

# Manor Talk

A Publication of  
Fairhill Manor  
Christian Church

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Our Lord came into the world at a time and place that was very concerned with purity. An entire system of rules and regulations existed to help the people know what they had to do to be pure which was associated with righteous and holiness. All of these rules are recorded in the Torah and had come to be known as the law of the Mosaic Covenant because it was given to Moses on Mt. Sinai, and he came down from the mountain to give it to the Israelites. The law had been carried around with the people in the Ark of the Covenant and, during Jesus' life, were contained in the temple which was the holiest place in all of Israel.

Therefore, you can imagine the controversy Jesus created when he said things to his disciples such as, "What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them." (Mt 15:11) He said this that they may understand that they should be at least as careful in choosing the words that come out of their mouth as they were about what food was going in as required by the law of Moses.

This is a particularly appropriate verse as the season of Lent begins, which it does on February 22. Lent marks 40 days before Easter and is traditionally a time of preparation for the resurrection in which Christians examine themselves, repent of their sins, and rededicate themselves to following in the footsteps of Christ. One way that they often do this is to fast during Lent by giving up something they like. Often people give up something that goes into their mouths such as, chocolate, pop, or snacks, but this Lent I invite you to give up something that comes out of your mouth; negative words. For the five Sundays between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday my sermons will be based on Tim Cameron's book, "The 40-Day Word Fast". This book encourages us to remove certain types of words from our speech in order to grow closer to God and be a source of inspiration rather than a source of destruction.

God wants us to walk in unity, but that unity is hindered when we judge, complain, gossip, or use sarcasm and negative words. This kind of speech brings death to our fellowship so I hope we will fast from these kinds of words. In so doing, we can break chains of the past, restore relationships, and build one another up. Let us go on this journey together so that when Easter comes and we are enjoying all the good chocolate and candy we can also enjoy the fact that what comes out of our mouth is just as sweet.

Rev. Chris



2 Jim & Judy Wheeler

- 2 Noah Allen  
Doug Graff
- 3 Ruth Cox  
Nathan Dallatore  
Ellodi Keene
- 4 Sam Caldwell  
Shyla Rash  
Jaedan Shetler  
Julia Vanatta
- 5 Lisa Gardiner
- 8 Megan Roach  
Erika Vanatta
- 9 Daniel Riffle
- 10 Anderson Henry  
Grant Weber
- 12 Nancy Gregg
- 14 Rick Lewis
- 15 Diane Cope  
Yvonne Jones  
Nancy McCann
- 20 Cameron Meier
- 22 Jack Nelson
- 25 Bob Gregg  
Sophie Wolf
- 26 Ivy Lacock  
Ty Lacock  
Gage McDonough  
Avalon Vanatta

Fairhill Manor has been supporting the Heaven's Basket Food Pantry at the First Church of the Nazarene for a few years now, but upon hearing that they are ending this ministry we began taking our food donations to the Community Circle Food Pantry in downtown Washington last month. If you have any non-perishable food items you would like to donate you can continue to bring them to the church and place them on the table in the narthex by the coffee station and Rev. Chris will take them to the pantry at the beginning of each month. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer or are in need of their services they distribute the food every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9-12. The Community Circle Food Pantry is located at 69 E. Pine Ave in Washington, and they can be reached at 724-225-1540.



As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), **Week of Compassion** works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world. Special envelopes will be in the bulletin on February 19 & 26, or you can give online at [Givelify.com](http://Givelify.com).



## February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Bethany Class Zoom 11am  Stained Glass Window Committee 5:30pm  NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am	Book Club 7pm via Zoom  NA 7pm	No Dartball	Bethany Class Zoom 11am  Elders Meeting 5:30pm via Zoom  NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm	Croppers 4-9pm Large Fellowship Hall	Croppers 8am-10pm Large Fellowship Hall
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am Souper Bowl/ Cornhole Tournament	Book Club 7pm via Zoom  NA 7pm	Dartball @ Home 7pm	Bethany Class Zoom 11am  Stewardship/ Finance 5:30pm Library  NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am	Book Club 7pm via Zoom  NA7pm  Pastor Gena Off	Dartball @ Avery Methodist 7pm	Bethany Class Zoom 11am  NA 6:45pm  Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	Choir 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm		
26	27	28				
Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am (Noisy Offering)	Book Club 7pm via Zoom  NA 7pm	Dartball @ Chartiers Cross Roads 7pm				

## **Board Meeting January 11, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Gene Sheller, Moderator.

Devotion was given by Gene Sheller. Rev. Chris Stillwell opened with prayer.

The reports were reviewed and a motion to accept reports as presented by Jerry Puskarich and seconded by Linda Reese. Motion was passed.

Jerry Puskarich reported on the research on using rechargeable batteries for the sound system. More information to follow.

Jerry Puskarich also reported on Stewardship/Finance. See his report attached.

Jerry reported on the Personnel Committee. See his report attached.

A motion to accept these reports made by Von Lacock and seconded by Tom Ulery. Motion passed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Wedding Policy Committee will be sending out an anonymous survey by email, mail, and/or using survey monkey to the entire congregation.

The stain glass roof task force will be meeting February 1, 2023 @5:30pm.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The audio/visual team currently consists of Owen Stillwell, Isaac Mayen, Gray Ford and Rick Couch. Rick Couch no longer wishes to be included in the audio/visual rotation after January. We need to continue letting the congregation know the urgency of the need for more volunteers to help operate this system during Sunday.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chuck Riggle said he has reviewed the Annual Report and every report was well written and he thanks everyone for all their work. A motion was made by Chuck Riggle and seconded by Linda Reese that the Annual Report should be accepted by the congregation. Motion passed.

Adjourned at 7:48pm motion made by Carmen Oliverio and seconded by Ed Palfreyman.

Closing prayer said by Pastor Gena.

Respectfully submitted,

Serena Dube, Secretary pro temp

In attendance were:

Gene Sheller, Serena Dube, Von Lacock, Jody Mullis, Jackie Nelson, Diane Palfreyman, Ed Palfreyman, Jerry Puskarich, Kevin Puskarich, Rita Puskarich Linda Reese, Brian Shaw, Tom Ulery, Charles McConnell, Carmen Oliverio, Chuck Riggle, Associate Pastor Gena Sheller and Rev. Chris Stillwell

Guest: Peggy Oliverio

## **Board Meeting Notes – January 11, 2023**

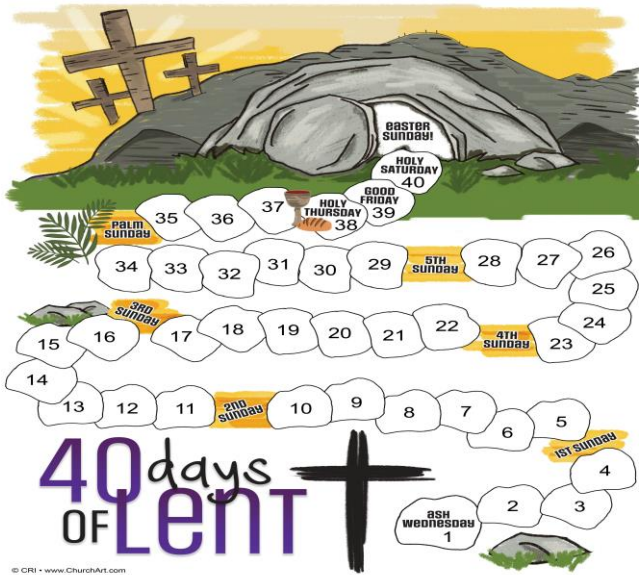
### **Stewardship/Finance**

1. Look at purchasing a battery charging unit for charging rechargeable batteries in an effort to reduce cost and time to replace batteries on the wireless microphones. Quote from Battery Junction \$66.95, free shipping.
2. Have completed 99% of the scanning of 2021 financial documents. Expect to finish by early next week.
3. Scanning of important Trustee Records.
4. Bob O’Korn from Cetera Investments will be attending our Stewardship/Finance Meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> to provide a recap of 2022 and what we might expect in 2023.
5. We have determined that the Check-In module of the Powerchurch Software that the church uses to tracking their financials can be removed from the annual subscription which will save us \$165.00 this year and moving forward.
6. The high level results of our Reese and Fawcett Trust funds show a total negative return of 22.49% and 21.50% respectively compared to a positive return of 8.90% and 7.33% in 2022. This compares to a negative return of the S&P 500 which is a common benchmark of 19.4% but these returns on these investments are net of distributions. Expect further market declines through the Third Quarter of 2023 until inflation cools off.

## **Personnel Committee**

1. We will welcome Reverend Barb Bailey to our first meeting in January on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The addition of her to our committee will provide us with valuable insight.
2. We will begin implementing some of the new policies that are in our approved Personnel Committee Policy Manual this month. Some of these items include update Emergency Contact Lists for our employees, having the drug free workplace acknowledgement forms distributed to our employees so that can review and sign-off on them, establishing a Personnel Records filing system to organize employee records even though they are scanned on our electronic records filing system, and distributing the employee handbooks once they are finalized and approved by the Board.
3. The early draft of the Employee Handbook which consists of approximately 30 pages is ready for the committee to review. We will begin that process on our meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to have it finished in time for the Board Meeting for their review in April.

## 40 days, 40 steps Follow along to Easter!



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which is February 22. Lent marks 40 days (excluding Sundays) before Easter and commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness facing temptation and fasting in order to prepare himself for his public ministry. As such, Christians use this time to prepare for the celebration of Easter by doing things that better themselves and draw them closer to Christ. We are providing this illustration and list of activities to help with your personal devotion during this time. Each day of Lent try your best to do the corresponding activity and mark on that day's stone as you walk closer to Easter and closer with Christ each day.

1. Receive ashes – February 22
2. Pray for someone who is sick
3. Fast – No sweets today
4. Make a Lenten Cross out of items from your home  
**Sunday – Attend Church**
5. Visit a friend
6. Give clothes/shoes to charity
7. Sing a song
8. Learn about a Saint
9. Make a list of all of the things you are thankful for
10. Read a bible story  
**Sunday – Attend Church**
11. Meditate for 5 minutes
12. Read a Psalm
13. Clean/organize your junk drawer
14. Pray for your neighbor
15. Fast – No fast food today
16. Send a card to a shut in  
**Sunday – Attend Church**
17. Read a bible story
18. Do a good deed
19. Meditate for 5 minutes
20. Clean out 1 drawer in your dresser

21. Pray for your family
22. Draw a picture  
**Sunday – Attend Church**
23. Sing a song
24. Fast – No sugared drinks today
25. Make an Easter wreath
26. Clean out your purse or wallet
27. Pray for your church family
28. Take a walk, even if it's just in your home  
**Sunday – Attend Church**
29. Call a friend
30. Fast – No chocolate today
31. Donate a canned good to the food pantry
32. Read a bible story
33. Enjoy nature today
34. Meditate for 10 minutes  
**Sunday – Attend Church – Palm Sunday**
35. Pray for your ministers
36. Clean out your refrigerator
37. Learn a new fun fact or cook a new recipe
38. Make a list of things you want to do
39. Fast – No sweets today – Good Friday
40. Read Matthew, Mark, Luke or John