

Manor Minutes
Volume 15 Issue 10
March 8, 2024

- Lenten Devotional Study – March 11, 7pm via Zoom
- Elders Meeting – March 13, 5:30pm
- Board Meeting – March 13, 7pm
- Choir Practice – March 14, 6:30pm

Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



Lenten 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. The study continues this Monday, March 11 at 7pm via Zoom. If you didn’t join last week, you can still join the discussion this week. The Zoom link will be sent out on Monday via email. If you don’t receive the link, please contact the office.

Easter Flowers – orders due to Office on March 10

Tri-County Men’s Fellowship Dinner – Thursday, March 21 at Perryopolis First Christian Church. Registration is at 5:30pm with the Dinner (creamed chicken over biscuits, mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert) at 6pm. Cost is \$15. Sign up in the Narthex or call the office by **March 17 to RSVP**.

Palm Sunday – March 24

Maundy Thursday – March 28 Service to be held at Fairhill Manor.

Good Friday Service – March 29 Service to be held at the First Christian Church in Washington.

Sunrise Service & Breakfast – Join us on the steps in front of the Church for Easter Sunrise Service, March 31 at 7am. Bring a chair and/or blanket and dress appropriately for the weather. A continental breakfast will be shared at 8am following this service. Sign up in the Narthex if you plan to come to the breakfast. If you would like to bring a breakfast item to share, there is a sign-up sheet for that too!

Night at the Wild Things Game – June 7

**FMCC Night at
Washington Wild Things
Friday, June 7, 7pm
Fireworks Night**

Tickets - \$10/person Parking Pass - \$2/car

**Jody Mullis will be singing God Bless America
during the 7th inning stretch.**

**Sign up in the Narthex for tickets and parking
passes.**

**Please turn in cash or check
(payable to FMCC) to the office by **May 3rd**.**

Community Circle Food Pantry

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all the donations, both financial and food, to help provide the supplemental food boxes of those who utilize our community pantry. In January and February, the pantry served 2,532 individuals (1,264 households). As we start preparing for Easter, we wanted to send out a list of things needed to add to the ham slices/ hams we have at the pantry to distribute to the clients:

- Au-gratin or scalloped potatoes**
- Cake Mix/ Icing or Brownie Mix**
- Jello or Pudding**
- Jellybeans**
- Green Beans/ Corn**

If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Wolfe @ 724-225-1540 or you can send an email to mwolfe15301@outlook.com. Together we can make a difference in the lives of so many in our community! Thank you for helping to make Easter Dinner for our neighbors in our community who need our help to make this season more memorable.

Thank You
Melanie Wolfe



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

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

March 10, 2024 – 10:15am

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Rita Puskarich

Leader: The goodness of God beckons,

People: Calling us to goodness and grace.

Leader: The grace of God redeems,

People: Saving us and making us whole.

Leader: The love of God welcomes,

People: Inviting us to worship and praise.

Opening Hymn

“Woke Up This Morning”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Oh, I woke up this morning with my mind, (and it was) stayed on Jesus. Woke up this morning with my mind, (and it was) stayed on Jesus, woke up this morning with my mind, (and it was) stayed on Jesus, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu Hallelujah.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

O God, who has sculpted all creation, your work is beautiful, vast, and glorious. You have given us a world that flourishes, commandments that teach us how to thrive, and communities that encourage and support us. We thank you for these gifts. Yet we have failed in tending to these treasures. We abuse the world for our own purposes, we turn away from your guidance, we wall ourselves away from others. Cleanse us from our faults, hidden and revealed. Our hearts ache, our world aches. We offer these pains to you, knowing that you are one who heals and restores. We offer to you all who are in pain or ill health. We offer to you all who do not have enough to get by. We offer to you all who are grieving, anxious, or depressed. We offer to you all who are trapped in feelings of shame. We offer to you the world that is crying out for healing. We offer to you the concerns of our families, friends, and neighbors.

Let the words of our mouths and the prayers of our hearts be acceptable to you, O God, our rock and redeemer. We pray to you for you are the one who has brought us through our trials and has guided our path to this place that we might join in praising you. As we worship today, help us remember your call on our lives, that we might hold to your commandments always.

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.

Anthem

“When Memory Fades,” by Jane Southwick Cool

Choir

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

In 3 weeks we will be celebrating Easter. That’s the time we celebrate the mystery of how Jesus died but is still with us. We are in the middle of 6 weeks of getting ready for this special time of Easter. Do you remember what we in the church call this time of preparation before Easter?

We call it Lent. Lent is a special season of prayer when we take a look at our own lives and make sure we are doing what God wants us to do and becoming the people God wants us to be.

Now, everyone stand up and follow me. I want you to pretend someone has asked us to go and play in the park. Let’s go! Ok, there is the park; it looks like they are having fun there. But first let’s pretend there is a road right in front of us here. What should we do? Should we just go straight across? No. We need to STOP. Then what should we do after stopping? That’s right we need to LOOK to see if a car is coming. Then what? That’s right we need to LISTEN. OK, we took time to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN. It looks safe so now we can cross.

What we have just done is very important. If we are going to keep safe while going to all the exciting places we want to go, we need to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN before crossing streets.

In life it is important to do the same thing. We get so busy, and we are often in a rush. It’s very important that we take time to STOP, to LOOK around and think about what we are doing. Are we doing what God wants us to do? Are we becoming the sort of person that God wants us to be? And we need to LISTEN to God, by reading the Bible and taking time to pray and listen for God. This season of Lent that we are in right now is a great time to do just that. If we do take time to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN, we can ask God to help us make the changes we need to make so that our lives are lined up with God.

Dear God, help us always remember to take time to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN when we are crossing a street. Help us also to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN at our lives especially during this time of getting ready called Lent. Amen.

Adapted from www.sundaychildrensfocus.com

Second Scripture Reading**John 5:2-17**

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon**“Bless This Mess”**

Rev. Stillwell

If you know someone who is a real mess chances are they look it. Maybe it is their clothes or their appearance, or maybe it’s just that they are scattered and disorganized. But we know we shouldn’t judge by appearances because just as often there are people who look like they have it all together but they are a mess inside. It may be that they know what a mess they are so they work fastidiously to hide their mess with fine clothes and a manicured look, but then again, they may not know they are a mess at all.

Let me tell you about just such a man. He was a fine upstanding citizen and a religious leader who bathed in the respect that garnered. He had so much zeal for his faith that he traveled to a faraway land to kill people who did not share that faith. He was zealous for his faith and hated anyone who would question or oppose it. He was a Pharisee who had heard that there were Christians in Syria and so he went to kill them. He felt no shame for this, for he believed he was doing God’s will. In fact, he had already incited a mob to kill a Christian.

His name was Saul. He was from Tarsus, and despite his appearance of religiosity and respectability he was a real mess. At the time however, neither he nor his friends saw this mess because he didn't look a mess from the outside. He was very well respected, since he was zealous for the law, and was seen as righteous.

It was Jesus who changed his life by showing what a mess his life had become. It was Jesus who turned him around and who helped him spend the rest of his life cleaning up his mess. He was literally blind but then scales fell from his eyes and he could see, and not only could he see what a mess he had made of his life, but he also saw what he needed to do. He became the apostle Paul and he stands as the example for what grace can do. If Christ's grace could change Paul's life why not ours?

I encourage us always to remember that there was a Saul before there was a Paul. He is the model for change and if we want to change we have to deal with two questions. First is who has the power to change us? Second is do we really want to change? The thing with Paul is that I don't know that he had the right answer to either of those questions; at least at first. It took a literal vision of Christ to turn him around.

There are two Greek words in the New Testament used for life. These words are bios and zoes. Bios means physical life which is where we get the word, biology. Zoes refers to the spiritual life. There are also two Greek words for death, telute, which is physical death and thanatos, which is spiritual death, thus it is possible to be physically alive but spiritually dead.

That is the case with many and why God is not seeking to simply improve us but transform us. God does not want us put a few things in our life away leaving us in less of a mess, but help us get clean and right in every way, but many of us do not want to change.

Everyone wants to win, not everyone hates to lose. In other words, it would be great to win, but few people are willing to do all the hard work it takes to win. Everyone wants to change, but few hate to remain as they are, so if there is a way to change without doing much work, then we'll do it. If we could lose weight by taking a pill we would be all in, but if we have to be all in to lose weight, then maybe we'll forget about it for now. We can get comfortable in familiarity even if what we are familiar with is less than God created us to be.

I once went into an office that was disheveled with papers everywhere and on the desk was a sign that said, "Bless this mess." I asked why it was there, and he said "I used to pray that I would be more organized. Now I just pray that God will bless my mess as it is." It reminded me of a comic strip I saw in which a man at his messy desk looks up the phrase status quo and learns it is "Latin for the mess we're in".

It made me laugh because, on the one hand, I understand the sentiment. God doesn't wait for us to clean up the mess of our lives before we are blessed. God of course welcomes us as we are. God meets us where we are. God invites us to come just as we are without one plea. If we think we have to get organized and clean up our mess before coming to God we never will. So God does invite us to come as we are, but God does want us to stay as we are.

Likewise, when looking at the mess of the world we often ask God to bless the mess, to magically fix it. We do this so that God won't ask anything of us, and the same is true if we ask God to simply bless our mess. God will bless us with the power, wisdom, and strength to fix our mess with God's help. And the truth is that we need God's help. We cannot do it on our own. Even when we get our life in order, even when we get ourselves headed in the right direction, even when we have cleaned the stains of our

souls, we will get dirty again. That is why I will never own a white car again. God bless you if you do, but I could not keep that thing clean for more than a few hours.

It is like our soul, we cannot escape sin. Paul would go on to say, “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”, and it is true, not as a negative judgement, but as a simple statement of fact. We can look at it negatively and say then that everyone is a failure, or we can simply say that no one is perfect. We are all white cars who are fresh and clean and sparkling after having been washed clean by praying to God, but a few days in the world and we are covered in soot.

Don't let that get you down, but don't ignore it either. Grace is a gift that opens our eyes so that we can see the gap between us and God and leads us towards justifying grace which is a gift that allows us to close the gap that sin has created in our lives. When John Newton wrote the hymn, “Amazing Grace” he was thanking God for the gift of justifying grace.

If you didn't know John Newton wasn't any better than Paul. He might even have been worse. He was a slave trader. So when he found God's grace he knew perhaps better than any how amazing this gift was.

Now we might say, “Hey I'm not like that guy”, I don't need that grace, his sickness is way worse than mine, but that is not the language of grace. Instead we should say, “If grace can work for a wretch like him, it can surely work for someone like me.”

Take for example, the man Jesus met at the pool. He was unable to walk for 38 years and he spent every day beside a bathing pool that many people believed had healing powers. They believed that an angel would come occasionally and stir up the waters and when that happened, the first person who entered the water would be healed. He was unable to change his life, and so he learned to live with it, but sitting by the side of the pool hoping he would be healed one day was no life. Jesus saw him and had one simple question, “Do you want to be healed?”

⁷The sick man answered him, ‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.’

The man was stuck in his illness, but Jesus said ‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’ ⁹At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

I am not saying that the man could not walk because of sin, but the man didn't know what to do make his life better until he encountered Jesus. Still Jesus told him to stand up, and that must have taken some faith.

Likewise, we must recognize that God doesn't want to only bless our mess, God wants to fix it, with our help. Later when the Pharisees criticized Jesus for healing on the Sabbath he said simply, “My Father is still working, and I also am working.’ We often want God to help us, but we must always remember that God is already working, and it is God who is waiting for our help in cleaning up our mess.

Call to Offering

Charlotte Stillwell

As we have been saved by grace for the blessing of all, may we share our gifts of grace for the blessing of God's world.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below! Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dedication of Offering Prayer

Pastor Gena

Lord God of all, accept our offering of money this day, but please also accept the offering of our lives. Help us to live simply, generously and courageously, that our lives may point to you. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

Jesus gathered his followers together around a table, and they ate the Passover meal as a family, not related by blood but by faith. Each person there brought to the gathering talents and growing edges. They had hopes and dreams, disappointments, and fears. Sometimes they all got along, and sometimes they didn't, but they were bound together by their love and belief in Jesus.

Look around you...today we are the family Jesus has gathered together for this meal. We are the people who bring all that we are, and all that we hope to be, to the table. We are brothers and sisters by faith, the Body of Christ, children of God. We have all received Jesus' invitation to share the bread and cup, so come! Eat! And know that we have found a common home and family in Jesus Christ.

Adapted from <https://maryblashill.com/>

Communion Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

Carson Throckmorton, organist

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Jody Mullis

Dear heavenly Father, as we come to you today we thank you and we praise you. We give you honor and glory. We count it a privilege to come in to your house this morning and we thank you that you are able to heal as the man was healed at the pool of Bethesda by the Lord. We give you honor and glory as we take the bread and cup this morning. Let us be mindful of your love for us as you went to Jerusalem as we are studying in our Lenten Devotional. Let us go with you this morning as we take this bread and cup in Jesus name.

Words of Institution

Pastor Gena

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

You will receive the bread and cup together. Please hold them; we will take each together as one body. Disciples of Christ believe in an Open Table. All who profess Christ and follow Him are welcome to share His meal.

Gluten free wafers are available in the Narthex.

Call to Discipleship

Pastor Gena

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

“Peace Like a River”

Carson Throckmorton, organist

I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.
I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Go forth in the light of God’s grace. Go forth with the love of Christ’s mercy. Go forth with the goodness of the Spirit’s generosity.



Please fill out this order form and return to the Church Office with **payment** by March 10. Indicate the number of flowers you would like. Make checks payable to “**Fairhill Manor**” and indicate “Easter Flowers” in the memo.

_____ Tulips (6” pot) @ \$10/each

_____ Hyacinths (3 bloom) @ \$10/each

_____ Easter Lily @ \$10/each

_____ Mum (assorted colors) @ \$10/each

Orders with payment are due by March 10, 2024.

Given by _____

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

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:

Fairhill Manor extends its sympathy to Gary and Kathy Ford on the death of Gary's brother, Alvin Randolph "Randy" Ford on Saturday, March 2. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers.

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 513
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 Alexey
Avery Allen
Jeannie Allison
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Jim Banish
Martin Berisford
Eleanor Boyles
Mabel Brooks
Leslie Byron
Sandra Carman
Clayton Chalfant
Leslie Chalfant
Denise Charles
Wanda Chicone
MaryAnn Coates
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
Irma Harper

Aryn Hess
Janet Houston
Ed Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Kenger Family
Ivy Lacock
Ty Lacock, Jr.
Bob Lanning
David Leonard
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
Debbie Sekorky
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