



The Linway News

September 2025

Linway  United
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Celebrating 128 Years

June 1, 1897–June 1, 2025

Welcome Pastor Jakob Harmon!

On August 1st we welcomed Jakob Harmon to Linway Church as a Student Pastor to lead us in worship and provide pastoral care. Pastor Jakob has a deep passion for preaching, teaching, and nurturing faith through word and song. Originally from rural Oklahoma, Jakob grew up closely connected to his family and local church community. Though he sensed a call to ministry early in life, he first pursued a career in music education, spending seven years in various education and leadership capacities before responding to God's call to ministry.

Pastor Jakob holds an Associate of Arts from Rose State College and a Bachelor's in Music Education from the University of Central Oklahoma. He is currently completing his final year at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where he is preparing for ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). After seminary, Jakob is planning to obtain a PhD. in Biblical Studies, with an emphasis in the New Testament.

Jakob has served in various ministry roles; from youth leadership and worship music in his home church to preaching, teaching, and youth ministry at Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in Monroeville. He is particularly passionate about preaching the Word of God with clarity and compassion, developing the next generation of Christian leaders, and weaving music into the life of worship.

In his free time, Jakob enjoys hiking, camping, stargazing, songwriting, and learning new instruments. He is thrilled to be serving as Student Pastor at Linway and

looks forward to seeing how God will move through the church's gifts and passions in the community and beyond.

Pastor Jakob can be contacted by calling the church office at 412-824-3555 or through email at:
www.Pastor.Harmon@Linwaychurch.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Living Into Our Purpose

Dear Friends in Christ,

At Linway, we are guided by a simple and powerful purpose: *"to joyfully worship and serve the mission and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ."* That sentence says so much about who we are and what God calls us to do. It keeps us grounded, especially in times like these when so much around us feels like it is in transition.

Fall is always a season of change. Children and teachers return to classrooms. Families adjust to new routines. Days grow shorter, the weather cools, and we begin to sense the rhythm of the year turning toward something new. Here at Linway, we also feel the winds of transition as we continue our search for a full-time pastor. In the midst of all this change, it can be easy to feel uncertain or even restless. And yet, our purpose remains the same.

We are called first to *worship joyfully*. Worship is not something we do out of habit or duty, but out of gratitude for the God who created us, redeemed us in Christ, and sustains us day by day with His Holy Spirit. When we gather in worship, we remember that God is at the center of our

life together. We remember that no matter what else changes, the steadfast love of the Lord never does. Worship roots us in what is eternal and lifts our eyes to the hope of Christ.

We are also called to *serve the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ*. That mission is not something we invent for ourselves; it is something Christ entrusts to us. It is the work of loving our neighbors, welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, encouraging the weary, and proclaiming good news to the world. When we serve, we are reminded that the church is not just a building or a Sunday morning gathering; it is a living witness to the presence of Christ in our community.

Transitions remind us that the church is not built on any one pastor or leader, but on Jesus Christ, the one foundation that never shifts. Pastors come and go, programs adapt, and even traditions sometimes evolve, but our purpose does not. It is Christ's mission that carries us forward, and it is our joy in worship and service that makes us who we are.

As we enter this new season, my prayer is that we keep leaning into this purpose together. Let us gather with joy, even when the world feels heavy. Let us serve with hope, even when the needs around us feel overwhelming. Let us remain steady in faith, trusting that God is not finished with Linway, but is already preparing the way for new opportunities and new growth.

I am deeply grateful to be walking with you in this season of change. God has been faithful to this congregation for many generations, and I believe God will continue to be faithful in the days ahead. May we continue to live with joy, serve with love, and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who leads us forward.

Grace and peace in Christ,
Pastor Jakob

Transition to New Pastor

We are grateful to have Pastor Jakob Harmon leading us at Linway as he completes his studies at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Meanwhile, the work of the Pastoral Nominating Committee continues. We kindly ask for your continued prayers as they seek the individual whom God has chosen to serve Linway as our permanent pastor.

Above everything, we place our trust in God's plan for Linway. Just as we were blessed with Pastor Larry and now with Pastor Jakob, we hold firm to the belief that God will continue to guide us as we move forward in faith. Let us remain steadfast in prayer and seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as we journey onward together.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the Session. May God's guidance and blessings be upon us all as we walk this path together.

Blessings,
Jamie Stewart

Rally Day & the Return of 2 Sunday Worship Services

Rally Day was Sept. 7, and we celebrated that we can gather together for regular church activities after a busy summer! Once again we are holding two Sunday morning worship services:

Contemporary Service at 9:15 a.m.

Traditional Service at 10:30 a.m.

We rejoice that we are able to be together at Linway for praise, worship, and fellowship as we grow closer to our Lord!



World Communion Sunday: October 5

We will be sharing the Lord's Supper during both worship services on Sunday, October 5. Rev. Ralph Lowe will be joining us for worship, and he and Pastor Jakob will lead us in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

The Session

Next Session Meeting: Sept 17 7:00 pm in the Friendly Fellowship Room.

Mission Committee: Thank you for your continued missions giving, which provides the Missions Committee with the opportunity to support worthwhile mission 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.



Fundraising Committee **Linway Chicken Barbecue!** **Sat. Sept 13 serving from 2:30-?**

Meals will continue to be take-out from our East Parking Lot. Cost is \$12 per dinner and includes: 1/2 BBQ chicken, baked potato, cole slaw, and roll.

Volunteers are needed:

On Fri. 9/12, help is needed with kitchen prep at 11:30 am. Contact Scott Gray at 412-977-8254 if you can help Friday.

On Sat. 9/13, please contact Keith Eremic at 412-445-8385 if you are able to help with one of the following areas:

- Set-up, Serving, Traffic Flow help needed starting at 1:45.
- Clean-up help needed starting at 4:30.



Fall Festival: Sat., Nov. 8

Save the date for our annual community Fall Festival at Linway! Please share this date with friends & family. Watch for more information in the coming weeks on how you can join in to help with this fun event.

Greeting Card Fundraiser: Purchase a box of 30 greeting cards in a decorative box for \$30, and Linway will receive \$13 for the general fund. Box selections are: Variety Cards Box, Kids Birthday Cards

Box, Thanks & Blanks Cards Box, & even a Holiday Cards Box. Contact Jaime Ruffing or Lila Sedlack to purchase.

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> .

Gift Cards: Eat'n Park & Giant Eagle Gift Cards in various amounts are available for purchase after the worship services or by calling the church office. The church receives a % of the value of each card.

Member Care: Coffee Connection Help

Now that it's fall, Member Care could use help with Sunday's Coffee Connection held between the 2 worship services. Please take a turn by signing-up to host or donate a snack.

Property Committee

Security: Each night, a member goes through our church to make sure lights & faucets are off, windows are closed, doors are locked, etc. If you would be willing to help, please contact Scott Gray at 412-977-8254. The current schedule is 1 week roughly every other month.

Deacons

Halloween Treat Boxes: The Deacons will soon be preparing treat boxes for Linway's college students and military personnel. Donations of snacks, school supplies or other items for the boxes can be left in the box near the church entrance. Monetary donations can be placed in an envelope in the offering and mark your donation "Halloween Boxes". Your support is appreciated. Thanks!

Christian Education Committee

Children's Sun. School: EVERY Sunday during the 10:30 Service. If you would like to help by being a Sunday School helper and/or prepare a craft project or activity, please contact Jaime Ruffing.

Kid's Club: New Slightly Earlier Time!
Kids' Club will be starting Wed, Oct. 8 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We'll have a Bible lesson, craft, game, snack and music for kids **age 5 years old through 6th grade**. Kids' Club will meet the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month. Invite a friend! Please share info about this free program with other families. **Parents do not need to be a member of Linway to participate.**

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

Teen Youth Group

Our teen youth group started meeting during the summer and will continue to meet in the Social Hall on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Any teen is welcome to join in the fun! Parents do not need to be members of Linway. Contact Jaime Ruffing or Amy Gida for more information.



Bibles for 3rd Grade Students

In keeping with our annual tradition, Bibles will soon be presented to children who are in the 3rd grade. If your child is in the 3rd grade or older and would like to receive a Bible, please contact the church office to make sure we have him/her on the list.



Save the Date! **Children's Community** **Trick or Treat and Fall Fun!** **Sun, Oct. 19 1:00-3:00**

As a community outreach event, we'll be hosting a Community Trick or Treat on our lawn on Sun, Oct. 19 from 1:00 to 3:00. This is going to be a free, friendly, non-frightening event, & **we need everyone's help** to make it fun for the children of our church & community! More info will be coming soon. For now, please save this date so you can help and invite others to join in the fun!

Thank You! We received a thank you from Beverly's PGH for the \$630.50 donated to them by our VBS kids, parents, and our congregation. This was our summer VBS mission project.

Look at everything our donation will provide!

- classroom cheer supplies for an entire elementary school for 1 school year. This provides supplies to celebrate every student's birthday!
- 1 can of formula for 1 baby
- Supplies for crafts for 1 birthday party for a child experiencing homelessness.

Beverly's is an organization in North Huntingdon which helps disadvantaged kids have a happy birthday! They host birthday parties, annually give 12,000 birthday gift boxes, and provide teachers in low-income schools in the Pittsburgh region with their own Classroom Cheer Kit.

Thank you to everyone who gave a donation!



*He hath made everything
beautiful in its time.*

-Ecclesiastes 3:11



The Chosen: Season 4 **Bible Study** **Starts Wed, Sept. 17th**

Join us as we explore the Bible and discuss an episode of the groundbreaking television series, The Chosen, using the official companion study book. We will be watching, studying, & discussing Season 4, which portrays the last year of Jesus' ministry on earth through the events of Palm Sunday.

What Does It Mean to Be Chosen?

Being chosen by Jesus has beautiful and far-reaching implications – although it says even more about the Chooser than the choosees. We are loved because He is love. We are saved because He is merciful. We belong to the family of God because Jesus invites us, making the Bible and all its promises as true for us today as it was for God's chosen people.

-Watch with us Wed. evenings 6:00-7:00

The watch time will occasionally get adjusted due to the length of the episodes. You can also watch The Chosen online for free at: <https://watch.thechosen.tv/>.

-Study/Discussion time: Discuss the episode Wednesday evenings 7:15-8:30. We'll start promptly at 7:15. You're invited to share your thoughts or just listen to the discussion. Also, it's ok if you should need to leave before the discussion concludes.

-New participants welcome! Bring a friend! You do not need to have watched the prior seasons to join in the Bible study. Each discussion stands on its own and is more about God's message to us in his Word than the episode itself.

-Study Books available at Linway Church or purchase online from Amazon. Be sure to get Season 4.

-Use James Street (back door) entrance to Linway Wednesday evenings for the episode watch gathering and Bible Study.

Music Ministry

Chancel Choir: Do you find yourself humming songs on your drive home from worship? Consider joining our choir! After a summer break, the choir will be holding rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Use the west door to enter. Everyone is welcome to sing with our choir during the 10:30 service. Rehearsal is a time of fun, fellowship, and singing. Please speak to George Hawkins or one of our choir members if you have any questions.

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 date will be Oct. 6.

Men's Breakfast

After taking a summer break, the men are also getting together once again for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at North Versailles Eat 'N Park. All men are invited. The next men's breakfast date will be on Sept. 24.

Craft Ladies

The Craft Ladies will resume meeting on Tues, Sept. 16 at 12:30 downstairs in the Friendly Fellowship Room. They are working on projects for our Fall Festival. Contact Nancy Waszkiewicz or Clara Welty with questions.

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; his love endures forever.

-Psalm 118: 1

Linway Preschool



Teacher's Michele Brancato and Alle Comunale welcomed the 3 & 4 year olds to their first day of school on Sept. 2 and 3. An exciting year is planned, with lots of learning along with fun activities.

Still Accepting Registrations

There are still a few openings in our 3 and 4 Year Olds Classes. Please share with those who may be interested and ask them to call the church office a.s.a.p. for more information.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels operates out of the Linway kitchen 5 days a week to provide meals for their clients. Extra hands are always welcome to help. To volunteer or to sign-up to receive meals, please call: 412-327-6908.

Thank You

We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming kindness, love, prayers and support that has been shown to our family during this difficult time following the death of Bud's sister Marilyn (Welty) Bertok on Aug. 5 and the death of Clara's sister-in-law, her brother David's wife, Deborah (Leonardo) Delsignore on Aug. 16. Our deepest thanks and appreciation.
-Bud & Clara Welty

Our Daily Bread

The September-November edition of *Our Daily Bread* is available at the Sanctuary entrance. Please pick-up your free copy of this daily devotional booklet and grow your relationship with our Lord.

Need for Prayer



Please remember the following in our prayers:

Helen Alexander, David A, Erin A, Kathy B, Patty B, Marie B, Don & Donnie Baker, Betty Brinker, Chris, Jeannette Briggs, Connie, Cheryl D, Nathan E, Frank Fawcett, Betty Frommell, Bev & Barry Harcum, Sandy Hillgartner, Michelle K, Frank Kordalski Sr, Amanda L, Cindie M., Peg M., Cindy & Ken McCall, Lynn Miracle, Linda & Richard N., Nicolas Peters, Carol Pascarella, Matt R., Renee R., Susan S., Barbara Sheridan, Shawn, Laura Shawley, Bill Szmuc, Amanda T, Jen T, Pat V, Scott W, Wanda, Linda Wetzler

Happy September Birthday!

Cindy Deferrari

Michael Rousseau

Kyra Thornton

Jane Hayes

Gladys Festa

Chrissy Eremic

James Alexander

Katy Augustin

Kurt Hillgartner

Scott Dennis

Cindy Trout

Natalie (Hilbert) Peel



MA's Pantry

Day of Giving

Thank You to everyone who donated to MA's Pantry through The Pittsburgh Foundation's Day of Giving on August 5. The total raised for MA's Pantry through this event was \$28,975, which passed their \$25,000 goal. This donated amount will be doubled by The Pittsburgh Foundation!

Food Distribution at MA's Pantry

Everyone is affected by the increase in food prices. If you are a resident of East McKeesport or North Versailles and need help or know anyone who does, be sure to send them to MA's. Upcoming food distribution dates are Sept. 20, Oct. 4 & 18 from 9:00-11:00 am at 1000 Broadway in East McKeesport.



SAVE THE DATE – Sat., November 15

**St. John's invites Linway to participate in
a**

**Rise Against Hunger Event
scheduled at St. John's Church on
Saturday, November 15
9:30am to 12:30 p.m.**

Rise Against Hunger is a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives, and responding to emergencies.

It's also a really fun time!

Volunteers are needed the day of, as well as funding. It costs around \$4000 total for this event, and that generates around 10,000 meals!

The event will begin around 9:30am and is finished by 12:30pm. It's an amazing and very moving experience!

Anyone from age 5 to 105 can participate!

There are jobs designed for every level of energy and physical capabilities. Specific details will be available as the date nears.

The Rise Against Hunger website is found here for anyone who wants to learn more:

<https://www.riseagainsthunger.org>

Allegheny County Senior Resource

Guides are available to borrow. Copies are available at the church entrance or in the church office. If you would like to order your own copy, please call the county's senior line at 412-350-4636.

Stars

by Frank Fawcett

Stars, so many you can't count them
Stars, that sparkle in the night
In their splendor make you wonder
Give you hope and pure delight

They are hung there for His glory
And they each can tell the story
Of the star that led the shepherds
To the bright and morning star
A baby boy named Jesus
Who was born to save us
And to show us who we are

As we gaze into the heavens
All God's glory on display
Let us pray for God's forgiveness
And a new and brighter day.

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:

Pastor Jakob Harmon, Student Pastor
Email: Pastor.Harmon@Linwaychurch.org

Leanne Cornell, Church Office Manager
Email: contact@linwaychurch.org

Christine Stewart, Financial Secretary
Email: financial@linwaychurch.org

George Hawkins, Organist/Choir Director

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



BBQ

Linway Church **CHICKEN BARBECUE**

Take Out Meals Only

Pull into our East Parking Lot to order

Sat, Sept 13, 2025

Held on the Front Lawn – Rain or Shine

COST: \$12.00

Each Meal Includes:



1/2 BBQ Chicken

Baked Potato

Coleslaw



600 Lincoln Highway/Rt. 30, North Versailles
412-824-3555