



The Linway News

December 2024

Linway **PRESBYTERIAN** Church

Celebrating 127 Years
June 1, 1897 - June 1, 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



It's Beginning to Look a lot Like Christmas?

Dear Friends in Christ,

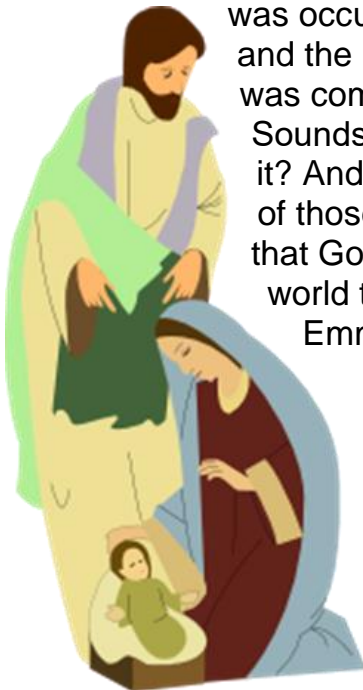
"It just doesn't feel like Christmas!" How many times have you heard people say that? It's especially easy to feel that way when you look outside when the dreary days of November seem so unfair after the beauty of October. But then again, what is Christmas supposed to feel like?

I wonder if the first Christmas 'felt' like Christmas. Imagine... no carols, no decorations, no presents, no anticipation in the minds of children, not a thought of celebration on the minds of adults. That was what Mary and Joseph faced on that first Christmas Eve. Not only was there no spirit of celebration, but they were also on their way to pay their taxes in a strange town with nowhere to stay and no one to help. Their world was a mess, their country

was occupied by a foreign army and the child Mary was bearing was coming, ready or not.

Sounds pretty bleak, doesn't it? And yet it was in the midst of those bleak circumstances that God chose to bring to the world the greatest gift of all, Emmanuel, God with us!

So here we are, looking back on that humble beginning with all the blessings of 20/20 hindsight. We know that Jesus is Savior of the world, that Herod's power



was temporary, that the Roman army is long gone and that the little child born in that stable is the Lord of Glory - more powerful, more loving and more present than anything that threatens to steal our dreams, our visions, and our hopes for the future. God is with us!

So, whether it 'feels' like Christmas or not let's get on with celebrating life, the blessings God has given, and the friends, family, and faith that we share! We have the greatest Good News possible!

***For unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be
on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government
and peace there will be no end.
Isaiah 9:6-7a***

Be blessed,

Pastor Larry Ruby

Holiday Service Times

Christmas Eve, Tues, Dec. 24:

**6:30pm Christmas Eve Communion
& Candlelight Service**

Sun., Dec. 29

One Morning Service at 10:00 a.m.

The entire Christmas Eve Service will be recorded and posted to the church website and to the Linway Church Facebook Page.

Transition to New Pastor

Our Pastor Nominating Committee is diligently working to find our new pastor and is in the process of reviewing applicants. Thank you to the PNC for their dedication to this task, especially during the busy holiday season. Please keep the PNC and the applicants in your prayers during this process.

Stewardship Pledge Cards: Dedication Sunday Dec. 8

Thank you to those who have returned your Stewardship Pledge Cards for the dedication on Sunday, Dec. 8. We ask members to please complete the Pledge for Giving Card with your estimated giving plans for 2025 and either bring it or return it to the church by December 8. This greatly helps with budgeting for the coming year. If you did not receive a pledge card and want to participate, please contact the church office.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 8 at 11:30

Please join us for a Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary on Dec. 8 at 11:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to present and approve the names of those who have been nominated for Elders and Deacons for the new term of church officers beginning January 2025.



Christmas Poinsettias Order Deadline: Sun, Dec. 8

Please use the order form found in the back of this newsletter if you wish to place a poinsettia plant in the sanctuary for Christmas in honor or in memory of a loved one. All of the poinsettias will be red.

Advent Wreath Lighters & Readers

Thank you to those who will be reading for and lighting our advent wreath. Help is still needed during the 9:15 service. Please talk to Pastor Larry if you can help.



December

- 1st 9:15 Dale & Lori Frye
10:30 Arlene Szmuc & Sandi Szmuc
- 8th 10:30 Jaime & Jackie Ruffing
- 15th 10:30 Deanna Buchman and
Ariana & Camden Trout
- 22nd 10:30 Sallie Kaser & Barb Harvey
- 24th 6:30 Stewart Family

The Session

Next Session Meeting: Dec. 17 at 7:00 pm

Member Care & Outreach Committee Coffee Connection Help Needed

Individuals are needed to help with set-up, clean-up, or snack donations. If you'd be willing to help on a Sunday, there is a sign-up sheet on the Coffee Connection table. Select your date and what you'd be willing to help with. Thanks! If you have questions, please see Lila Sedlak (412-672-6820) or Amy Gida (412607-8430).

Property Committee

Snow Removal Donations Requested

The snow is going to eventually arrive and need removed from our parking lots. 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 "Snow Removal". Thank you so much for helping us keep the church's parking lots plowed and safe.

Missions

Harvest Table for MA's Pantry

Thank you for everyone who donated food or gave a monetary donation towards our harvest table! We received the following letter from MA's:

Dear Members of Linway,

This is a heartfelt letter of thanks and appreciation to the members of Linway for their recent food collection for MA's Pantry. The total was approximately 250 pounds of food! As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, our recipient families are surrounded with images of plenty, food, family gatherings around tables laden with food and many other reminders that they struggle just to place a simple meal on the table adequate to sustain them. Linway's gift will help us help them meet their basic needs. We appreciate the nutritional help this provides, and we also greatly appreciate Linway's longstanding commitment and support of MA's Pantry. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Edward W. Sites

MA's Pantry Giving Tree

Please consider providing help for a local family this Christmas thru MA's. Our church along with other churches in the community will be participating.



Here's how it works:

1. Take a paper ornament from our tree in our Narthex.
2. Purchase a \$25 Giant Eagle Gift Card.
3. Place your gift card inside the envelope attached to the paper ornament.
4. Place the envelope & ornament in our Offering by Sun, Dec. 15. The gift cards will then be taken to MA's for distribution.

Also, monetary donations marked "MA's Pantry" that are placed in the offering or mailed to the church by Dec. 10 will be

combined to purchase gift cards for MA's recipients.

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.

MA's Food Distribution Dates

Dec. 7, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, Jan. 18

For residents of North Versailles and East McKeesport. Phone: 412-824-0277 for more info. Located at 1000 Broadway St., East McKeesport.

Fundraising Committee

Pepperoni Rolls

Order delicious, fresh Sunseri Pepperoni Rolls from the Strip District of Pittsburgh for \$10 each using the order form included in this newsletter by Dec. 2 Pick-up your order at the church on Thursday, Dec. 12 between 4:00-7:00 p.m. using the James Street entrance near the kitchen.

Fall Festival

Thank you to everyone that contributed in any way to our Fall Festival. It was a great time to make new friends, catch up with old friends, enjoy delicious food, and even pick up some Christmas presents. We could not have held it without all the hard work of so many people in many different ways.

Giant Eagle Gift Cards

Giant Eagle Gift Cards in various amounts are always available for purchase after the 10:30 worship service. The church receives a percent of each gift card that is purchased.

Sarris Candy

Sarris Candy is available after the worship service or by contacting the church office. \$2 for Candy Bars (flavors: Milk Chocolate, Almond, Peanut Butter, or Crisp Rice) and \$3 for 2 Choco-covered Pretzel Rods.

Deacons

Next Deacon Meeting: December 8 at 11:45 a.m. in the Friendly Fellowship Room. Please remember to bring your stocking items.



The Deacons would like to thank everyone that helped to decorate the church for Christmas!

2025 Linway Desk Calendars

As a fundraiser, the Deacons are selling calendars for 2025. Each month has a different picture of our church!



The calendars are 4 inches high x 8 inches long. The base folds enabling the calendar to stand and be displayed on a desk or table. The cost is \$10.00. To purchase, please see Andrew Dennis or use the order form in the back of this newsletter.

Christian Education Committee

Kid's Club

Next Date: Dec. 11 at 6:15 p.m.

Kid's Club usually meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. in the lower level of the church.

This December, Kid's Club will meet on December 11. We'll then get together again on **Wed, January 8 at 6:15 p.m.**

There is a Bible lesson, game, craft, music, and snack. Kid's Club is open to children age 5 through 6th grade, regardless of their

church affiliation or school district. Feel free to share information about our program with other families. Please contact the church office for registration forms or if you have questions.

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School will continue to be offered every Sunday during the 10:30 Service. Please contact Jaime Ruffing (412-302-6241) if you would be able to help as a 2nd adult in the classroom. Not to teach, just to be there.



Operation Christmas Child: 32 Shoe Boxes!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child. With our "Individual Items" box, we were able to fill 3 shoeboxes! All total, we sent 32 boxes from Linway, sharing the love of the Lord with children around the world! Please 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.

The Chosen Adult Bible Study

Our Bible Study will be wrapping up season one of The Chosen before Christmas. If you were unable to participate, you may order the study book from Amazon for \$9.00 and watch the episodes at home on the CW, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+, or The Chosen app. More information about The Chosen or to also watch episodes is at <https://watch.thechosen.tv/>

Music Ministry



Chancel Choir: practices on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. New choir members are always welcome to sing joyfully to the Lord.

Linway's Rowley Handbell Choir: practices on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. Previous experience is not needed. You are welcome to come and ring.



Our Handbell Choir is Performing at East Allegheny High School

Members of Linway's Rowley Handbell Choir will be accompanying the East Allegheny High School Concert Choir during their concert on Wed., December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the high school. This concert is free and open to the public.

Linway Preschool

This month the students are learning about the meaning of Christmas. They will gather in the sanctuary to see our Christmas decorations, and Pastor Larry will share the story of Jesus' birth. For their art projects, the children are making Christmas tree ornaments to give to their families. The kids' excitement will continue to build as they anticipate Christmas morning.

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 dates will be on December 2 and January 6.

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 breakfast dates will be December 18 and January 29

Craft Ladies

The Craft Ladies will not be meeting during the month of December. They will next meet after the holidays on Tuesday, January 7 at 12:30.

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.

McKeesport Festival of Trees

Currently in our Social Hall is the Meals On Wheels Christmas Tree that will be on display at McKeesport's annual Festival of Trees. Their tree will be decorated in recognition of MOW's 50th anniversary, which was celebrated this summer. The main display is at the Jacob Woll (Main) Pavilion. Other items are featured at the nearby McKeesport Regional History and Heritage Center as well as the Garden Club of McKeesport. The event is December 5-9 from noon to 8:00.

Need for Prayer



Please remember the following in our prayers:

Patty B., Donna, Donnie Baker, Michele B., Chris, Jay Cunningham, Cheryl D., Kathy Dechter, Nathan E., Rick E, Frank & Mary Lou Fawcett, Betty Frommell, Leslie Gray, Bev Harcum, Jill Hardy, Nick Hunter, Michelle K., Kathy, Kevin, Vickie Lofgren, Carol Pascarella, M.P., Joan Pierro, Renee R., Susan S., Laura Shawley, Shawn, Bill Szmuc, Brad T., Tammi, Cindy Taylor, Pat V., Scott W., Wanda, Linda Wetzler, Joy & Larry Wright

Happy Anniversary!

Happy December Anniversary to:



Gladys & Michael Festa
Leo & Christina Sullivan
Frank & Wendie Kordalski

Happy Birthday!

Happy December Birthday to:



Aimee Mitchell Glen Young
Rayanne Pyles Bill Szmuc

Happy January Birthday to:

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

Happy Belated Birthday to Arlene Szmuc, who celebrated her birthday in November.

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.



2025 Linway Desk Calendar

A fundraiser for the Deacons



- A different picture of our church each month!
- Size: 4 inches high x 8 inches long.
- Fold base for calendar to stand and display.
- Available for \$10.00.

To purchase, complete this order form and place in the offering or mail to church.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of calendars you would like to purchase: _____

Total Amount Due: _____



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15: 13

Christmas Poinsettias

Please return this order form or contact the church office at 412-824-3555 **by Sunday, Dec 8** if you wish to place a poinsettia plant in the sanctuary for Christmas. The cost of each plant is **\$15.00**. Please include payment with the order.



ALL POINSETTIAS WILL BE RED

Flowers Given By: Please include your name & phone number

Please designate:
"In Memory Of"or.... "In Honor Of"

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

Total Plants: _____ **Total Due:\$** _____

Pepperoni Roll Fundraiser

If you would like to order Pepperoni Rolls from Sunseri's in Pittsburgh's Strip District, please complete this order form & return to the church office or call the church office at 412-824-3555 **by Tuesday, Dec. 2.**

Sunseri's Pepperoni Rolls \$10.00 each

-Two-Pound Monster Pepperoni Roll:
Pepperoni and Mozzarella Provolone
50/50 Blend

-Atomic Pepperoni Roll:
Pepperoni, Mozzarella Provolone 50/50 Blend, with our Legendary Dipping Peppers (Sweet Cubanella Peppers, Hot Banana Peppers, Jalapeno Peppers), Prosciutto tid-bits, Portabella Mushrooms, and Roma Tomatoes.

PEPPERONI ROLLS WILL BE FRESH AND READY TO SERVE! Stays fresh 4-5 days in refrigerator in plastic bag. They can be frozen & re-heated in oven. Thaw and then bake 400 degrees for 15 minutes.

Pepperoni Rolls will be ready for pick-up on Thursday, Dec. 12 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Linway kitchen. Please use the James Street entrance in the back.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

_____ # Monster Rolls @ \$10 = _____

_____ # Atomic Rolls @ \$10 = _____

Total Amount Due = _____

A fundraiser for Linway Church.

The Name of Jesus

By Linway Member Frank Fawcett

I hear the sound of hope and joy,
The cry of a precious baby boy.
A precious stone, a precious gem,
Was laid in little Bethlehem.
He was rejected by his own,
But then became the cornerstone.
And in the darkness of the night,
He brought to Bethlehem a light.
A light to shine and show the way,
And give us hope for each new day.

The Light of the World, The King of Kings,
The one of whom the angels sing.
The subject of the Holy Scroll,
We wait for Him to call the roll.
The Living Hope, The Living Word,
The sweetest name I've ever heard.
The name of Jesus, God's own son,
Of Israel, the Holy One.
With all my heart I'll always say,
"The name of Jesus" when I pray.

Luke 1:31, Philip 2:9-11, John 15:15



**Due to the holidays, the Church Office
will be closed:**

Dec. 25, 26 & 31 and Jan. 1

If you should need something, please leave
a message on the answering machine,
and we will return your call.



**The next edition of this
Newsletter will be the
January/February
Edition and will be
available the end of
January.**

The Linway News

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

Church Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9:00-3:00; Fri 9:00- Noon

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

Sunday Morning Worship:

*9:15 a.m.-Contemporary Service

*10:30 a.m. Traditional Service

***Please see Page 1 for
service times for the holidays.**

Church Staff:

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby

Email: pastor.ruby@linwaychurch.org

Church Office Manager: Leanne Cornell

Email: contact@linwaychurch.org

Financial Secretary: Christine Stewart

Email: 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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