PLEASE PLACE THE \$10.00 SHIPPING FEE IN THE CHURCH OFFERING BOX INSTEAD OF PLACING INSIDE YOUR SHOEBOX. Use a pew envelope or mail to the church and indicate it is for "Shoeboxes".**

**2. MONETARY DONATION:** Don't really want to shop, but still want to help? Your donation will be sent to Samaritans Purse and used to buy items for shoeboxes or to help with the shoebox shipping costs.

**3. DONATE AN ITEM:** Want to just donate an item or two rather than fill an entire shoebox? Near our empty shoeboxes, pick-up one of our sheets that has a list of suggested items. Purchase an item(s) & place in the "Individual Items" Box **by October 30.** The youth will then take all of the donated items and fill more shoeboxes!

**3. BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE:** Samaritan's Purse will pack a box based on gift selections you make. Cost is \$25 per

box. Use this link to get started: [www.samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ)

**4. PRAYER:** Pray that each one of our shoeboxes from Linway makes a difference in a child's life and helps them to develop a relationship with our Lord.

## Women's Breakfast

The first Monday of the month, the women of Linway get together for breakfast at 10:00 a.m. at North Versailles Eat 'N Park. Any woman from the church is welcome. The next breakfast will be on November 7.

## Men's Breakfast

The men are also getting together for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at North Versailles Eat 'N Park. All men are invited. The next men's breakfast will be on November 30.

## Craft Ladies

The Craft Ladies meet the first and third Tuesday of the month downstairs in the Friendly Fellowship Room at 12:30 p.m. They are working on projects for our Fall Festival. Contact Clara Welty or Nancy Waszkiewicz with questions.

## Linway Preschool

This month our students will be learning about fall, turkeys, Pilgrims, Indians, and also about the importance of family. Each student will contribute an item for their classroom's Thanksgiving Feast before having some time off to enjoy the holiday with their families. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving from our teachers,  
Mrs. Michele and  
Miss Jeannette.



## Meals on Wheels

The East Allegheny 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 by calling: 412-327-6908.

## Need for Prayer



**Please remember the following in our prayers:**

Chris Alexander, Amanda, Bob B., Michelle B., John Campbell, Lily Daugherty, Gwen DeSarno, Dorian, Mike Feigh, Wally Fox, Betty Frommell, Dave H., Michelle H., Bev Harcum, Jill Hardy, Richard Hickox, Clare & Sandy Hillgartner, Frank Kordalski, Sr., Jean Lawton, Ken M., Margaret, Marilyn, Rita Marrow, Mary L., Nancy Matko, Mercedes, Carol Pascarella, Joey Pecar, Nancy Peebly, Linda P., Donna Pottinger, Duane R., Pat Rogers, Renee R., Rick H., Laura Shawley, Barbara Shoop, Michelle Smith, Sophia, Leslie T., Cindy Taylor, Lynn T., Pat V, Ed Waszkiewicz, Jim & Linda Wetzler, Carol & Jack Wolf

## Happy Anniversary!

**Happy November Anniversary to:**



Tim & Aimee Mitchell  
Nancy & Ed Waszkiewicz

## Happy Birthday!

**Happy November Birthday to:**

Shannon Jeffries  
T.J. Cornell  
Camden Trout  
Kaitlyn Gida  
Sue Keller



Timothy Hazard, Jr.  
Scott Gray  
Mary Lou Bernhardt  
Sandy Hillgartner  
Dorothy Spencer

## Our Sympathy

**Our Sympathy** is extended to Keith and Chrissy Eremic & family and Lori Anderson & her family. Mrs. Donna (Sellers) Chenot, Lori's mother and a long-time member of Linway, went home to be with our Lord on October 12. Donna is also Keith's aunt. A memorial service will be held in the future.

**Our Sympathy** is extended to Nancy Matko. Her husband, Mr. Ed Matko, a long-time member of Linway, went home to be with our Lord on October 15.

## Wedding Congratulations!

**Congratulations** to Anthony LaRotonda & Haley Maksin who were married at Linway on October 8. Anthony attended Linway Preschool when he was little.

**Congratulations** to Natalie Hilbert and Justin Peel who were married at Linway on October 29. Natalie is a long-time Linway member.

## Presbyterian Disaster Relief

**Hurricane Ian Help Through  
Presbyterian Disaster Relief**

Donations for those affected by the hurricane can be placed in our offering box or mailed to the church. Please indicate it is for "Hurricane Ian". Checks should be payable to Linway and we will then send one check from Linway to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund.

## Liturgist Needed: 10:30 Service

Contact Rev.Dennis or the church office if you would be able to help by reading. With the holidays coming and folks traveling, we could use a few extra readers on the rotation schedule.

## MA's Pantry



### MA's Pantry Giving Tree: A Few Changes

The MA's Pantry Giving Tree will once again be located in the Narthex starting Nov. 27.

The tree will be decorated with paper ornaments representing individuals who are served by our local food bank.

**Just like last year, instead of purchasing an item, you are asked to give a \$25 gift card to Giant Eagle OR make a donation towards the purchase of a gift card.** This gives the recipient the freedom to make his/her own selection.

Other churches in the community will be purchasing gift cards for Aldi and Walmart. Since we already have our Giant Eagle Gift Card Fundraiser, it seemed like a win-win for those from Linway to purchase Giant Eagle Cards. For our Giant Eagle Gift Card Fundraiser, Linway receives a percent of the sale of each card. The Giant Eagle Gift Cards are available for purchase throughout the year in the office or after the worship services.

Would you please consider participating in this worthy cause? Here's how it works:

1. Please take an ornament from the tree and purchase the \$25 gift card listed on the ornament.
2. Place your gift card inside the envelope attached to the paper ornament. Place the envelope in our Offering Box located in the back of the Sanctuary **by Sun., Dec. 11.** The gift cards will then be taken to MA's Pantry for distribution.

You may also place a monetary donation in the Offering Box, which will be combined with other donations and used to purchase gift cards. Please mark that your donation is for the Giving Tree.

This is a busy time of year, yet this project may be seen as one way in which we can

prepare ourselves for Christmas by thinking of those less fortunate.

### Food Distribution at MA's Pantry

MA's Pantry is ready to serve the residents of East McKeesport & North Versailles! The income threshold for eligibility is \$2,095 per month for 1 person and \$4,278 per month for a family of 4. Other family sizes are adjusted accordingly. **Upcoming dates for distribution are Nov. 6 & 20 from 9-11:00 a.m.** at 1000 Broadway in East McKeesport.



*May God grant you a  
joyous and blessed  
Thanksgiving!*

### The Linway News

Linway United Presbyterian Church  
600 Lincoln Highway  
North Versailles, Pa 15137  
(412) 824-3555 [www.LinwayChurch.org](http://www.LinwayChurch.org)

#### **Church Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00

Please use our East Entrance to visit the office during the week.

#### **Sunday Morning Worship:**

9:15 a.m.-Contemporary Service

#### **Church Staff:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Eric E. Dennis

**Email:** [pastor@linwaychurch.org](mailto:pastor@linwaychurch.org)

**Church Office Manager:** Leanne Cornell

**Email:** [contact@linwaychurch.org](mailto:contact@linwaychurch.org)

**Financial Secretary:** Christine Stewart

**Email:** [financial@linwaychurch.org](mailto:financial@linwaychurch.org)

**Organist & Choir Director:** George Hawkins

**Deadline** for newsletter information is the Sunday before the last Sunday of the month.

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