The Linway News

May 2023

Linway United PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Celebrating 126 Years
June 1, 1897 - 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Greetings! I recently heard someone say, *Well, I'm glad that Easter is over for another year.* I can understand what the person meant, and in some ways I agree. For those who are clergy, Holy Week (beginning on Palm Sunday and concluding on Easter Sunday) is a **marathon**! But as a matter of our faith, Easter is **never** over. We live post-resurrection. Every day is in light of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Timothy J. Keller wrote the following in his book *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*:

> *If Jesus was raised from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said. If he wasn't raised from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said. The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching, but whether or not he was raised from the dead. The resurrection trumps everything.*

The church specifically designates Easter as a season until we celebrate the Day of Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit. There are six Sundays after Easter Sunday that comprise the Easter Season. Years ago some of us may remember that this time was referred to as *Eastertide.* Whatever you choose to call it, the intent is to direct our attention to God's supreme action to provide forgiveness and the gift of everlasting life. This year, the Season of Easter continues until May 28th when we celebrate the Day of Pentecost. Just a reminder, the designated color for Pentecost is red. I hope to see lots of red on May 28th.

The month of May finds us well into the Spring Season in the northern hemisphere. Flowers, bushes, trees, and all manner of flora are in bloom. It is a visual expression of the rebirth of life. We also celebrate Mother's Day on May 14th this year. Once again the thought is that the celebration of mothers cannot be limited to just one day a year, but is an ongoing appreciation. It has been said that mothers are the glue that hold families together. In many ways this is true, but fathers have a great role to play as well, but that is something to speak about next month.

Our Linway Preschool will hold its graduation on the morning of Friday, May 19th in the Social Hall. The following day will be the first **Chicken BBQ** of the year. The proceeds from the barbeque will go to support the Linway General Fund. The next day, Sunday, May 21st we will observe the Cross and Crown Ceremony where we recognize our High School Graduate(s). As I mentioned previously, the following Sunday, May 28th is the Day of Pentecost when we will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Monday May 29th is our National Memorial Day where we remember those who have served our country in our Armed Forces, many of whom made the supreme sacrifice and gave their life in the defense of freedom and liberty. This is worthy of such recognition for we are in danger from those who would limit or dismiss such freedoms. The community is once again

invited to gather at Grandview Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. to participate in our Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. Your Pastor has been invited to participate in giving the Invocation and Benediction at that ceremony.

As you can see, the month of May has many special activities for the church family. Throughout this busy month, the anchor that holds us together is the Season of Easter. Without the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, there would not be a church. Without the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we would not have the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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

Mother's Day: Sun., May 8

We wish a very Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers and grandmothers as well as to all of the women of Linway who share their concern and care for others! We also fondly remember the women in our lives who have gone home to the Church Triumphant.

"I always thank my God for you because of God's grace given to you in Christ Jesus, that by Him you were made rich in everything, in all speaking and all knowledge."

1 Corinthians 1: 4-5

Cross & Crown Ceremony Sun., May 21

Our annual Cross and Crown Ceremony to honor those in our congregation who are graduating from high school will be held on Sun, May 21 during the 10:30 Service. Following the service, the Deacons invite everyone to their annual Strawberry Social.

If you know of a Linway Youth who will be graduating from high school and would like to participate in the Cross and Crown Ceremony, please have him/her contact the church office as soon as possible.

Memorial Day: May 29

Rev. Dennis is giving the Invocation and Benediction at the annual community Memorial Day Service at 11:00 at Grandview Cemetery, located along Route 30 at 1301 Lincoln Highway in North Versailles. We suggest taking along a lawn chair, sunscreen, & hat.

May 28th Video Recording Unavailable

Due to the Memorial Day Holiday, there will not be a video recording of the May 28th worship service.

Church Picnic at White Oak Park

Please join us for our annual picnic at White Oak Park in the Maple Pavilion Sunday, June 11. The picnic begins at noon with lunch being served thereafter. Hot dogs, buns, drinks, plates and plastic ware will be provided. Everyone is welcome to bring a favorite food to share. There is a restroom and playground near the pavilion. There are steps to get to the pavilion, but cars can also be driven onto the grass for closer access to the pavilion. Be sure to bring along a towel for the kids since we'll have water balloons on the grass outside the pavilion. Hope you can come!

Welcome New Members!

We welcome the following individuals who became members of Linway Church during the month of April:

Mrs. Arlene Szmuc
Mr. Joseph Donato

We're glad to have you as members of our church family!

The Session

Next Session Meeting: May 16 at 7:30 pm

Music & Worship Committee

Summer Service Survey

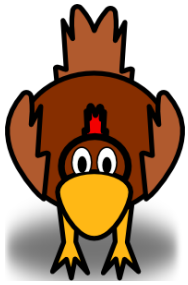
Thank you to everyone who completed our survey about our Summer Service Hours. The results are that **there will be no change in summer service hours**. We will still have the Contemporary Service every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. followed by the Traditional Service at 10:30 a.m.

Fundraising Committee

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. Use this link to order: https://www.givingbean.com/store/home.php?partner=83fa1#.YgaOeJbMJPY

Sarris Candy: is available after the worship service or by contacting the church office. The following flavors of 2 oz. candy bars are available for $1 each: milk chocolate, almond, peanut butter, or crisp rice. Depending upon availability, candy bars may also be sold at the Chicken Barbecue.

Linway Chicken Barbecue!
Sat. May 20 from 2:30-?



Plans are underway for this year's first chicken barbecue! Meals continue to be take-out only from our East Parking Lot. The cost is $12.00 per dinner and includes: 1/2 BBQ chicken, baked potato, cole slaw, and roll.

Help is needed: If you can help with kitchen prep on Friday 5/19 at Noon, contact Scott or Leslie Gray at 412-977-8254. If you can help Sat. 5/20 at 2:00 with set-up or serving, contact Keith Eremic at 412-445-8385. Clean-up help is also appreciated. If you've never helped with one of our barbecues, consider giving it a try! Many hands together make light work.
This fundraiser benefits the church's General Fund.

Pepperoni Roll's: They're Back! Order delicious, fresh Sunseri Pepperoni Rolls from the Strip District of Pittsburgh for $10 each using the order form included in this newsletter. Deadline to order: May 24. Pick-up your order at the church on Thursday, June 1 between 5:00-7:00 p.m. using the James Street entrance near the kitchen. If you'd like to sell to friends or family, please contact the office for larger order forms.

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. The church receives a percent of each gift card that is purchased.

Property Committee

Construction Caution

The exterior re-caulking & painting of the church windows has begun! Please use caution if you are visiting the church on a weekday. Please do not walk under any ladders or underneath the workers.

Buillding Repair Matching Challenge

Thank you to those who have been able to contribute to our Building Repair Fund! Currently donations total $8,900 towards our $10,000 goal. A generous member has challenged us that once we reach our $10,000 goal, the member will match dollar for dollar until an additional $1,000 is raised. The cut-off date for the matching is July 1. If we've received donations totaling $11,000 by this date, the anonymous member will then match up to an additional $1,000 to the fund! If you can help, please designate donations "Building Repair Fund". Thanks!

Deacons

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
Saturday, May 13 3:00-6:00
$10 for Adults $5.00 for children

The Deacons invite you to a Spaghetti Dinner in our Social Hall on May 13. The meal includes spaghetti with choice of sauce (meat sauce or meatless), bread, side salad, and a drink. Desserts will be available a la carte. Take-out meals will also be available. It's Mother's Day Weekend, so you can treat Mom to a delicious dinner and enjoy some time together with family and friends! Proceeds benefit the Deacons Fund.

Strawberry Festival: May 21

The Deacons invite you to Linway's Annual Strawberry Festival on Sunday, May 21 following the 10:30 Worship Service. The Strawberry Festival is traditionally held the same day as the Cross and Crown Ceremony. The Deacons will be serving strawberries with or without sugar, along with your choice of cake, ice cream and/or whipped cream. There is no charge but there will be a free will offering basket available. We hope to see you there!

Congratulations to Judy Augustin who was installed on April 30 to a new term as a member of the Board of Deacons. Thank you for your service to our church.

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast!

Next Deacon Meeting: Aug.27 11:45 a.m. in the Friendly Fellowship Room. Moderator Frank Kordalski will email the week prior to confirm.

Christian Education Committee

Kid's Club!
May Dates: May 10 & 24 6:30pm-7:30pm

Kid's Club will be taking a summer break after May 24 and will then resume again in the fall. Thank you to all of the parents/ guardians who bring their kids for our evenings of bible lessons, crafts, games, and snacks!

Youth Sunday: July 9

We are planning to have Youth Sunday on July 9 in which the children and youth of the church assist with the 9:15 and/or 10:30 worship services. Areas where help from the kids would be needed are: greeting & passing out bulletins, reading items, announcing songs/hymns, being acolyte, and possibly doing a "Time with Adults" during the 10:30 Service in place of a "Time with Children". Also, if your child plays an instrument, would he/she be willing to play that day? Watch for more information as this date approaches. For now, please save this date so your kids can participate.

Linway Retreat: May 7

Nearly 40 individuals attended the Linway Retreat at Ligonier Camp & Conference Center. Most stayed for the entire 3-day event, while others were able to join us for one day. Though the weather forecast did not look favorable, some outdoor activities were able to occur, and the warm campfire each evening was delightful. Thank you to Amy and Wayne Gida for organizing our annual retreat and to Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Russel and Scott Gray for leading our devotions! Plans are already underway to reserve our date for next year!

Save the Date:
Vacation Bible School
June 26 – 29 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Gearing Up For Life's Big Game!
2 Peter 1: 3

For Ages: 5 years old by Sept. 1 thru the completion of 5th grade.

Youth older than 5th Grade: We need you! Contact Jaime Ruffing if you could lend a hand.

Registration Forms at church entrance, on the church website, or call the office.

VBS: Help Needed
Planning Meeting June 6 at 7:00 p.m.

If you are willing to help in any way with VBS, please contact Jaime Ruffing at 412-823-1901. There will be a VBS Planning Meeting on Tuesday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. downstairs in the Friendly Fellowship Room for those able to lend a hand with VBS. Please come and help us plan!

Prayer: Please keep our VBS program in your prayers as we share God's love with the children.

Share the VBS Date: Please share our VBS information with friends and family and invite their children to participate.

Linway Preschool

The preschool year is quickly winding to a close. This month the 3 Year Olds Class will be taking a trip to Round Hill Farm and the 4 Year Olds Class will be visiting the Pittsburgh Zoo. The End of the Year Program for the 4's Class will be held on Friday, May 19 in the Social Hall. Many thanks to teachers Michele Brancato and Jeannette Briggs who provide a quality education to the children.

Registrations for 2023/24 are now being accepted. Classes will begin the end of August/early September. Contact the church office for more information or visit the church website. The 3-year old classes meet Tuesday and Thursday. The 4-year old classes meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Music Ministry

Chancel Choir: The Choir practices on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. 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. If you have any questions about our Music Ministry, please speak with George Hawkins.

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 breakfasts will be June 5.

Men's Breakfast

The men are also getting together for breakfast at North Versailles Eat 'N Park. The men meet the last Wednesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. All men are invited. The next breakfast will be May 31.

Craft Ladies

The Craft Ladies meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 12:30 downstairs in the Friendly Fellowship Room. Ladies are welcome to bring along a craft to work on while enjoying fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Waszkiewicz or Clara Welty.

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 by calling: 412-327-6908.

Thanks for the Well Wishes!

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers during my recent hospitalization.

-Joan Pierro

To all of our friends at Linway, Carol and Jack Wolf and family extend their thanks for all the cards, prayers and kind thoughts you have offered over the past years. We appreciate the Pastor's visits, and the "Easter Basket" delivered by the Deacons last month. Even as we remain on the prayer list, we think of you often, and pray for you all, too. Thank you.

Happy Anniversary!

Happy May Anniversary to:

Gary & Deanna Buchman
Rob & Cindy Trout
Clara & Bud Welty
Alyssa & Joshua Oskin
Lori & Dale Frye
Mary Lou & Frank Fawcett
Leslie & Scott Gray
Lila & Andy Sedlak

With Our Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Nancy and the Waszkiewicz family. Ed Waszkiewicz, a long-time member of Linway, went home to be with our Lord on April 4.

Our sympathy is extended to the Scott and McFarland families. Holly (McFarland) Scott, a long-time member of Linway, went home to be with our Lord on April 11.

Need for Prayer

Please remember the following in our prayers:

Laura B., Donnie Baker, Betsy Bernhardy, Jordan B, Mike Feigh, Betty Frommell, Frank & Mary Lou Fawcett, Duane Garbett, Heather & Jack H., Michelle H., Bev Harcum, Jill Hardy, Clare & Sandy Hillgartner, Richard Hickox, Frank Kordalski, Sr., Jean Lawton, Marilyn, Rita Marrow, Shari Morgan, Chrissy & Bernie Martin, Jackie O., Carol Pascarella, Linda P., Joan Pierro, Donna Pottinger, Gary R., Renee R., Shawna & Rory S., Laura Shawley, Barbara Shoop, Michelle Smith, Leslie T., Cindy Taylor, Thornton Family, Pat V, Linda Wetzler, Carol & Jack Wolf

Happy Birthday!

Happy May Birthday to:

Nicholas Eremic
Jessica Berger
Mark Pascarella
Jackie Thornton
Teri Ritz
Heather (Frye) Tucker
Madilyn Stewart
Sandi Szmuc
Leslie Gray
Clara Welty

MA's Pantry

Postal Service Food Collection: May 13

Each spring, the United States Postal Service in North Versailles and East McKeesport collects food for MA's Pantry. The date of collection this year is May 13. If you are a resident served by one of these two post office branches, you will receive a bag and instructions delivered to your door by your letter carrier about a week ahead. Fill the bag with non-perishable foods (no cardboard or paper boxes or bags if the weather is raining, please) and place it near your mailbox for the letter carrier to collect on May 13. In the past, MA's has received several truckloads of food. This is a huge boost to our efforts to supply food to our neighbors in need.

SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

As everyone knows, food prices at the grocery stores have gone up significantly. On average, food prices increased about 14% in the last year. Then, on March 1 the COVID era increase on food stamps for low-income families expired and was not renewed by Congress. On average, food stamp recipients will lose about $94 per person per month in benefits. That might not sound like much, but it really is a big deal if you are living hand to mouth. To help temporarily, MA's Pantry distributed Giant Eagle gift cards for Easter/Passover during April.

We ask that you keep the MA's Pantry recipients and the Pantry volunteers in your prayers. You might also contact your US senators and congress person to urge restoration of the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits to the Farm Bill currently under discussion in the US Congress. The Farm Bill must be renewed every 5 years. 2023 is the year. For more information, please call the MA's Pantry office at 412-824-0277.

MA's Volunteer Drivers Needed:

Two Saturdays a month for 1-1.5 hours to deliver food supplies to homebound individuals in E.McKeesport/N.Versailles area. Substitute drivers are also needed. Deliveries are grouped, so driving is limited. Call Paula at 412-401-1856.

Summer Camp

Crestfield Camp & Conference Center and Ligonier Camp & Conference Center are two wonderful Christian summer camps for kids. There is scholarship money to attend available through the church. For more information, please talk to Rev. Dennis. Camp information can be found on the Crestfield website: http://crestfieldcc.org/ or Ligonier website: http://ligoniercamp.org

Summer Office Hours

After Memorial Day, the church office will be open:
Monday-Thursday 9:00-Noon

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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:
Mon – Fri 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Summer Hours Mon-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 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

Organist & Choir Director: George Hawkins

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

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