

Manor Minutes
Volume 15 Issue 5
February 2, 2024

- Dartball – February 6 @ UMC West Washington, 7pm
 - Choir Practice – February 8, 6:30pm
 - Special Board Meeting – February 11, following worship
- Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



American Cancer Society Daffodil Days - Order forms are available in the Narthex. Paid orders are due to the Church Office by February 10. Flowers will be delivered the week of March 18.

The SouperBowl Luncheon and Cornhole Tournament is February 11. Sign up in the Narthex to bring a soup for lunch and to enter your team in the tournament. Donations of canned soup or cash will be accepted and donated to the Community Circle Food Pantry. **You do NOT need to bring soup or enter the cornhole tournament to attend. We hope to have a large crowd to enjoy food, fun and fellowship!**

Lent Devotionals Available – February 11
Please take one per family.

Ash Wednesday Service – February 14 at 5pm
We will have song and scripture, prayer and short meditations, ashes will be received and communion will be shared. The service will also be on Zoom, and if anyone would like to receive ashes but cannot make it to the service, please let Rev. Chris or Pastor Gena know and arrangements will be made for a time to give them.

Lent Devotional Study via Zoom – We hope you will join us in a discussion of the readings of our Lenten devotional “Go To Jerusalem” which will be hosted by Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena on Mondays at 7pm during Lent via Zoom starting February 19.

Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training – February 23 & 24

Night at the Wild Things Game – June 7

Emergency Contacts – Just in Case

If an emergency happens to you while you are at the church, we need to be able to give first responders information to ensure you the best care. Please make sure you have an emergency contact phone number or two on file at the church. It is also helpful if your emergency contact(s) have your updated essential medical information should that be needed.

You can send this information to the Church Office through email to fairhillmanor@yahoo.com or call the Karen at (724) 225-8610.

A vertical poster for a Mardi Gras event. The background is purple with a green and white diamond pattern at the top. The text is in white and yellow. It says "FAT TUESDAY" in white, "Mardi Gras" in a large, stylized yellow font, "FEBRUARY 13, 2024" in white, "6:00 PM King Cake + 7:00 Jazz Service" in white. Below the text, there are illustrations of a string of Mardi Gras beads, a trumpet, a green and white masquerade mask, and a red chalice. The musicians listed are Jim Cope (trombone), Dan Baker (guitar), Greg Thurman (bass), Michael Li Conti (drums), and Jody Mullis (vocalist). The location is First Christian Church, 615 E. Beau St., Washington, PA 15301.



Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
351 Montgomery Ave.
724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Gary Ford, Bread
Jody Mullis, Cup

February 4, 2024 – 10:15am

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Kevin Puskarich

Leader: What does the Lord require of you?

People: To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

Leader: With what shall we come before the Lord?

People: With speech that is gentle, and words that build up.

Leader: How shall we live out the gospel?

People: With actions that bring peace, and works that lift up the lowly.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth.

Opening Hymn

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory. Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy. Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

All-powerful, wonder-working God, you are greater than any ruler, any king, any president. Creator God, your majesty stretches across the sky, your power is beyond what we can imagine. No one and nothing compares to you. All power and authority are in your hand. And yet you know us by name, and not one of us is lost to you. Our hope is in you, Lord.

Forgive us when we think you have nothing to do with our lives, no interest in our day to day existence. Help us to find comfort in knowing that you know us intimately as our Creator and as the One who sustains us. You know our ways, how we are, what difficulties we face, our tendencies, our personalities. You do not tire in knowing us and helping us. You do not grow weary of our prayers and pleas. Your understanding is bottomless. And you never stop gathering up all the raw ingredients of our lives and making something beautiful and unexpected from them. Forgive us for forgetting so quickly the promises of our faith. Thank you for caring so deeply for us.

Thank you for this place to worship freely that feels like home to us. Help us to appreciate it and those who care for it. May its doors be open to all who are looking for a home in you. May this place and our congregation be a blessing to all.

Holy One, you know our needs before we do, and yet we speak them aloud as a reminder that you do hear and that you care. Be with those who long for home, for comfort, for a sense of normalcy. Be with those looking for a brand new start. Be with those who are powerless and oppressed, those who are weak and weary. Be with those who feel forgotten and without hope. Be with those who wait in fear or worry of what is coming next. Touch us now with your healing and your comfort as we bring our deepest concerns to you...

Now give power to the faint and strengthen the powerless. In waiting on you, may we renew our strength, mount up with wings like eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint. In our freedom, may we be faithful as we serve each other in your name. With peace and joy, we pray these words that our Messiah, Jesus the Christ, taught us to pray, saying...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response:

“Glory Be to the Father”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

Gene Sheller

Anthem

Choir

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

Good morning everyone. Can you tell me a candy that you like? If you had ten pieces of that candy would you give it to everyone here? Probably not because if you did you wouldn’t have any left. That is a common feeling. If we have something we like we tend to keep it to our self because we are afraid that we will not have enough for everyone. Even if you had 100 pieces you could give some to everyone here today but you would have a lot less wouldn’t you?

Whether it’s candy, food, money or any other item, we like to keep them to ourselves so that when people do share these things it is remarkable isn’t it? But what if you had something that you liked that wouldn’t cost you anything to share? Have you ever shared a song, a picture, or a smile? These are things you can share that will not result in you having any less of it. Can you think of anything else like that?

There are two things I can think of but they are really the same thing. The first is love. Love is one of the few things that you can share and you won’t have any less of it. In fact I think you will find that the more love you share the more you will have. The other is Jesus. In our story today there are people who were upset when Jesus left because they did not want him to go to other towns and help other people. They wanted to keep him for themselves. If they had that would have been good for them but bad for everyone else. Thankfully now that Jesus is in Heaven and we think of him being in our heart we can share him with others and know that we will not have any less of his help, support, and love. In fact, that is why I say that these two things, love and Jesus are really the same. We don’t want to keep Jesus to our self because others need his love as well, and I promise you that the more we share we won’t have any less, but the world will have more.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 1:29-39

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Don’t Keep It To Yourself”

Rev. Stillwell

We’ve all had things that we want to keep to ourselves. Things that we don’t want anyone else to know about. Things that would be better if left unsaid and unrevealed. Usually these are bad things. Usually they are secrets that we hold or have been told by others to hold, and we are either sworn to secrecy or we fear that, if the secret gets out there will be trouble. Or maybe we have a skeleton in our closet that represents something done in the past that we want to forget and that we don’t want others to know.

However, we also sometimes have good things that we still want to keep to ourselves, and just as we want the bad things to be kept secret because they are bad, so too do we want the good things to be secret precisely because they are good. For instance, some people receive good tips on the stock market or the horse races and they strive to keep these good tips to themselves for fear that, once the word gets out, everyone will get in on the action and the prize will have to be shared. Likewise, some people get good recipes and they do not want everyone to have it, because if everyone can make lasagna as good as my mother can then it just isn't as special is it?

When I was in high school I used to discover musical groups and singers that were really good but not well-known. I used to like to tell all my friends about them, because I wanted them to be popular, but I must admit that when some of them did become famous, I felt like I lost something. They were no longer my band, instead they were everyone's and I had to share them with the world.

Sharing is the problem that comes when a good secret gets out. If there is a great restaurant you like to go to that isn't very busy, once the secret is out, you will have to share it with a lot of people. If you brought food or candy to church, once others find out they will want some too, and you will have to share. Sharing is a good thing to do because it is a noble thing to do, and the reason it is noble is because it is a selfless act that involves sacrifice, therefore it is often hard to do. The problem with sharing something good is that once you share it with others, then you have less of it for yourself.

It was just that thinking that drove the people of Capernaum to try and keep Jesus Christ a secret. After escaping death when he angered the crowd in the Nazarene Synagogue, Jesus went to Capernaum where Luke tells us he healed many who were sick. After doing this he was then invited to go to the home of Simon who would later become his disciple and have his name changed to Peter. This is their first meeting and Simon asks Jesus to heal his mother-in-law who was suffering from a high fever. He does this and she is made well

This act of healing gets around and inspires many people to come to Jesus looking for healing as well. "As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them."

Now Jesus' fame was certainly growing but, at this point he was still only a local celebrity. John proclaimed his greatness at the Jordan River where Christ was baptized. Then he went back to his home town in Nazareth before heading to Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. Each place was about ten miles from the other all located in the very northern tip of Israel. As a result his fame spread quickly.

The next day Christ needed some time for himself so "At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place." There he sought to pray, to rest, to recharge himself, just as we need to do from time to time, but the people feared that he was leaving, so Luke writes, "And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them."

You can imagine their fear. After all just because Simon's mother in law was feeling all right now doesn't mean she would be all right later. What if the sickness came back? What if the demons returned? What if Jesus was gone, who would heal them? In a day and age when medical science was limited to say the least Jesus was their own stash of medicine. If the day ever came that penicillin becomes scarce we can be sure that people who had it would want to hoard it for a future time when they might need it and that is precisely what the people of Capernaum wanted to do with Jesus.

So long as he was nearby they could always go to him, but if he traveled to Jerusalem, back to Bethlehem, or Heaven forbid, returned to Egypt or another country, what then? The people who had been healed

didn't go out to tell the world about what had happened; rather they wanted to keep it a secret by preventing Jesus from leaving them.

But Jesus was never meant to be kept a secret so he said "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose." ⁴⁴So he continued proclaiming the message in the synagogues of Judea."

This is ironic because earlier, as he was curing people, he casts the demons out of them that possessed them. Once he did that "he rebuked the demons and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah." So here he rebukes demons for not keeping secret that he is the Messiah but, at the same time, rebukes the people for trying to do that very thing. As mentioned last week this is due to the belief that they did not know what Messiah meant because they thought it would be a show of strength by force rather than a show of strength by love.

But what about us? If we were to say "Jesus is the son of God" would we be rebuked by him? Although we are hardly worthy of him, I certainly do not think he would be upset with any of us saying so. In fact, I believe he wants us to do just that, so there should be no reason for us not to share Christ with others, but don't we sometimes help to keep Jesus a secret? What holds us back? What keeps our tongues tied and our lips still?

Is it that, like the demons, we feel that we are not worthy to share him with the rest, not worthy to proclaim him son of God and savior to all, or do we on some level fear losing him as our own? Do we fear that once everyone follows him it will no longer be counter cultural, it will cease being revolutionary, it will stop being a way to identify ourselves? After all, if everyone claims to be Christian what then does claiming to be Christian mean?

It's like claiming to be a human like everyone else and there is nothing special about being like everyone else, except when it comes to Christ's love which is extended to you and to me, and to everyone else. The fact that Christ can love each of us today who have never met him just as much as he loved Mary who gave birth to him, Peter who was with him at the Last Supper, and Mary Magdalene who was with him at the cross, makes his love the most special thing of all.

Still, it is human nature to want to keep good things a secret so that we will not have to share them, thereby lessening our own portion or the value of our portion, and also knowing the secret makes us feel special compared to the poor humans who don't know, but Christ is no ordinary good thing. The love of Jesus Christ is the one good thing that, no matter how many times we share it, does not become diminished, so we can share it knowing full well that no matter how many people pray to him, he will still listen to our prayers. No matter how many people call upon his name, he will also be with each of us. No matter how many people come to his table there will always be grace enough for you.

We might not be able to cure a person's sin sick heart, but we know someone who can, and if we withhold the knowledge of that love from others it would be like refusing medicine to a sick man. If you are ever tempted to keep Jesus to yourself think of what life would be like if someone had kept him from you. Jesus Christ said that he must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for he was sent for this purpose. Let us be glad to share Christ with other people, other cities, indeed the whole world knowing that to do so is to make his purpose our purpose. Nothing could be more special than that.

Call to Offering

Barb Bailey

As we have blended our voices in song and have united our souls in prayer, so let us now merge our gifts in an offering of hope and concern. May the morning offering be received.

Communion Hymn

“Let All Things Now Living” Carson Throckmorton, organist

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days. God’s banners are o’er us, pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into Light.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

There is a walking path near my home and when it is nice outside, people walk their dogs, walk themselves, and roller blade on it. But there are also people who use it to run and their commitment to running is a little bit greater than other’s commitment to walking. For no matter how bad the weather is you can be sure that you will always find a runner out on that path. Runners are made of something different. Some would call it toughness others would call it craziness, but we can all agree that they’re different.

Well, the other day, it was snowing hard and the temperatures were near freezing so I didn’t expect to see anyone out on that path, but I was wrong, for there was one person, and she was running. Instead of running shorts, however, she had snow pants on and over top her clothes a heavy winter coat and, to protect herself from the snow and the fierce wind she had an umbrella which she held out in front of her as she charged headlong into the winter undaunted and unafraid. I wondered at the sight of her right there and then if I had ever been so crazy about or committed to anything in my life.

Sometimes we have to be committed, or crazy, to keep running the race that we run. To run the race as Paul described the process of following Christ is hard, and it is so tempting to quit. Every day when we wake up we can each think of a thousand reasons not to get up and run after our Lord whether it is pain, disappointment, sickness, or just a general weariness with the world.

But then we come to this table and we remember Christ who faced far more hardships than we and did not give up on the race till it was finished. As we run our race in life, remember that he runs with us, acting as our umbrella to help us charge headlong into the winter of life undaunted and unafraid. We may still feel the wind and the cold and the bitterness but, whether someone calls you crazy or committed, keep running because you are on the right path.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Gary Ford

Heavenly Father, in today’s scripture we learned that you have power over everyone and everything everywhere. We have come together to worship you, hear your word and try to better understand its meaning. Jesus preformed miracles in large synagogues and in small houses. But, many times, Jesus had to be alone to come to You in prayer. At this table, we take this bread, Your beaten body, and this cup, Your spilled blood to publicly proclaim our belief that You suffered on the cross for our sins. Let each of us remember to take time, to be alone in prayer, thanking God for his many blessings and asking for his forgiveness. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen.

Words of Institution

Rev. Stillwell

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Sharing Holy Communion

All are invited to share in this meal. Please come forward down the center aisle, as you are able, then place your offering in the trays as you return to your seats by the outside aisles. If you are unable to come forward, the meal will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers & individual servings are available in the Narthex.

Call to Discipleship

Rev. Stillwell

If you have come to know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and you would like to profess that you intend to begin a life of faith, learning to walk in his way of Love, you are welcome to contact one of the Pastors to take this step. If you would like to join this part of the Body of Christ at Fairhill Manor Christian Church, to covenant to journey together in this life of faith, please reach out to one of the Pastors to learn more. We all take these moments to rededicate our lives to following Jesus.

Closing Hymn

“Spirit Song”

Carson Throckmorton, organist

O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love. Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Be forever blessed, forever loved, forever cradled in God's arms, forever called by name. Go, knowing God's grace, sharing God's peace, living God's justice, bearing God's blessing to all.

Name: _____

American Cancer Society
Daffodil Sale

_____ Bunch of Daffodils \$12

_____ Bunch of Tulips \$15

_____ Mini Potted Daffodils \$15

_____ Gift of Hope \$25 (flowers donated to local cancer centers)

_____ Vase for Daffodils \$5

_____ Vase for Tulips \$10



To order, please return this coupon to Karen Thomas or place in the Church Office mailbox. Orders must be prepaid and are due by February 10, 2024. Make checks payable to “American Cancer Society”.

Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Rev. Chris (412-956-6590) or Pastor Gena (724) 263-0033 directly and confidentially. Or scroll down on the opening page of our website (www.fairhillmanorchurch.org) to "Requests for Prayer or Help." There you can send an email which will go directly to Rev. Chris. We are One Body in Christ!

Prayer List:

Homebound Members:

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

Chuck and Mary Wiseman
880 S Main St, Apt 214
Washington PA 15301

Elinor Newman (Southmont)
835 S Main St, Rm 534
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokeley
900 N Cass Lake Rd, Apt 324
Waterford MI 48328

Carol Brown
36 Old Hickory Ridge Rd, Rm 213
Washington PA 15301

Doris Sorice
880 S Main St, Apt 336
Washington PA 15301

Ed Alexy
Avery Allen
Jeannie Allison
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Jim Banish
Martin Berisford
Eleanor Boyles
Mabel Brooks
Leslie Byron
Family of Jen Caldwell
Sandra Carman
Clayton Chalfant
Leslie Chalfant
Denise Charles
Wanda Chicone
MaryAnn Coates
Aimee & Jim Coture
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Sue Donaldson
Benjamin Dube
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Thomas Farabee
Kathy Moninger- Ford
Jay Freudenberg
Lois Gayman
Sue Golsky
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg

Theresa Hancher
Judy Hanning
Erma Harper
Sheila Harris
Aryn Hess
Janet Houston
Ed Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Kenger Family
Ivy Lacock
Ty Lacock, Jr.
Bob Lanning
David Leonard
Darla Lewis
John Lewis
Lee Martin
Dave McConnell
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Bob Morgan
Paul Myers
Joe Neckerman
Michaela Nixon
Sandy Nixon
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Deborah Patterson
JoAnn Piatt
Bo & Patty Pryor
Rick Rafferty
Cathy Rentgen
Jeannie Riffle
Lori Riffle

Betty Jo Riggle
Emily Cope Robinson
Dave Ross
John Samida
Sam Sheller
Valerie Shetler
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Darci Sprowls
Cathy Stewart
John Stewart
Bernard Teagarden
Beth Teagarden
Jane Teagarden
Thad Turner
Tammie Wallace
Gary Weaver
Tom Williams
Addison Wittenberg
Sarah Wittenberg

In the Military

Lance Dague	Andrew Gregg
Terrell McClain	Zachary Keene
Brandon Lipscomb	Sarah Lipscomb
Travis Ringer*	Emily Chase
Dylan Demain	

The brave men and women who serve our country make incredible sacrifices every day. We are forever grateful for their service and dedication. Please remember the military members that are deployed and away from their family that they may return to their homes safely.

*currently deployed