

The Linworth Link

Volume 18, Issue 5

May 2011

Linworth United Methodist Church

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Gifts Open Doors Update

Are You Feeling the Excitement?

Malcolm & Tracy Hiltz

Have you started to feel the excitement about the Debt Reduction Campaign yet? If not, hopefully this will get you there: the calculations have been done and there is an end in sight for ending the debt hanging over LUMC! The current campaign should be able to reduce the debt by half, and then it is just a matter of time until it is eliminated!! More details will be shared during the **Banquet on May 15**.

During the worship services on May 1, May 8, and May 15 we will hear from lay witnesses to help us understand why this campaign is so important.

We continue to meet every other week as we work on the details of this campaign. We wish you all could be there to experience the excitement, and witness the passion that occurs during these meetings. Please continue to reach out to members of the Team with your thoughts, ideas, and questions! **Remember to mark your calendars for the Banquet on May 15, and the Prayer Vigil on May 17.**

Words from Pastor Rae Lynn

I appreciate the enthusiasm and excitement that Malcolm and Tracy are bringing to our *Gifts Open Doors* debt reduction campaign! We will be hearing more from them during the month of May as they share the impact that our congregation has had on their lives. I hope that as a part of this campaign, more than raising dollars to reduce and eventually pay off the debt, we raise up stories, our own stories about our connection to this congregation.

During the month of May, persons young and "older than young" will share in worship what Linworth has meant to them. If you were to share, what story would you tell to others in your Sunday school class, with your small group, with a person coming in new to worship? What is one or two of *your* "Linworth" stories, where our congregation has made an impact on your life, or where serving through Linworth you realized you were impacting others' lives?

Personally, this congregation has made an incredible impact on my life

in the three years that I have served as your pastor. Your children who run up to me just for a hug, those little ones who chatter with me in the hallway, the stories I have heard from those who have been a part of the healing prayer classes, the depth of service and mission work, all these moments touch me daily with the holy presence of God. If you have a story to share, send it to me. I would love to hear how Linworth has made a difference in your life. My e-mail address is rschleif@linworthumc.org. I might even ask permission to share your story in worship, or at the banquet on **May 15**.

Thanks Linworth! All of you are so generous with God's love! Life and the world are both better because of this faith community. I hope that all of you will come to the banquet, to the family table, to feast, fellowship, and hear how together we can make a difference!

In ministry with you,

Rae Lynn

May Worship Schedule

1—2nd Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion

Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif
8:45 a.m.—Traditional
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

8—3rd Sunday of Easter

Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif
8:45 a.m.—Traditional
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

15—4th Sunday of Easter

Dr. Eugene Folden
8:45 a.m.—Traditional
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

22—5th Sunday of Easter

Rev. Jeffery Dunn
8:45 a.m.—Traditional
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

29—6th Sunday of Easter

Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif
8:45 a.m.—Traditional
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary
11:30 a.m.—Traditional



Adult Small Groups

Bridge Club: Contact: Byrdie Lorenz
Bridge Club will meet on **May 6** at 8:00 p.m. in members homes. Call Byrdie for information.

Building Nesters: Contacts: Shawn & Amy Brown
We will be meeting once this month for Bible Study on **Thursday, May 19**. We will meet in room 228 to discuss our new book, Scream Free Parenting. Childcare is provided. On **May 5**, instead of meeting for Bible Study we will be helping with the Church Garage Sale. Our social event for May will be an OSU baseball game on **May 15**, first pitch is at 1:05 p.m. Feel free to join us. Meals on Wheels will happen on **Saturday, May 7**.

Closer Walk Class: Contact: Janet Blocher
The Closer Walk Class meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in room 225. If you have decided to develop a "Closer Walk" with God, this class is for you! The Closer Walk Class also undertakes service projects and has fellowship opportunities throughout the year. Check us out! We'd love to have you.

Dining Disciples: Contacts: Marlene Goodenow/Karen Stahle/Sally Moser
For fun and fellowship, join Dining Disciples. Groups of singles and married couples meet in homes or restaurants for a meal about 4 times a year. What a great way to get to know each other. There's still time to sign-up for 2011. Call a contact.

Hand and Foot Card Club: Contact: Jean Balsler
Join us in the Fellowship Hall on **Friday, May 13** at 7:00 p.m. Bring a snack to share. The group usually meets the first Friday of each month.

IMPACT Service Group: Contact: Becki Hollenbaugh
IMPACT is a service group that meets with residents at Claremont Retirement Village. Join them on **Wednesdays, May 11 & 25** at 7:30 p.m.

Keen Adult Bible Study: Contact: Bob Jacobson
Join them in the Fellowship Hall (room 136) at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

LinWomen Online: Contact: Sharon Valade
This is an online group for women to chat, encourage, and share spiritual concerns with other busy women. You can write as much as you want, respond to others, give new information, and share joys and concerns.

Linworth Campers:
Contacts: Ian & Jean Davidson
May camping dates are:
May 13-15: Indian Lake State Park, Contact hosts—Tom & Bobbie Miller;
May 27-30: Kentucky Horse Park, Contact hosts—Andy & Karen Ahijevych; **May 27-30**, Winton Woods, Contact hosts—Stu & Sondie Schwotzer. For information regarding the camping season please contact Ian & Jean Davidson.

Men's Before-Work Spiritual Sharing Group:
Contact: Mike Smeltzer
The Men's Breakfast Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings at First Watch Restaurant at 7:00 a.m. See you on **May 10 & 24**.

Mom's Study: Contact: Terese Loudner
Join our Mom's Study as we continue studying the book Knowing God: Making God the Main Thing in My Life.
Thursday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m., Chap. 4: Strengthening Our Moral Lives;
Thursday, May 26 at 6:30 p.m., Chap. 5: Learning About Our Divine Destiny or Kingdom Niche, the uniquely created purpose that God has for all of us. These are stand alone chapters. Everyone is welcome. Questions? Contact Terese. Childcare is available.

MOPS (Mothers Of PreSchoolers):
(A Christian group for mothers with children ages birth through kindergarten) Contacts: Diane Hamilton & Melissa Hufft
Our May meeting dates are **May 9 & 23**. **Childcare VOLUNTEERS** are needed!!!! MOPS is in need of volunteers for one or two Monday(s) a month from 9:00 a.m. - noon. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Holly Meister.
Peace in the House: Contact: Shelley

Burton
This group supports you finding and maintaining peace with yourself, peace with God, and peace with others. Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. Join us on **May 4 & 18**.

Searchers: Contact: Doug Stahle
Meets in the Fellowship Hall (room 138) at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings for thought provoking and stimulating discussion on a number of religious issues.

Shawl Ministry: Contacts: Marilyn Pohlman & Jean Davidson
More than 230 shawls already have been presented to those in pain. You don't have to knit to be involved. Call a contact to get connected.

Stephen Ministry: Contact: Sandy Apicella
We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. May meetings are **May 3 & 17** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library and room 225.

Thursday Morning Bible Study:
Contact: Lea Elshoff
The Thursday morning Bible Study continues to meet each week at 10:00 a.m. in room 210. The study book being used during May is "Embracing the Journey" in the Companions in Christ series. Please feel free to join us — even for a visit!

Women's Bible Study: Contact: Jeanne Byers
Unlike people today, New Testament Christians eagerly awaited and longed for the future. They believed the complete reign of Christ on earth was a more certain reality than the seeming victory of evil. Jesus gave John the strangely beautiful vision recorded in the book of Revelation to give us hope. On Sunday, May 8 at 10 a.m. in room 210, come join us as we start our new study, "Revelation, The Triumph of God." No matter where you are in your journey of faith, be a part of this wonderful fellowship of women!

PLEASE NOTE: If you need a phone number or email for a contact person for an event or group, please contact the church office (336-8485).

Children's News

Alisha Meacham

(ameacham@linworthumc.org)

Director of Children's Ministries,
LUMC

VBS 2011 Registration

VBS registration begins Monday, April 25. Just a reminder that we will be having two day sessions: Preschool Session, 9-11:30 a.m. and Elementary Session, 1-4 p.m. the week of **July 18-22**. If you are interested in an evening VBS program, you may attend VBS at Bethel UMC. Their evening only program runs **June 27-July 1**, from 6:30-8:45 p.m. You may pick up LUMC registration forms from the display table in the Lobby, LUMC or LCC offices, or download from the church website. Bethel UMC VBS registration will also be available at LUMC or from their website at: www.mybethel.org.



Club 56 News

Sunday, May 1—

Crazy Cookout at
Highbanks Park, 6-8 p.m.

All Club 56 children and families invited, including next year's incoming 5th graders! Bring a dish to share...hot dogs and drinks provided. Come join the end of the year fun!

Sunday, May 22—Linworthys

Service Project (Contact Club 56 leaders for more details.)

Questions about Club 56? Contact Jenifer Wynne, Julie Ricketts or Rob Ciccotelli.

Volunteer Help Needed in Toddler/Two Room on Sunday Morning

Our class is growing! Extra help is needed in this room on the first, second and fifth Sundays of each month. If you would like to help, contact Alisha Meacham.

Membership Care News

Chad Johns

(cjohns@linworthumc.org)

Director of Membership Care &
Small Groups

"Ultimately, it's all about hospitality."

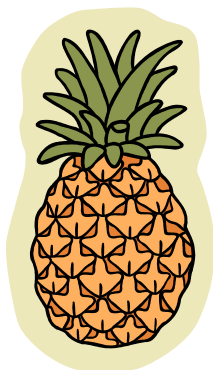
Exploring Linworth Class Being Offered

Are you new (or newish) to Linworth UMC? Would you like to get to know some of the staff a little bit better? Do you have questions about the church and its ministries? If you can answer yes to any of these questions, then we invite you to one of our upcoming "Exploring Linworth" classes. This class gives you an opportunity to have lunch with both the pastoral and program staff of the church. You'll also get a chance to learn about the ministries and mission of Linworth as well as the United Methodist Church as a whole.

Still interested? Good. The class will be available on two Sundays:

May 8 and May 15 from 12:30-4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

You only need to attend one of the two days. As noted above, lunch will be provided. We can also have childcare available if you let us know ahead of time that you need it. Finally, those who take the class will be given an opportunity to officially join the church on May 22. Taking the class doesn't mean you have to join the church, but it is a requirement for those who want to join. Still have questions? Want to RSVP? Contact Chad Johns.



Youth News

Seth Rowe

(srowe@linworthumc.org)

Director of Youth Ministries

May Schedule:

1- 11 a.m.—7 p.m. Garage Sale Setup!!! Lunch & dinner provided!

7- 12—4 p.m. Garage Sale Clean Up!!!

8- Mother's Day (No Bible Study or Xtreme Impact)

15- 3-4:15 p.m. Bible Study

4:30—5:30 p.m. Xtreme Impact

5:30 p.m. Church-wide Debt Reduction Banquet

20-22— Spring Retreat (No Bible Study or Xtreme Impact on Sunday night)

29— 3-4:15 p.m. Bible Study

4:30-5:30 p.m. Xtreme Impact

History of the Johanson Fund

Many years ago, Gertrude Johanson, along with her husband, Arnold, was responsible for the establishment of Linworth's Johanson Fund which reaches out to help people in the community. She will be 99 years old on May 12 and is still active in politics and an advocate for human rights. Although she has resided in Florida for many years, she is still very interested in the activities of our church. It would be wonderful if she could receive birthday greetings from some of our members. Please consider sending a card to: Mrs. Gertrude Johanson, 12401 North 22nd Street, Apt. A209, Tampa, FL 33612. Those of us who worked with her are indebted to her leadership and to the Johansons' legacy of Christian caring and compassion.



Linworth Children's Center

Summer is just around the corner! What will your children be doing? Check out the Summer Camps at LCC. For more information call 614.336.9559 or visit the website at www.linworthcc.org.

Safety Fact of the Month

Do you know we have a fire safe area?

Linworth UMC has a designate fire safe area on the second floor in the men's restroom. This area should only be used by the mobility impaired in the case of a fire. Take shelter in the men's restroom until the Fire Department arrives to assist mobility impaired persons to the first floor. Good information to have in case of an emergency!



The following notes were received:

"Thank you for the numerous cards, letters and phone calls received on my 90th birthday. It was a wonderful celebration. Kathleen Jenkins"

"Thank you for your prayers, cards, emails, and visits with Herman. Both of us are appreciative of your concern and prayerful care. The visits by Herman's Stephen Minister are an on-going boost to him. As God reminds you, please continue your prayers for us as we face another phase of our journey. Julie & Herman Slonecker"

Linworthys News

(the 55 and over group)

Contact: Doug Stahle

Meet with us **Tuesday, May 24** at 11:30 a.m. for a luncheon of taco salad, chicken salad, rolls, fruit and dessert. Cost is \$6.00 each. Plus, we have an interesting program that you will not want to miss. Pastor Rae Lynn and Joel Rabb agreed to share their Southeast Asia trip with us. In the spring of 2010, they traveled to Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia to visit a number of our Methodist Mission Projects, some of which Joel's brother started. Come, sit back and travel along with Rae Lynn and Joel as they take us to Southeast Asia.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28 BUS TRIP

It is time to sign up for another adventure planned by Donna and Pat. Cost is \$40 per person. We'll leave LUMC parking lot at 8:30 a.m. on June 28 for Waldo, Ohio for a tour of Susan and Howard Dean's (better known as Santa Claus) home that was originally built as a church in 1853. Next, we're on to Martinsburg for a home cooked meal at Ada Mullet's. We will then gather for a tour of the Velvet Ice Cream Company in Utica, Ohio, visit their museums and end with an ice cream treat. We will return around 4:30 p.m. WOW--Another exciting day with your fellow Linworthys!!! Make checks payable to: Linworthys. Payment needed by **Monday, June 13**. Send to George Bilderback. (No refunds after June 20.)



Membership News:

Deaths:

- Dale Wenneker
- Robert Ryan



Get Involved with Social Concerns

Social Concerns
Contact: Esther Hunter

⇒ The Open Shelter Meal will be prepared beginning at 8:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, May 10** in the church kitchen. If you can help contact Arlean Sudhoff.

⇒ The Rebecca's House meal will be prepared at 11:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, May 10**, in the church kitchen. Call Arlean Sudhoff if you need information. If you would like to help serve the meal, contact Celeste Thomas.

⇒ May Brunch Bunch will be held on **May 22** from 9:45 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Want to help? Call the church office (336-8485). Make plans now to meet your friends at Brunch!

West Ohio Conference
Capitol Area North

Greetings and Peace Friends!
In so many ways, the United Methodist Church is serving as Christ's light wherever darkness threatens to overwhelm. Here are some of the stories of light you'll find in this month's issue of **Capitol Ideas** . . . *40 Days of Fasting and Prayer for Mexico; Above and Beyond the Call of Duty; also, Become A \$5 On The 5th Church...* to read more about these stories visit: www.westohioumc.org and select newsletters.

Pastors' NEW Hospital Visitation Schedules

Pastor Rae Lynn Schleif:

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Pastor Gene Folden:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Pastor Jeffery Dunn:

Sunday

As always, contact the church office (336-8485) with any pastoral needs.



Contact:
Angela Pucher
linworthfusion@gmail.com

A Group for Young Adults

(students, young working adults,
young marrieds, and singles)

We are a community of Young Adults encouraging one another to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, living out our faith by serving others with the love of Jesus Christ. We gather each Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Linworth.



Stephen Ministers Are There to Care

Are you going through a difficult time--emotionally, spiritually, or relationally? Are you lonely, experiencing a crisis, or simply stressed by everyday life? You don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. To find out more, talk with Sandy Apicella, Janet Enck, Cheryn Houston or Pastor Rae Lynn.



“GIFTS OPEN DOORS” PRAYER VIGIL

Tuesday, May 17 — 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Watch for the Sign-up Board in the Church Hallway. Sign for the time you will come to the church and pray for 30 minutes about our church ministries and what God may be asking of you, and of our congregation.



UMW Women's Ministries

Mission Board Meeting

Contact: Sue Gabel
First Monday of every month. Next meeting is **May 2** at 7:00 p.m.

Evening Circle

Contacts: Linda Higgins & Sue Bowen

Fellowship Day Circle

Contacts: Nancy Zimmerman & Mary Lynn Jacobson
The Fellowship Day Circle and the Evening Circle of LUMW will have a joint meeting on **Monday, May 16**. The Circles will go to Southside Settlement House where they will hear about the services and programs from Marsha Wickliffe, Director of Southside Settlement, which is a United Methodist Community Ministry, that has been on the Southside of Columbus for over 100 years! They have a new website- check it out: www.ssshhouse.org. There will also be an opportunity to observe some youth in an after school program. The group will carpool from the church at **2:15 p.m.** Following the visit to the Settlement House, the group will have an early dinner together before returning to the church. Questions? Contact Sue Bowen.

MOPS

Contacts: Diane Hamilton & Melissa Hufft
This is a time to rejuvenate and reconnect with other moms on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 9:30 -11:30 a.m. at the church. Child care is provided. See you **May 9 & 23**.

Linwomen Online

Contacts: Sharon Valade & Karen Wood

This is an online group for women to chat, encourage, and share spiritual concerns with other busy women. You can write as much as you want, respond to others, give new information, and share joys and concerns.

Service Circle

Contact: Lea Elshoff
Sandwich making in the Church Kitchen for Faith Mission. Join us on **May 27** at 9:30 a.m. in the Kitchen.

MISSION PROJECT HELP

During the month of May we are collecting for New Life UMC:
tooth brushes
toothpaste
dental floss.

Our collection of used postage stamps, Campbell's Soup labels, used reading glasses, and pop can tabs is continuous! Please place all of these items in the UMW – Club 56 cupboard opposite the Church Office, or they may be brought to any Circle or Board meeting.

Thank you for your ongoing support.





Come join the fun and fellowship of our Spring Church Garage Sale Mission!

Dates— Mark Your Calendars Now!

Garage Sale: **May 6 & 7**

Sale Set-Up: Sunday, May 1 - Thursday, May 5

Donate – Clean out your house and bring your good usable stuff to the church, starting after church on Sunday, May 1 through Wednesday, May 4, and get a tax receipt as well. To donate items to the Sale, or to find ways to help, call the office at 336-8485.

Help with Setup and enjoy the community and meals throughout the week

- First meal is Sunday lunch, May 1 - lunch and dinner is shared every day with all the workers
- Participate in sorting and arranging activities throughout the day Sunday through Thursday

Help with Food - Contribute money, soft drinks, or desserts or volunteer to help in the kitchen at lunch and dinner. To donate food items or gift cards, contact Donna Hughes or Shirley Galloway .

Help during the Sale – Opportunities for cashiering, handing out hot dogs or donuts, or helping people with their purchases are available!

Shop – We have great stuff!

Help with Cleanup – Meet the challenge to clean up from the Sale and get the church ready for Sunday. Our goal is to get the church restored by 4:00 p.m.!

Don't forget, that the Garage Sale contributes a lot. It provides:

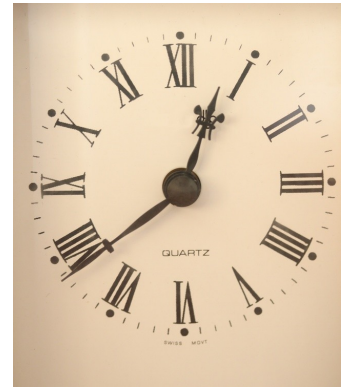
- inexpensive goods to many people in the community;
- free items to people in need (see the Director of Social Concerns);
- money for the youth programs;
- money for the Trustees;
- and a great opportunity for fun with members of our congregation!

Over 200 people worked at the Fall Sale. If you never tried it, it's easy to do – just show up anytime during the week. Ask someone for a job to do ... or ask for Denny, Vicki, or Eric. We'll make sure your mission is a success.

Please let your family, friends, and neighbors know about our Sale. Proceeds help fund our Church missions.

We need many hands to make this sale a success, so please keep this week open.

Thanks,
LUMC Garage Sale Team



New Building Hours

Please note that the building will be locking doors at 8:00 p.m.

Monday—Friday, and will only be unlocked from 9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. on Saturday. Please adjust your schedule accordingly.



Updates for April

Miracles from Pennies

Once again the Linworth United Methodist Congregation proved their generosity by giving \$2011 for the 2011 "Change for the Better Drive" for New Life Church. Becki Hollenbaugh led the Drive for the first time this year and demonstrated that miracles come from placing our faith in our congregation. As a result of her hope and hard work, and the generosity of the LUMC congregation, we raised \$2011 in the Change for the Better Drive for New Life. In addition, we collected 146 towels, & 445 wash cloths. After delivering the money, the towels, and the wash cloths Becki wrote, "I just got back from New Life, and they were ecstatic about all the towels and washcloths. They had **no** washcloths to distribute earlier this morning."

Lives Changed with 56 Purses

The Impact Small Group and residents of Claremont Retirement Village added scarves to 56 purses from Victoria's Secret and stuffed them with personal items for women. Susan Ford was there when the purses were delivered. She said the feelings expressed by the women were touching. Susan said the women were "delighted and enthralled" by the receipt of the purses. Very few times in these women's lives are they likely to get anything but clunky, worn hand-me-downs. It is amazing that the stuff of daily living we take for granted is a miracle to some. For once they felt special when mostly they just feel cast out and abandoned.

Imagine a Day without Detergent or Toilet Tissue

Daily living items we take for granted are a daily struggle for families that depend on the New Life United Methodist Church. The Church is having trouble getting enough donations of small bottles of dish liquid, toilet paper and clothes washing detergent to meet the need. Please help. Place your donation in the New Life shelves by the office.

Needed Donations:

- Dish washing detergent
- Powder laundry detergent
- Toilet paper
- Men's new boxer underwear
- Gently used sheets
- Foot powder

Laos Ministry

We recently had a nice long chat between the Linking Linworth and Laos Team and our missionaries there via Skype. They are grateful that we have sent funds for the construction of one of the stairways. The money will buy supplies and concrete and the villagers will supply the labor. We finalized plans for the churches we will support. On Mission Sunday, the congregation generously gave \$2,100 to be divided equally for the ministries in Laos and Cambodia. The \$1,050 portion for Laos will be used to expand our funding for the vocational school the missionaries are developing.

The following is an excerpt from a recent meditation from our missionaries in Laos: *The Shadow of the Cross*
In a recent gathering, I asked those who had suffered persecution and imprisonment because of their faith to stand up, and even when I already expected them to rise, I was just so moved as they stood up with tears in their eyes, and some were sobbing; and yet, their presence in that training manifests that there is no giving up of their faith, despite all the sufferings they have undergone. They choose to remain steadfast in their faith.

Recently, one of our city churches received a directive from their village leaders to stop worship, as the government has not yet recognized the Lao Samphan (United) Methodist Church (currently, the government only recognizes the Lao Evangelical Church, the Roman Catholic and the Seventh Day Adventist; and yet they are not totally free from persecution either). But our church members, both adults and youth, are determined to continue to worship because they believe that they are not doing anything wrong. They claim their act of worship is an expression of their faith and belief in God, and their religion. There is nothing to be guilty about and no reason to be afraid because their God is a true God. What a moving faith!!! The LSMA is in the process of reapplying to the government for official recognition. At the moment, they are still unsuccessful.

Every time they do pastors or leadership trainings, there is always a risk of getting caught and imprisoned. In their previous trainings, they have moved from one place to another. They got detained at one time, and then the guest lecturer was deported. However, with precautions, slowly, training continues.

You have to also remember that many of these Christians do not have a highly theological training, or all the experiences many of us have like youth camps or spiritual retreats, or intensive Bible studies. They mostly depend on what they hear on Sundays and what they read in the Bible. They do not even have access to various Bible study materials or Bible dictionaries, or commentaries. They are simple, ordinary people; but with very strong faith and commitment.

Aside from persecution, many of our congregations are suffering from poverty, from lack of education, skills, health benefits, low or no wages due to lack of employment, disease and much more.

Today, we have about 75 congregations meeting together to worship our Lord Jesus Christ, and there are about 80 church lay pastors. Moreover, there are now 4 Bible students who just recently received their diploma in theology from Phayao Bible Seminary in Thailand, and there are another three in the lower levels. There are three young women, and five young men; the first to be pastors with a formal education in Laos.

Under the shadow of the cross, I ask you to continue to ponder on the message of the cross. I ask you, brothers and sisters, to remember the Christians in countries like Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia, and many more. May we be challenged to live our faith like them. Despite not being fully free to express their faith and persecution, they remain steadfast and committed to love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. For many of them, every worship time is a celebration of the message of the Cross, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What are you suffering from today that prevents you from fully expressing your faith, your love, your service to our Lord and Savior? I, myself, have a personal suffering today, so I can identify with you.

However, compared to the Christians in this region, they have a greater suffering from the shadows of the cross, and yet many of them remain faithful! You have all the freedom to worship, serve and love God...not only during Good Friday and Easter Sunday...but every day in your lives. Take the challenge! Be inspired by our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Linworth United Methodist Church

7070 Bent Tree Blvd.

Columbus, Ohio 43235

Creating Community, Growing in Christ, Serving the World

**Easter Sunday
Morning Worship
Opportunities**

8:45 Traditional

10:15 Contemporary

11:30 Traditional

May Events

1-5: Garage Sale Setup

6: Garage Sale, 9 am—7 pm

7: Garage Sale, 9 am—2 pm

8: Happy Mother's Day

Exploring Linworth Class, 12:30-4 pm

15: Baptism Class, 11:30 am

Exploring Linworth Class, 12:30-4 pm

Debt Reduction Banquet, 5:30 pm

17: Prayer Vigil, 10 am—10 pm

20-22: Youth Spring Retreat

22: Baptism & Membership Sunday

Brunch Bunch, 9:45 am—1:30 pm

30: Memorial Day, Church Office & LCC Closed

