

The Linway News

March 2024

Linway United
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this article I have been at Linway for all of 2 weeks. Your welcome has been a blessing, and I am very much looking forward to knowing you better.

I had a wonderful "informal" meeting with some Session members and got to hear what each of them thought of first when they hear the word "church." Almost all of them said "Linway" and then shared moments of blessing and the people that touched their lives. One thing all agreed upon, Linway sure likes to eat! Perhaps our motto should be, "Till we eat again!" This reminded me of a story I heard years ago. I think it really applies to this new chapter in Linway's story.

A woman knew she had only a short time left to live, and she called her Pastor to make arrangements for her memorial service. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she wanted read, and what dress she wanted to be buried in. She also requested to be buried with her Bible in her left hand.

Everything was in order and as the pastor was preparing to leave, the woman suddenly remembered one final request that was very important to her. "Please Pastor, just one more thing", she said excitedly. "Sure, what is it?" came the pastor's reply. "This is very important to me," the woman continued ... "I want to be buried holding a fork in my right hand." The pastor gazed at the woman, with a loss for words. "That surprises you, doesn't it?" the

woman asked. The pastor replied "To be quite honest, I'm puzzled by the request."

The women explained. "You see, Pastor, in all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I remember that when the dishes were being cleared after the main course, someone would invariably lean over to me and say, 'Keep your fork'... It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming, like velvety chocolate cake or deep dish apple pie---something wonderful, and with substance to end the great meal."

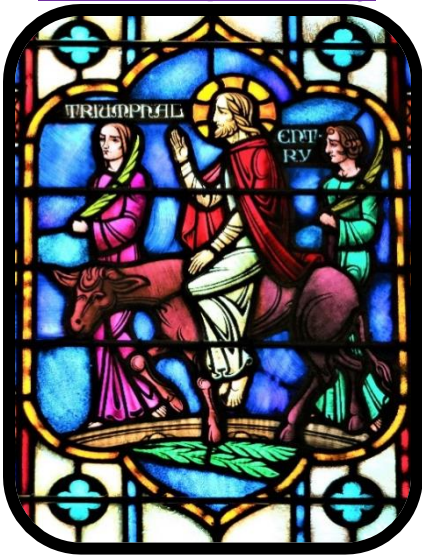
The pastor listened intently and a smile came upon his face. The woman continued, "So, I just want people to see me there with a fork in my hand, and I want them to wonder... 'What's with the fork?' I want you to tell them, **"Keep your Fork... The best is yet to come."**

I've only been here at Linway for a brief time, and I still have so much to learn about the people and the ministry of the church, but I can't help but feel that the best days are still ahead! So be sure to **"keep your fork"** as we move forward into the future the Lord holds for us.

***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD.*"** Jeremiah 29: 11-14

Blessings,
Pastor Larry Ruby

The Triumphal Entry



HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

Palm Sunday Breakfast

March 24 8:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Palm Sunday Services

March 24 at 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Children's Parade of Palms

During the 10:30 a.m. Palm Sun. Service

Maundy Thursday Meal & Communion

Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Services

Sunday, March 31 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Dinner & Communion 6:30 p.m. in Social Hall

This Maundy Thursday, March 28, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper the way Jesus and the disciples did. They gathered together not in a worship service, but around a table to celebrate the Passover. Everyone is welcome to gather downstairs in our Social Hall at 6:30 p.m. to share a simple meal of soup (chicken noodle or chicken rice soup) and bread. Following the meal, Pastor Larry will share the radical way that Jesus broke all the rules and redefined the Passover so that not only Jews were invited to the table, but all who

would follow Jesus! There is no charge for the meal, but a free will basket will be available should you wish to contribute. Please invite friends, family, youth, and children to join us as we remember and reflect on the first Lord's Supper so many years ago.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:30 p.m.

The Good Friday Tenebrae Service is a solemn service in which we remember Jesus' life, crucifixion, and death. Stemming from Latin, the word "Tenebrae" means "darkness." Such a definition is suitable for this service, which centers around the increasing darkness of the church as the lights on the candelabra are extinguished.

A special candelabra is used during Tenebrae. After each reading, whether from the Psalms or gospels, a candle is extinguished until one is left. By the end of the service, the church is cast into darkness, except for the continual light of the Christ candle, symbolizing Christ as the Light of the World.

As a service with deep biblical meaning, each part of Tenebrae sets the mood for the congregation as they consider the darkness of that day as the Savior hung on the cross and died for the sins of the world. At the conclusion of the service, all who are present exit the sanctuary in silence. Please consider attending this powerful, moving service in person.

Easter Flowers: Please use the form located on the last page or call the church office if you wish to order Easter Flowers. The deadline to order is **Mon., March 11.** If you would like to order a pansies bowl, please place your order as soon as possible since these are very popular and our supplier could run out of the pansies.

Congregational Meeting: March 10

A Congregational Meeting will be held on March 10 at 11:30 a.m. for the purpose of approving the individuals that the Nominating Committee recommends to serve on the Permanent Pastor Search Committee. All members are encouraged to attend.

Transition to New Pastor

The Transition Team along with the Nominating Committee has been working diligently contacting individuals who would be willing to serve on the Permanent Pastor Search Committee (PSC). Keeping in mind that it was important to have a cross section of our congregation, the following individuals have been nominated by the Nominating Committee to serve on the PSC:

Amy Gida (Elder)	Scott Gray (Elder)
Rich Cornell	George Hawkins
Wendie Kordalski	Chris Linderman
Tim Mitchell	

These individuals must be approved by the congregation. With that in mind, a Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, March 10, immediately following the 10:30 service. Rev. Steve Wilson, from Presbytery, who is providing the message that day in Pastor Larry's absence, will moderate this meeting. Please plan to attend for a short time on that day to formally elect this group.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of the Transition Team or Nominating Committee members. Please continue to keep Linway and our search for our next pastor in your prayers. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Church Activities

Sun, March 3	Deacon Meeting 11:45
Mon, March 4	Women's Breakfast 10:00
Tu March 5	Craft Ladies at 12:30
	Christian Ed Meeting 7:00
Th, March 7	Bell Choir Practice 6:00 pm
	Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Sun March 10	Congregation Mtg 11:30
Wed, March 13	Kid's Club 6:30 pm
Th, March 14	Bell Choir Practice 6:00 pm
	Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Tu, March 19	Craft Ladies at 12:30
	Session Meeting 7:00 pm
Wed March 20	P-school Open House 5:30
Th, March 21	Bell Choir Practice 6:00 pm
	Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Sun March 24	Palm Sun Bkfst 8:30-10:15
	Parade of Palms 10:30
Wed, March 27	Men's Breakfast 8:00 am
	Kid's Club 6:30 pm
Th March 28	Maundy Thurs. Meal & Communion 6:30 pm
Fri March 29	Good Fri Service 7:30 pm
Sun March 31	Easter Sunday Services 9:15 am & 10:30 am

The Session

Next Session Meeting: March 19 at 7:00

Passing of Offering Plates during the 10:30 service will begin on March 3. Attendance cards will also be collected by the Deacons during the 10:30 service after the presentation of the offering. For the 9:15 service, offering may continue to be placed in the wooden box and attendance cards placed in the basket as you exit.

Property Committee

A yellow chain along with a "Restricted Access" sign has been hung across the bottom of the main stairwell. This will be used when outside groups are using the Social Hall in order to deter individuals from wandering upstairs. Members are always welcome to come and go throughout our church as needed.

Fundraising Committee

Gift Card Fundraiser: Various restaurant/retail gift cards are available to purchase through our fundraiser. The church receives a percent of the value of the purchased gift cards. If you would like to purchase any cards, an order form is included with this newsletter. Please return to the church with payment by March 17. Gift cards will be here at the church by Sun., March 24.

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

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

Deacons

Next Deacon Meeting:
Sun, March 3 at 11:45 a.m.

You're Invited:

The Board of Deacons will be hosting a **Palm Sunday Breakfast** March 24 from 8:30 to 10:15 a.m. in the Social Hall. An adult meal is \$9 meal and comes with: 2 pancakes or 2 gluten-free corncakes, plus 2 sausage links, fruit salad & drink. Flavored blueberry or chocolate chip pancakes/corncakes are \$1 extra. A la carte items and children's meals are also available. This is a fundraiser for the Deacons. We hope you can come!

The Deacons would like to thank those who gave items or monetary donations to help

with our Valentine Boxes for our college students and members in the military.

Music Ministry

Chancel Choir practices on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. New choir members are always welcome to sing joyfully to the Lord. We are happy to share our gift of music & invite you to join us for fun, fellowship & singing. All levels of singing, from beginners to experienced, blend nicely in our choir. Talk to our organist, George Hawkins.

Bell Choir is meeting on Thursdays at 6:00 in preparation to play on Palm Sunday and/or Easter. New members are always welcome! Please talk to George if you are interested.



Christian Education Committee

Linway Retreat: April 26-28

The Linway Retreat will be held April 26-28 at the Ligonier Camp and Conference Center. Everyone is encouraged to take some time away from the hustle and bustle of our daily lives and "retreat" to Ligonier, where you can enjoy the beauty and quiet of nature while enjoying fellowship with Linway friends. Registration information will be available mid-March. Please save the date on your calendar so you can join us!

Children's Sunday School

Sunday School is 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. Coloring pages, word searches, and crayons are always available at the church entrance. Kids may help themselves to these items during worship services.

VBS

Planning has begun for our Vacation Bible School which will be held June 3-6. The theme is "In The Wild: Amazing Encounters with Jesus". Information will be available as the date gets closer.



Soup-er Bowl of Caring

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Soup-er Bowl of Caring on Feb. 11. Our youth collected \$233 for our local food bank, MA's Pantry. Thank you for helping those in need in our community!

Kid's Club

Next Date: March 13 & 27

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. Each Kid's Club night has a Bible lesson, game, craft, and snack.

Kid's Club is open to children in Kindergarten through 6th grade, regardless of their church affiliation or school district. Feel free to share information about our program with other families that have children in kindergarten through 6th grade.

Please contact the church office for registration forms or if you have questions. When parents/guardians bring their child to sign-in, please use the James Street Entrance (back door) of our church. Please ring the doorbell if the door is locked.

Linway Lending Library

Parents/Grandparents, please remind your child to return library items if he/she is finished with them so items can be shared with others. Thanks!

Linway Preschool

In March, the boys and girls will read Dr. Seuss books and have fun with "Green Eggs and Ham". A local dentist is visiting to teach the children how to take care of their teeth. Mid-month they'll wear green to school in hopes a wee little leprechaun might visit the classroom to hide gold coins for the children to find. A North Versailles Police Officer and K-9 police dog will also be visiting this month. Last but not least, Pastor Larry will visit the classrooms at the end of the month to share with the children about Easter and Jesus resurrection. Thanks to Mrs. Michele and Miss Jeannette for the terrific job they do with the kids each day!

Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year will start March 14.

If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling a child in the Linway Preschool program starting this September, please contact the church office at 412-824-3555 and we can mail a registration form or provide more information.

Open House for prospective families will be held Wednesday, March 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Classes are held September thru May. Three-year olds meet Tuesdays & Thursdays. Four-year olds meet Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.

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 March 4. Come on out and let someone else do the cooking and the dishes!

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 date will be March 27. Come on out for breakfast and lively conversation!

Craft Ladies

The Craft Ladies meet the first and third Tuesday of the month downstairs in the Friendly Fellowship Room at 12:30. Please use the James Street Entrance (back door of the church). Contact Clara Welty or Nancy Waszkiewicz for more information.

Welcome New Member!

On Sunday, January 28, we welcomed Alyssa Bernhardt as a new member of Linway Church. Alyssa was one of the youth who completed Confirmation Class in December. We're glad to have you as a member of our Linway family!

Meals on Wheels

Volunteers Needed

Meals on Wheels could use a few extra volunteers to help get hot meals to those who need them. We can use drivers, runners (deliver meals to the door), packers, and kitchen help. One day a week for an hour or two is what is needed. We are also looking for people to substitute for volunteers that are sick or on vacation. Please consider donating your time to this worthy cause. For questions about volunteering, contact Leslie Gray at 412-977-2938 or Terry Claycomb at 412-327-6908.

Meals on Wheels operates out of the Linway kitchen 5 days a week to provide meals for their clients. To enquire about receiving meals, contact Meals on Wheels at: 412-327-6908.

Need for Prayer



Please remember the following in our prayers:

Chris Alexander, Patty B., Blake, Donnie Baker, Deanna B., Chris, Cheryl D, Paul & Diana C, Janet & Doug F, Betty Frommell, Frank & Mary Lou Fawcett, Heather G, Ginger, Bev Harcum, Jill Hardy, Lara Hilbert, Marilyn H., Clare & Sandy Hillgartner, Vanessa J., Frank Kordalski Sr., Michelle K., Kevin, Jean Lawton, Vickie G Lofgren, Bernie & Chrissy M., Linda P., Maureen P., Carol Pascarella, Joan Pierro, Donna Pottinger, Jackie Ruffing, Laura Shawley, Shawn, Anna Marie S., Sami Stewart, Cindy S., Cindy Taylor, Pat V., Linda Wetzler

Thank You!

Don and Judy Augustin would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and get well wishes over the past few months while they have been recovering from health concerns.

Happy Birthday!

Happy March Birthday to:

Carol Schafer
Don Augustin
Bella Moore
Rylie Cavendish
Bud Welty
Jay Taylor
Rich Cornell



Peggy Sivrich
Chris Stewart
Ahren Linderman
Aaron Hayes
Brianne Jeffries
Chloe Rousseau
Brandon Festa

Happy March Anniversary to:



Louise & Glenn Marrow
Jay & Posie Taylor

If you would like to share your birthday or anniversary, please contact the Office.

Thank You!

Rev. Dennis would like to thank everyone for a wonderful retirement party. He sincerely thanks everyone for their support over the years and for all their best wishes in his retirement.

MA's Pantry

Upcoming distribution dates are
March 2 & 16 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at
1000 Broadway in East McKeesport.
Phone 412-824-0277 for more information.

Volunteers Needed

Help distribute groceries to those in need in N. Versailles or E. McKeesport. Volunteers needed on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday mornings before distribution dates. Groceries distributed twice a month.

Volunteer Positions where help is needed:

Grocery Bag Packers - pack bags of food for pick-up

Home Delivery Driver - delivers grocery bags of food to those unable to travel to the Pantry

Food Donation Pick-up - from local supermarkets and bakeries

Loading/Unloading Truckload of Food - Friday mornings before food distribution date

Computer Operators - help with record-keeping

To volunteer, call MA's at 412-824-0277.

*"The desert
shall rejoice
and blossom
like the crocus;
It shall
blossom abundantly and rejoice
with joy and singing."*



Isaiah 35:1

Guest Speakers

March 3: Mr. Bob Jamison

We welcome Bob Jamison who founded Adam's Quest, an outreach to men in the Pittsburgh region who are discovering and pursuing God's plan and purpose for their lives. Since it's founding in 2012, Adam's Quest has grown several unique outreach programs in the region.

Additionally, Bob served as president of Family Guidance, Inc., a ministry to supply mentors and a life-changing camp experience for Pittsburgh's at-risk youth. He also founded TWOgether Pittsburgh, the state's largest marriage-strengthening program.

Bob is co-founder of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Leaders Prayer Breakfast, and currently partners with former Steeler chaplain Hollis Haff in an effort to build a disciple-making movement in our city.

Bob serves in the College of Elders at Mt. Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church. He is the co-author of *Steel Faithful: Stories of God at Work in Pittsburgh, 1952-2018*.

March 10: Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson

We welcome Steve Wilson who serves on Pittsburgh Presbytery's Commission on Ministry. Steve is Linway's Congregational Advocate and has been assisting the Linway Transition Team. He retired last August from the Oakmont Presbyterian Church where he served as Pastor for 35 years. Steve is married to Diane Rudolph who serves as the adult choir director and organist at St. Richard's Roman Catholic Church. Steve and Diane have four sons and six grandchildren.

Easter Flowers

If you wish to place potted Easter Flowers in the Chancel on Easter Sunday "in memory" or "in honor" of a loved one, please complete this order form & return it to the church office with payment by **Mon., March 11.**

Mums, Tulips, and Pansies will come in a variety of colors from which you may select Easter Sunday morning.

If you would like Pansies, please place your **order as soon as possible.** These are very popular, and our supplier could possibly run out of the pansies.

Easter Flowers Order Form

Flowers Given By:

(Please include your name & phone number)

"In Memory Of"or....."In Honor Of"

(Circle above, list name(s) & include relation – parent, child, grandparent, friend, aunt, etc.)

Please select flower type & write quantity:

___ Lily \$9.00 = _____

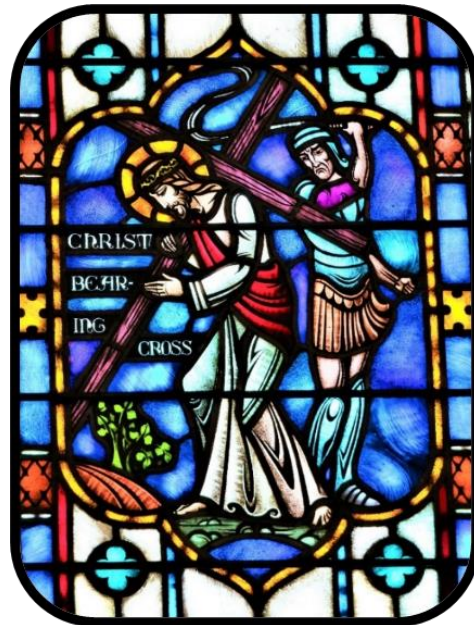
___ Mums \$8.00 = _____

___ Tulips \$7.00 = _____

___ 14" Bowl of Pansies \$16.00 _____

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

Christ Bearing the Cross
Depicted through one of Linway's
beautiful stained glass windows



Have a blessed Easter!

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

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.

