

Presby Press

RAMBLINGS FROM THE REVEREND

THIS MONTH: COMINGS AND GOINGS

This is a month of transitions for the staff here at Linden Presbyterian Church. Our venerable church office guru, Linda Lewis retires on May 1 and we will celebrate her 30 years of ministry service with us after worship on May 31. We invite you to join us in celebrating Linda and her wonderful ministry that will continue (just transition) with Linden Presbyterian Church. As Linda has pointed out a number of times, she isn't going anywhere. She will still be with us in worship and will continue to serve as our Clerk of Session.

There are too many good things to share about Linda to fit into this space, so I will wait. However, I encourage you to send cards, phone calls, warm wishes, and prayers to Linda throughout the month. Please feel encouraged to send them to her, the church, or hand them to me. I'll be happy to collect them and give them to her.

To change subjects and on a personal note, I have been accepted to Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California to study for my Doctor of Ministry degree beginning this August. First, let me be sure to amplify that I am not leaving my position. I shall continue to be the pastor of this church. I will spend a week or two in Pasadena each August for the next three years while complete about 4,500 pages of reading and research papers and projects here in Linden. I will be here just as many Sundays as I currently am. This is a more practical degree that focuses on the practice of ministry and seeks to use the student's ministry context for research and practicum. I will be entering the Lifelong Leadership Development cohort with the hopes of enhancing my (and our congregation's) ability to develop lifelong disciples and leaders for Christ. I continue to appreciate your prayers and support.

Finally, on a community note, Linden High School is hosting some of the premier track meets in our region and state and I extend an invitation to you to come and enjoy some of the top prep athletes in the state as they compete at Linden. The Regional meet is May 16 at 10:00/12:00, the Flint Metro League meet is May 20 at 4:00/4:30, and the Team State meet is May 23 at 10:00/12:00.

If you have questions, comments, concerns, or would like to meet, I am always happy to hear from you and meet with you. You may call me at 810.735.5755 or email me at pastorseth@lindenpres.com.



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SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

COFFEE HOUR

Would you like to be the face of hospitality for our congregation on Sunday morning? Helping with coffee hour is a good way to extend loving fellowship to our worshippers. If you'd like to help or want more information, call the office at 810.735.5755

USHERS

	9:00	10:30
5/3	David Brownlee Dave & Cindy Shane	Zysk family
5/10	Denny & Lola Manner Sally Harris, Mary Leitkam	Wagner family
5/17	Donna Maidment, Paul Laidler, Sharon Donaldson, Sharon Hailey	Collins & Sweitzers
5/24	one worship at 10:00am	Gary Childs, Nettie Holtslander, Jesse & Sharon Foster
5/31	one worship at 10:00am	Sharon Donaldson, Sharon Hailey, Paul Laidler, Donna Maidment

LITURGISTS

	9:00	10:30
5/3	Jim Mars	Don or Nancy Robare
5/10	Denny Manner	Sue Chapel
5/17	Liz Knuth	Andy Zysk
5/24	one worship at 10:00am	Mary Leitkam
5/31	one worship at 10:00am	Doug Spalding

COMMUNION SERVERS

May 3

9:00

Don & Pat Neuville
Tammy Neuville
Kristen Garmyn

10:30

Donna Ingamells
TBD

May 17

10:30

TBD

If you would like to be a communion server, please contact Sue Eaton.

IN WORSHIP

If you would like to serve as an usher or liturgist, please contact
Cindy Shane at
cshane@cityoffenton.org



A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Gracious God, I come before you to praise and adore Your Holy Name this day for the gift of _____ in Your Church Universal and here at Linden Presbyterian. I ask for your blessings upon _____ this day and in the coming year, that s/he may come to a deeper knowledge of Your love, grace, and peace in mind, heart, and spirit. In Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen.

May 1	Eva Lau	18	Gloria Zysk Tina Nippa
4	Eva Hawkins Shawn Herbert	19	Weston Montague Linda Lewis Jim Mars
5	Beverly Schmidt		
6	Brian Brandt	20	Brooke Bloomfield
8	Paige Harden Vic Wasylyshyn	21	Harold Fogelsonger Adam Rowe
12	Doris Parks	23	Rod Neuville
13	Robin Forgie Dick Honaker Ann Spalding	26	Ian Mann Karen Tucker
14	Patrick Sweet	27	Don Edwards
17	Mark Hetes	28	Kody Neuville

CONTACTS

Pastor

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pastorseth@lindenpres.com

Office Administrator

Linda Lewis lpcoffice@lindenpres.com

Organist/Choir Director

Edward Arter 810.735.5755

Youth Ministry Intern

Jake Kirk 810.730.3783

Praise Band

Johnathan & Melissa Dugan and Jarrod Montague
lpcoffice@lindepres.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VBS Planning Meeting – May 13, 6:00pm

VBS is already beginning to take shape! Mark your calendars for August 3-7 and join us for some Super Heroes of the Bible fun! Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 15 in Whitney Hall. We will begin planning the games, snacks, and crafts, and we'd appreciate your input! If you're available, please feel free to join us. Please contact Kristen Garmyn or Gretchen Sutto with questions or suggestions.

Mile of Pennies – Raised \$120.50 after the second month!!

Do you have any loose change in your pockets, car, or wallets that you wouldn't mind parting with? Help out the Christian Education Committee and drop it in the jar in Whitney Hall! We are trying to raise a mile of pennies – that's 84,440 coins (which comes out to a whopping \$844.40!). Through June 30, all money raised will go towards fundraising for Vacation Bible School, specifically with advertising in mind. We'd like a banner to go up outside in the spring and an ad to go in the Tri-County this summer. Beginning July 1, that money will directly benefit the Sunday School in the classrooms. Nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollar bills also will be accepted!

Look for a VBS banner out front that you have helped us fund!

Youth Group Fundraising

During the summer of 2015, our middle and high school youth have a combined three camps planned, and they need your help (but they're willing to work for it!). Do you have any yard work, moving, clean-up, dirty jobs you don't want to do yourself? There is a sign-up sheet in Whitney Hall, or contact Jake Kirk, and he will find a youth to help you out!

Mother's Day Bake Sale

The youth will be holding a bake sale on Mother's Day, May 10, to help raise money for camps. Perfect timing for you to pick something up to take to brunch or dinner that day! We could also use donations of baked goods (hint hint).

Confirmation

Confirmation class has begun, and we have four youth participating. Please keep these youth (Hanna Chapin, Marco Keech, Jack Whitman, and Tucker Whitman) in your prayers as they grow in their faith and learn what it means to become a member of the church. May 31 will be our Celebration Sunday.

DEACONS CORNER

Hello congregation! Did you know that our deacons are available to take communion to the homebound? This is a wonderful way to let those who are unable to attend services due to health issues know that we remember them and that they are included at the Lord's Supper. Deacons can take communion to the homebound twice a month, the first Sunday and the third Sunday during the week after we have celebrated it as a congregation.

Please contact any of our current deacons if you know of someone who would appreciate taking communion in their home, assisted living facility, or hospital.

Leatha Cudworth	weash0681@yahoo.com	810.444.7828
Carla Juarez	csjmamia@yahoo.com	801.964.4934
Liz Knuth	lizknuth@gmail.com	810.513.7719
Kim Lau	pineapple8084@gmail.com	810.252.7734
Nancy Robare	nrobare@med.umich.edu	810.348.1198
Don Sweitzer	djsweitzer@yahoo.com	810.936.1286
Paula Sweitzer	djsweitzer@yahoo.com	810.936.1245
Debbie Wasylyshyn		810.735.6531

Deacon on Duty

Debbie Wasylyshyn 810.735.6531

In the event you have a pastoral care emergency after office hours, the Deacon on Duty is available to take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They will be able to notify the proper people and provide you the care you need.

SEVEN HABITS OF A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE STEWARD

Much has been written about the habits it takes to be a highly effective person or a highly effective family or a highly effective teen. This seven-part series will reflect on the habits of a highly effective steward.

Since stewardship is a part of discipleship, and discipleship is a journey for each of us, we hope that these habits will help us reflect on this area of our Christian life.

Habit 7: Give Treasure

When we submit our hearts to Jesus Christ, we are to heed the instruction of Proverbs 3:9, *Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops*. We are to give God the first part of all we earn not the leftovers. This area of generosity is a test of our loyalty to Christ. Do we really love God more than money? When we give, we are demonstrating the depth of our understanding of the grace of God.

Everything we have is a gift from God. If we are grateful Christians, we will be giving Christians. You can give without being thankful, but you cannot be thankful without giving.

The polling data has been clear. Gallup and Barna have tracked giving as it relates to income. The more money Christians make, the less likely they are to tithe: 8% of those making less than \$20,000 a year tithe, while 4% of those making \$40,000-\$59,999 tithe, and only 1% of those making \$75,000-\$99,999 tithe (Barna Research Group, Ventura, CA 1999).

We have the ability as our income goes up to be financially involved in greater ministries. God is not against prosperity, but He is for the advancement of His kingdom. Are we consciously and prayerfully making wise spending decisions so our income will positively affect the Lord's work?

Our relationship with God is influenced in great part by our attitudes and by our actions. Our giving is an outward expression of a deep spiritual commitment and is an indication of a willing and grateful heart.

Courtesy of the Finance & Stewardship Committee

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FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

The Finance and Stewardship Team is happy to provide the following summary of our 2015 finances through March 31:

Total Income (commitments, other offerings, rental income, etc.)	\$65,458.74
Total Expenses (all payments)	<u>\$51,350.87</u>
Difference	\$14,107.87

We thank you for your generosity and encourage you to remember your giving plan throughout the summer months, which is has historically been a "low point" in our giving during the year. Praise be to God for the rich blessings He has bestowed upon us!

*The editor offers apologies for the incorrect numbers that were included in the newsletter last month.

MISSIONAL CONNECTIONS

Friends in Christ,

We have been very busy with mission opportunities! Let us take a moment to give thanks to the Lord for providing us these fun, rewarding times and for calling us to serve Him and our community. In April, we served in many ways! Thank you to all who served and/or sent prayers for the success of these events.

Our congregation members were at two different locations for Christmas in Action this year! We helped local seniors in need with necessary home repairs. It was a joy to see the homeowner from last year's Christmas in Action working alongside us this year. God put it on his heart to give back as he had been so blessed last year. The woman we helped this year was very appreciative and humbled by our service. She even baked us cookies!

Compassion Sunday was, and continues to be, a great success. Our congregation's goal this year is to have 10 children sponsored. On our first Sunday, we had 4 children sponsored. We will continue to collect sponsorships through May! This is a great idea for a small group, family, or individual who wants to serve but cannot find much time! Our God-given resources can be a life-saving blessing for someone in need.

We also served at Carriage Town Ministries for a day of service! A group from our LPC family raked and did landscaping around the South campus. We were encouraged by the Volunteer Coordinator as she told us that when the grounds look beautiful, people in need are more inclined to come inside, have a meal, and hear about Jesus. Carriage Town also does its part to keep the surrounding areas beautiful by picking up trash and maintaining the sidewalks. It was a beautiful day to serve and we were blessed to be there!

We have a dinner service opportunity at Carriage Town on May 28th. Two people have already signed up, so we are looking for a group of 3 people to join them! Look for a sign-up sheet in Whitney Hall in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers! If you feel called to hear more about LPC's mission opportunities, join the Missional Connections team every second Wednesday at 7:00pm. If you are looking for ways to serve, but don't know exactly what needs to be done, contact the LPC office!

-Your Missional Connections Team

UPCOMING EVENTS

Presbyterian Women and Men's Club

May 2, 2015

8:30am

Join the men's and women's groups as they gather for fellowship, prayer, and study. A thank you to the women's group for providing the new bibles for the sanctuary. If you would like one of the old bibles for yourself or to give to someone else, they will be in the fellowship hall for a few Sundays before being donated overseas.

Mother's Day/Bake Sale/New Directories

May 10, 2015

Really in a bind with the Mother's Day gift? Join in worship and give her a new, shiny church directory! New church directories will be available in the fellowship hall beginning this day. We encourage you to take one with you! Or upgrade and buy a tasty treat (more info p. 4)!

Ascension Day Dinner and Concert

May 14, 2015

6:00/7:00pm

Ascension Day Celebration will be Thursday, May 14. Please join us for an evening of sharing in a tasty chicken dinner (hopefully outside!) and listening to heavenly music. We will provide the chicken, beverages and table service. Attendees may be helpful with the dinner by bringing:

*names beginning with A-M--please bring a side dish.

*names beginning with N-Z--please bring a dessert.

Thank you!

At 7:00, will enjoy the music of the Vocal Choir, the Bell Choir, and the Praise Band in the Sanctuary.

Everyone Welcome!!

One Worship Gathering Begins

May 24, 2015

10:00am

The sanctuary will be open for individual prayer (with resources available) on this day between Jesus' death and resurrection. Pastor Seth will be available to anoint worshippers with oil.

Confirmation and Linda Lewis Par-tay

May 31, 2015

after worship

We will celebrate the new, younger members of our church at our 10:00am worship this morning. And then we will celebrate with them and celebrate Linda!

Linda Lewis has served the Church Universal and especially Linden Presbyterian well for 30 years. Linda has retired as of May 1 and after she gets her energy back she will be ready for a party on the 31st! We will share memories and good times in the fellowship hall after worship. Please join us!

MAY CALENDAR

9:00 - Traditional-style Worship
10:30 - Contemporary-style Worship

***One Worship at 10:00am begins
on May 24***

2ND AT 8:30AM	PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AND MEN'S CLUB
5TH AT 7:00PM	BOARD OF DEACONS MEETING
10TH	MOTHER'S DAY/BAKE SALE/NEW DIRECTORIES
13TH AT 6:00PM	VBS PLANNING MEETING
13TH AT 7:00PM	COMMITTEE/TEAM MEETINGS (WORSHIP COMM. AT 6:00)
14TH AT 6:00PM	ASCENSION DAY DINNER AND CONCERT
24TH AT 10:00AM	ONE WORSHIP BEGINS!
27TH AT 7:00PM	SESSION MEETING
28TH	CARRIAGE TOWN MISSION SERVICE
31ST AT 10:00AM	CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION AND LINDA LEWIS PARTY

MONDAYS

7:00PM **ADULT EDUCATION CLASS**
8:00PM **AA IN FIRESIDE ROOM**

TUESDAYS

10:30AM **ADULT EDUCATION CLASS**

WEDNESDAYS

9:30AM **QUILTERS**

THURSDAYS

6:30PM **CHANCEL CHOIR**
8:00PM **BELL CHOIR**
8:00PM **AA IN FIRESIDE ROOM**

June Newsletter Deadline

Communication is key to a vital congregation!

**Please send all submissions to lpcoffice@lindenpres.com by
Monday, May 25 at 5:00pm**

RUMMAGE SALE

The annual rummage sale sponsored by the Men's Club and the Presbyterian Women will be held May 7-9. The sale will be open on Thursday from 9:00-7:00, Friday from 9:00-4:30, and Saturday from 9:00-12:00. Donations for the sale will be received beginning on Sunday, May 3. Setup will begin Sunday afternoon and cleanup will be on Saturday afternoon. This is an all week event and the Men's Club and Presbyterian Women invite you to help them out - a sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring clean, usable donations. We cannot handle and will not accept extra heavy furniture or appliances and there is no market for old televisions.

Clothing is not offered for sale but is received at any time by the Missional Connections Team. We keep children's clothes here for distribution and take adult clothing to Carriage Town Ministries. There will be a children's clothing distribution during the rummage sale.

Linden Presbyterian Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED