



The Linway News

May/June 2026

Linway  United
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Celebrating 129 Years
June 1, 1897 - June 1, 2026

Announcement from the Linway Church Session and Linway Pastor Nominating Committee

The Session and Pastor Nominating Committee are pleased to announce that, upon the recommendation of the PNC, the Session voted at its May 19, 2026 meeting to call Jakob J. Harmon to serve as our **Certified Pastoral Resident**, effective June 1, 2026. Pastor Jakob will be completing additional requirements in the coming months as he continues his journey toward ordination.

Thank you for your continued prayers and give praise to God for His guidance as we take this important step forward in the search for Linway's pastor. We also express our sincere appreciation to the PNC for their faithful dedication throughout this process. Please continue to keep Pastor Jakob in your prayers as he completes his requirements on his path to ordination, and pray for Linway as we move forward during these exciting times.

Luncheon to Celebrate
Pastor Jakob's Graduation!
Sunday, May 31 at Noon
in our Social Hall

Everyone is invited! Please join us as we celebrate Pastor Jakob's graduation from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Pastor Jakob's family & friends will also be joining us. We hope you'll come for the celebration! This will not be a covered dish meal.

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



"Practicing Resurrection"

Dear Friends,

We are still living in the light of Easter, but the question before us is whether that light has made its way into our ordinary lives.

It's one thing to proclaim, "Christ is risen." It's another thing to ask what that means on a Tuesday afternoon, when the dishes are in the sink, the inbox is full, and the weight of the world feels closer than the hope of heaven. Resurrection is not only a past event we celebrate; it is a present reality we are invited to practice.

The apostle Paul writes, "*If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). That's not just a promise for the future; it's a declaration about what God is already doing. In Christ, new life has begun. And in Romans 6, Paul goes even further, saying that we have been raised with Christ so that we too might "*walk in newness of life*" (Romans 6:4). This is not abstract theology; it's a way of living.

So what might it look like to practice resurrection?

- It may look like choosing forgiveness when resentment would be easier. Not because it's simple, but because we trust that God is always in the business of bringing life out of what feels dead and buried.

- It may look like paying attention to small signs of grace (a kind word, a moment of beauty, a flicker of joy) and receiving them as gifts rather than passing them by. Resurrection often arrives quietly before it arrives dramatically.
- It may look like refusing to give in to cynicism. In a world that trains us to expect the worst, practicing resurrection means daring to hope...not in naïve optimism, but in the deep conviction that death does not have the final word.
- And sometimes, practicing resurrection simply looks like showing up. Showing up to worship, to serve, to love one another, even when we feel tired or unsure. Because resurrection life is not something we generate; it is something we step into, again and again, as we follow the risen Christ.

The truth is, we don't always feel like "resurrection people." There are days when faith feels thin, when hope feels distant, when new life seems hard to imagine. But the good news of Easter is that resurrection does not depend on the strength of our belief. It depends on the faithfulness of God.

And God is faithful.

So this month, I want to invite you to practice resurrection in one small, intentional way. Notice where life is breaking through. Choose hope where you might otherwise withdraw. Offer love where it is needed. Because the risen Christ is not only someone we remember. He is someone we follow into new life, even now.

In Christ's loving grace and peace,
Pastor Jakob

Pastor Jakob J. Harmon
invites you to attend his graduation:

**The Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
will celebrate the Class of 2026
during its 230th Commencement
May 29th at 4:00 p.m.
at East Liberty Presbyterian Church**

Please contact the church office for detailed information since there is no parking at the East Liberty Church, and it is highly recommended that you park at the Seminary and take a shuttle.



Church Picnic at White Oak Park

Our annual picnic at White Oak Park is Sunday, June 7 in the Maple Pavilion. The picnic begins at noon with lunch. We'll have Sunday morning worship services here at the church and then meet at the park for lunch at noon.

Drinks, plates and plastic ware will be provided. Everyone is welcome to bring a favorite food to share.

There is a donation board at the front of the Sanctuary if you would like to bring one of the listed items such as a pack of hot dogs, buns, ketchup, ice, etc. If you'd like to sign up for one of these items, please then take the item's reminder note so you'll know which item to bring to the picnic.

For those with mobility issues, there are steps to get to the pavilion, but cars can be driven onto the grass for closer access to the pavilion by taking the path to the right of the stairs/to the right of the parking lot.

If you need a ride, please reach out to Amy Gida, Christine Stewart, or the church office.

There is a restroom with running water and playground near the pavilion. We are

planning fun games and a craft for everyone. Be sure to bring along a towel for the kids in case it is warm enough for water games.

You're welcome to invite friends/family.
Hope you can come!

The Session

Next Session Meeting: June 16 at 7:30pm

Missions Committee

Did you know that Linway Church sponsors a boy in Guatemala? His name is Ever Timoteo Santos Jax, and he celebrated his 10th birthday on May 17. Please consider giving a donation to the Missions Fund to assist with Ever's care.

The following is a list of the current mission programs Linway Church financially helps to support:

Child Fund International – our sponsor child, Ever Timoteo Santos Jax, receives assistance for clean water, healthy food, education, & healthcare.

Allison Gray – a missionary in Guatemala and niece of Scott & Leslie Gray.

John Neba International Ministries – Martha's School for Cameroon refugee children founded by Linway's former student intern Rev. Dr. Martha Neba-Mbani & her husband.

Light of Life Ministries – provides food & shelter while sharing the love of Christ to the homeless in downtown Pittsburgh.

Presbyterian Mission Fund – helps in the US and worldwide by providing disaster response, seeks to alleviate hunger & poverty, improve education, advocates for social justice, seeks racial equity, and provides resources to church leaders for worship.

Thank you for your continued missions giving, which provides the Missions Committee with the opportunity to support these worthwhile programs. Donations for our various local and international missions may be placed in a pew envelope. Please designate that it is for the "Mission Fund". Loose change left in the pew also goes towards the mission fund.

Rise Against Hunger: Nov. 21, 2026.

Save the date! We packed 10,000 meals last year! How many meals can we pack this year?!

The annual **Post Office Food Drive** was on May 9, and the North Versailles Post Office collected food for MA's Pantry. Linway members assisted with moving the donated food to the pantry.

MA's Pantry: Upcoming MA's food distribution dates are Sat, June 6 & 20

from 9:00-11:00am. Located at 1000 Broadway Street in East McKeesport. For residents of North Versailles and East McKeesport. For more information contact the Linway Church office or St. John's Church at 412-824-0277.

Volunteer Drivers needed to make home deliveries. It only takes 1 to 1 ½ hours two Saturday mornings each month. An increasing number of MA's recipients are handicapped and homebound. If you want to explore this or other volunteer opportunities, please call Ed Sites at (412) 848-1407.

Additionally, we are looking for a member of Linway to join Clare Hillgartner and Jamie Stewart on the MA's Pantry Board, which meets quarterly on Saturday mornings at 11:00 at the conclusion of food distribution. This is a great way to get involved and support the work of MA's Pantry through assisting in the activities and oversight of their efforts. If you are interested in volunteering on the Board or hearing more about it, please reach out to the church office or Jamie Stewart.

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Thank you for your support, both financially and prayerfully, that you give to our church. It is greatly appreciated!

We kindly ask Linway members to please remember to pay your 2026 Presbytery Assessment (Per Capita). This is the amount each member of the church is asked to pay once a year to cover the operational expenses of the Presbytery.

The 2026 Per Capita Apportionment is \$40 per member. When placing this in the offering or mailing to the church, please indicate that it is “for the Per Capita”.

Special Offerings: For those who opted not to receive a box of giving envelopes this year, we wanted to share the following special offerings in May:

May 10 Mother’s Day

May 24 Pentecost

The next special offering date will be in October.

Property Committee

The plumbing project for the 3rd floor restrooms is nearing completion. Plumbing is complete, walls painted, and a new floor installed. Thank you to those who worked on this project or gave financial support.

If you would like to contribute to the **Building Fund**, please place your gift in an envelope and designate that it is “For the Building Fund”. Then, mail it to the church or place in the offering. We thank you, in advance, for helping with the cost of necessary projects to maintain our church building and property.



It’s grass cutting time! If you are able to help with this expense, please use one of the pew envelopes and designate it for “Lawn Care” or mark it on your check memo line. Each weekly cut of the grass costs \$40.00. Thank you so much for helping us keep the church’s lawn and grounds looking nice.

Member Care & Outreach Committee

Next meeting: Tues, June 9 at 7:00 p.m.
Everyone is welcome to be a member of the Member Care & Outreach Committee.

Need a Ride To/From Church?



Contact Amy Gida, Chris Stewart or the church office at 412-824-3555.



Save the Date!

Pirate’s Baseball Game: Sun, July 26th

We’re planning to go as a group to the 1:30 game. Ride sharing can be coordinated for anyone who wants to go but doesn’t want to drive. Watch for more information coming soon.

Fundraising Committee

Chicken Barbecue Postponed: Due to the busy weekend and some staffing issues, we are postponing the Chicken BBQ to a later date. If you would be interested in learning different areas of the BBQ, please contact Keith Eremic at 412-445-8385. We are hoping to train more volunteers in different areas to avoid the need to cancel in the future.



Pepperoni Roll Fundraiser: We are taking orders for the delicious Sunseri Pepperoni Rolls. Choose between the 2-pound monster pepperoni roll or the atomic pepperoni roll. Each roll is \$10 each. An order form is included with this newsletter. Orders are due to the church office June 1. Pick-up your order in the church kitchen Thursday, June 11 4:30-7:00.

Sarris Candy: Thank you for your support of this fundraiser! We will resume this popular fundraiser again in the fall.

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>

Giant Eagle Gift Cards: can be used at Giant Eagle Stores and at Getgo. Cards come in various amounts are available for purchase after the 10:30 worship service or by calling the church office. Linway receives a percent of each gift card that is purchased.

Deacons

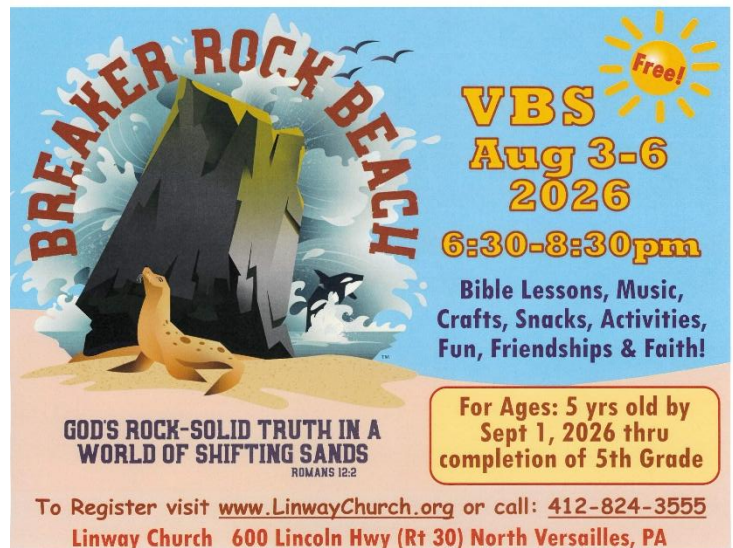
At their May meeting, the Deacons voted to give a donation for Mother's Day to the Linway Preschool in honor of the women of Linway Church and in memory of Linway women who have gone home to the church triumphant. The Deacons also gave carnations to each women & girl in church on Mother's Day.

The Deacons also voted to give a donation for Father's Day to Linway's Teen Youth Group in honor of the men of Linway Church and in memory of Linway men who have gone home to the church triumphant. The Deacons will also give cookies to the men and boys in church on Father's Day.

Christian Education Committee

Kid's Club is now on summer break and will resume again in the fall. Thank you to all of the parents/guardians who bring their kids for evenings of Bible lessons, music, crafts, games & snacks! THANK YOU to the Kid's Club team of volunteers who make this program possible: Kim Brown, Leslie & Scott Gray, George Hawkins, Pastor Jakob Harmon, Nancy Hilbert, and Jaime Ruffing.

*Give thanks to the Lord, for
He is good; His love endures
forever! -Psalm 118: 1*



BREAKER ROCK BEACH

VBS
Aug 3-6
2026
6:30-8:30pm

Free!

Bible Lessons, Music,
Crafts, Snacks, Activities,
Fun, Friendships & Faith!

For Ages: 5 yrs old by
Sept 1, 2026 thru
completion of 5th Grade

GOD'S ROCK-SOLID TRUTH IN A
WORLD OF SHIFTING SANDS
ROMANS 12:2

To Register visit www.LinwayChurch.org or call: 412-824-3555
Linway Church 600 Lincoln Hwy (Rt 30) North Versailles, PA

We look forward to an amazing adventure at this year's **Vacation Bible School!** We're planning 4 nights packed with exciting Bible lessons, music, crafts, activities, and snacks—all designed to help kids learn about God's love. This year's theme, **Breaker Rock Beach**, will take kids on an exciting journey through God's Word and teach that "God's truth never changes and stands strong, like a rock against the crashing waves".

Our VBS program is FREE! Join us for a time of **fun, friendship & faith!**

For Ages: 5 years old by 9/1/26 to kids who completed 5th grade in 2026.

Registration is on the church website www.LinwayChurch.org or call the church office at 412-824-3555.

Youth older than 5th Grade: We need you! Contact Jaime Ruffing at 412-302-6241 if you could lend a hand.

Adult VBS Volunteers: If you are willing to help in any way with VBS, please contact Jaime Ruffing at 412-302-6241. You can help 1, 2, 3, or even all 4 nights! We'll work with your schedule!

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

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

Adult Bible Study: The Chosen Bible Study group finished Season 5 in April and is now taking a summer break.

Walking with Jesus encourages a daily scripture reading and a physical activity. Participants are reading the 31 chapters of Proverbs during the 31 days of May and also doing a daily physical activity, such as walking. On Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. the Social Hall is open to walk as a group and to encourage each other to keep up with the readings.

Graduate Recognition: On May 10 during the 10:30 worship service, we recognized Addison Nichole Bernhardt who will be graduating this year from East Allegheny High School. Addison is the daughter of Brian & Kimberly Bernhardt and sister to Alyssa. She is the granddaughter of Linway members Dennis & Mary Lou Bernhardt and Jeannette Briggs.

While attending EA, Addison participated in many clubs and activities at the high school, while being on the High Honor Roll & a member of the National Honor Society. Additionally, Addison received awards for Outstanding Achievement and was also named Student of the Year.

Over the years, Addison attended Linway Preschool and became a Linway member in 2022. She helps with our VBS, Fall Festival's Santa Shop, and the Preschool.

Following graduation, Addison plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh to study Biology/Psychology with an academic track of Occupational Therapy followed by grad school. May the Lord continue to be with Addison as she begins a new and exciting chapter in her life.

Summer Camps

Camp Crestfield and the Ligonier Camp & Conference Center are two wonderful, local Christian summer camps for kids. There is scholarship money to attend available through the church and also through the camp. Consider having your child invite a

friend to make the camp experience even better! Looking for a summer job? Both of these camps are hiring. More information is available on the camps' websites:

www.ligoniercamp.org or
www.crestfieldcc.org

Music Ministry

Chancel Choir: The choir is taking a break for the summer. **Thank You Choir!** for providing beautiful music to enhance our 10:30 service throughout the year.

Linway Preschool

50 Years!

The 50th year of Linway Preschool had 9 students graduate from the 4-year olds' class on May 27th. The 3-year olds' class finished their classes on May 21. The first Linway Nursery School class was held in 1975/76 with an enrollment of 20 students who were taught by Joan Hurrell and Jean Schumaker. Thanks to Michele Brancato and Alle Comunale who are our current teachers and do a wonderful job with the children.



Registrations for 2026/27 are now being accepted. 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 Mon, Wed, and Friday.

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 June 1.

Men's Breakfast

The men are also getting together for breakfast at N.Versailles Eat 'N Park the last Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. All men are invited. The next breakfast will be June 24.

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 412-378-9136 or Clara Welty 412-953-7227.

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.

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 in need of people to substitute for volunteers that are taking a day off. Please consider donating your time to this worthy cause. For questions about volunteering, contact Terry Claycomb at 412-327-6908.

Need for Prayer



Please remember the following in our prayers:

David A, Helen Alexander, Annie, Kathy B, Patty B, Baker Family, Chris, Jeannette Briggs, Jim C, Cheryl D, Kathy D, Nathan E, Betty Frommell, Michelle F, Barb Harvey, Glenn H, Clare & Sandy Hillgartner, Bev & Barry Harcum, Frank Kordalski Sr, Bill Knight, Cindie M, Cindy & Ken McCall, Peg M, Andrew N, Howard N, Mark Pascarella, Arthur R, Renee R, Cindy S, Susan S, Shawn, P & K Schwer, Laura Shawley, Bill Szmuc, Bruce S, Glenda T, Tracey, Pat V, Kevin W, Scott W, Linda Wetzler, Rebecca W.

Our Sympathy

Our Sympathy to the family of Samuel Dechter who went home to be with our Lord on March 29th. Sam was a long-time Linway member who resided in the state of Washington, with his wife Kathy. Sam was Ruth Dechter's oldest son and a nephew of Irene Young.

Our Sympathy is extended to the Mitchell Family. Tim Mitchell's father, Timothy Paul Mitchell, went home to be with our Lord on April 19th.

Our Sympathy is extended to the Carothers Family. Former Linway member James "JC" Carothers went home to be with our Lord on April 30.

Our Sympathy is extended to the Baker Family. Long-time Linway member Donald Baker went home to be with our Lord on May 2.

Welcome New Members!

On May 17 we welcomed Peggy Teasdale and Jim & Janet Beitler as new members of Linway Church. All three have been regularly attending worship services for a while and recently completed the new member class with Pastor Jakob. We're glad to have you as members of Linway!

Baby Congrats!

Congratulations to Zach & Lara Hilbert who welcomed their new son, Leo, & daughter, Chloe, into the world on April 24th. May the Lord's blessing be upon them. We also congratulate new grandparents, Nancy & Steve Hilbert on this joyous occasion!

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday Linway! On June 1, 2026, Linway United Presbyterian Church has been joyfully worshipping and serving the Lord Jesus Christ in the North Versailles & East McKeesport area for 129 years!



Happy Belated May Birthday to:

Nicholas Eremic
Jessica Berger
Mark Pascarella
Jackie Thornton
Heather Tucker



Madilyn Stewart
Sandi Szmuc
Leslie Gray
Clara Welty
Lily Daugherty

Happy June Birthday to:

Dorothy Black
Willie Marrow
Cathy Walters
Marissa Lapp
Pam Susan
Dale Frye
Jacquelyn Ruffing
Stephanie Spingola



Tom Thornton
Duane Welty
Samantha Stewart
Caden Sivrich
Scott Susan
Deanna Buchman
Ellen Hardy

Happy Anniversary!

Happy Belated May Anniversary to:



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



Happy June Anniversary to:

Bill & Arlene Szmuc
Jackie & Tom Thornton
Jaime & Ed Ruffing

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

Summer Office Hours

For the summer, the church office is open Monday through Thursday 9:00-Noon.

The Linway News

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:

Certified Pastoral Resident: Pastor Jakob J. Harmon

Email: Pastor.Harmon@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.

June 2026 Pepperoni Roll Fundraiser

If you would like to order, please complete this order form & return to the church office **by Monday, June 1.**

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 Sunseri's Legendary Dipping Peppers (Sweet Cubanella Peppers, Hot Banana Peppers, Jalapeno Peppers), Prosciutto tid-bits, Portabella Mushrooms, and Roma Tomatoes.

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.

Pick-up Thursday, June 11 4:30-7:00 p.m. in the Linway Kitchen using the James Street entrance.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

_____ # Monster Rolls @ \$10 = _____

_____ # Atomic Rolls @ \$10 = _____

Total Amount Due = _____

*A fundraiser for Linway Church.
Thanks for ordering!*

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