

Manor Minutes
Volume 15 Issue 18
May 3, 2024

- Elders Meeting – May 8, 5:30pm
- Board Meeting – May 8, 7pm
- Choir Practice – May 9, 6:30pm

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



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Tri-County Men's
Christian
Fellowship Dinner

May 16, 2024

RSVP by May 13



Registration **5:30 PM**
Meeting **6:00 PM**

Pasta Bar Dinner

Cost: \$15



Christian Church
Of Connellsville
(Disciples of Christ)

212 S. Pittsburgh St.
Connellsville, PA
(724)-628-3802
disciples1st@yahoo.com

*Celebrate with us the oldest hymns sung by the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
played on our grand pipe organ!*



PENTECOST
SUNDAY

May 19

- Baptisms
- Last day of Sunday School
- Sunday School Teacher & CW&W
Volunteer Recognition
- Pentecost and Sunday School
Celebration Cookout after Worship
(sign-up sheet in the Narthex)
- Wear **RED**



**Altar
Flowers**

If you would like to order Altar Flowers in memory of a loved one, in honor of a loved one or "just because," you can find order forms on the bulletin board in the Narthex. A vase of flowers is \$25. Orders need to be placed one week in advance. If you have any questions, call Karen in the office at (724) 225-8610.



Thank you Von Lacock and Ed Palfreyman for your spring cleaning & powerwashing of the memorial garden. Your hard work and dedication to keeping the church looking spiffy is appreciated.



Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
351 Montgomery Ave.
724-225-8610
Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Kevin Puskarich, Bread
Rita Puskarich, Cup
May 5, 2024 – 10:15am

Prelude

Carson Throckmorton, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Kevin Puskarich

Leader: From fire and storm, we come, O God.

People: Gather us in, and make us whole.

Leader: From suffering and pain, we come, Holy One.

People: Gather us in, and make us one.

Leader: From the highways of life, we come, Great Spirit.

People: Gather us in, and make us your disciples.

Opening Hymn

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Jody Mullis, pianist

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

Blessed Creator, hallowed be your name. Your will upon this earth invites us to come forth and participate in your kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us, Lord, the sustenance for this work, give us the faith to resist temptation, give us the love to make a difference.

As we come into you holy presence O God, we acknowledge that; you may not be grasped, but you may be graced. You are not easily understood, but you are full of understanding. You do not come at our beck and call, but you are always near and you call us. Consoling God, we turn to you when our hearts are heavy, and we have no one else to whom we can unburden our spirits. When our pain can be too much for others to hear, you are not made uncomfortable by our tears, our anguish, and our sighs. So we lift our concerns to you in prayer.

Rejoicing God, we also turn to you when our hearts are light, and we cannot tell enough people about our joy. So we lift up our joy to you in prayer. We thank you for this gift of life, may we treasure it for as long as it lasts.

Above all we rejoice for although we call you Lord you call us friend. There is no more faithful friend than your son, Jesus Christ. There is no richer friendship; no deeper intimacy; no greater joy, peace and comfort than that which comes to us through union with you. You are so immeasurably generous with us. Everything that you have, you’ve made ours—including the friends we get to walk with through every season of life. We thank you for this gift among so many others and pledge to do our best in friendship with you as we pray the prayer that our friend, Jesus, taught us 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

Psalm 98

Connie Sheller

Anthem

“All Will Be Well,” by Penny Ridriguez

Choir

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

Can someone tell me what this is? It's a salt shaker, and I bet every time you sit down to eat there's one on the table. We see them at home, and at restaurants. We expect it. But let me ask you something, is that the only thing we expect to see on the table? Who sets a table of just salt? If you're going to have a salt shaker on the table, you're going to need a pepper shaker too.

Salt and pepper are complements to foods that come together like peanut butter and jelly. Salt and pepper are usually in similar containers, but on the inside, they don't look alike at all. They don't taste alike either, and yet in spite of their differences, salt and pepper go together perfectly. True friendship is like salt and pepper.

Are you and your friends exactly alike? I am sure you share many similarities and interests, but sometimes two people who are different can complement each other. People can have number of differences; but in spite of those differences, they can find a common ground to share good times and bad. In the same way that salt and pepper can take a bland, boring meal, and turn it into something delicious true friends can take a bad situation and turn it into something wonderful. You'll never find salt without pepper. And like salt and pepper, true friends are the ones that'll stick with you no matter where you are, what situations you face. You don't have to be exactly alike or have everything in common; you just have to be willing to be there together.

Second Scripture Reading

1 John 5:1-6

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“What a Friend”

Rev. Stillwell

Friendship is a true gift. It is something that we treasure and value, but like anything there are different levels. There is the introductory package which would include knowing someone’s name, a few details of their life, and saying hi when you see them. For the more committed there is the, let’s hang out every now and then and have lunch with each other, type of friendship. Then there is the ultimate, tell each other your secrets, share your life, support each other in the lowest moments and rejoice in the highest moments type of friendship that we reserve for our closest and longest of friends. These friends you could count on one hand because this friendship package is by far the most expensive. Therefore not everyone can afford the time cost, emotional commitment, and risk involved in this type of friendship.

I say cost, commitment, and risk, because there is nothing like having a true friend, and nothing harder than losing such a friend. That is why the community to whom 1 John was written was facing a crisis.

You see they had lost many friends. These were people who had become like a family because they took the risk of becoming followers of Christ; something that often separated them from their family and former friends. Despite this people had left the community because they were denying that Jesus was truly the Messiah, that he was God's actual flesh and blood, fully human, son. Naturally like any community facing conflict they were unsure of what to do. Whom should they believe? How could they know what was true, and what was not? How should they react?

Given that conflict and disagreement are no less common today that it was 2000 years ago it seems safe to say that 1 John's simple, confident response is as relevant today as it was when the letter was first written. This passage can be summarized by saying, "You know who you are, you know whose you are, and you know what you have been told from the beginning. God's own Spirit shows us what is true. There's no need to panic or argue. Focus on living your faith instead. God has the whole situation under control."

1 John reminds the community that everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah, which means the anointed Son of God, has been born of God. They have no reason, therefore, to be afraid, for they belong to God. As God's children, they can rest assured that they are loved and protected by their divine parent.

If they love God, then naturally they will love anyone born of God too, because how can one love a parent without loving the child whom the parent brought into being? Imagine saying to someone, "I love you but I hate your kid." That would not go over well. The child of God referred to in 1 John 5:1 is first and foremost Jesus, but the author also means to say any child of God, as verse two makes clear. Jesus is born of God, but everyone who believes in him becomes his brother or sister. This is what I spoke of last week as a family we choose. Whoever loves the parent loves not just one of the parent's children but all of them. Again if I were to say to you, "I love you and your oldest but I do not love your youngest" no parent would react well to such a statement.

It is hard then to overstate the enormity of this conclusion which is that every child of God is linked to Jesus. Every injustice done to a child of God echoes the injustice done to him. Every act of violence committed against a child of God recalls the violence committed against Jesus. Rejecting a child of God is akin to rejecting Christ as Jesus makes clear in Matthew 25, "whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." (Mt: 25-45)

So loving God, loving God's children, and keeping God's commandments form inseparable links in a circular chain. Remember how I have said that this letter calls us back to Jesus' teaching at the Last Supper? This interwoven reality in 1 John echoes Jesus' conversation with his disciples on the night before his death when he said: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15); "They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them" (John 14:21); "You are my friends if you do what I command you." (John 15:14)

Those with true faith confess that Jesus is the Son of God. For 1 John, confessing that Jesus is the Son of God means believing that Jesus is the one who came through water and blood. The sixth verse goes on to specify, "not with the water only but with the water and the blood." Scholars argue about the precise meaning of this phrase with some suggesting that it refers to the blood and water that came out of Jesus' pierced side after his crucifixion while others see it as referring to the water in which Jesus was baptized and the blood that flowed from him during his crucifixion, or as encompassing his whole life from his birth to his death. Whatever the precise meaning of the phrase, its basic point is clear: Jesus did not simply appear to be human. He was truly flesh and blood. Nor was he God's Son only during his baptism and ministry. The fact that he was God's Son did not mean that Jesus somehow escaped the full consequences of being human. He shared the whole human experience of living and dying. He remained God's Son even in his agonizing death by torture on the cross. Jesus was born, baptized, and crucified to

empower all of us to become God's children. This is not some inessential doctrinal point. 1 John insists that this is the heart of our faith.

In order to have a friend you need to be a friend and that means full commitment so when Jesus concludes his teaching of friendship with his disciples by saying that, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13) once again he raises the bar quite a bit. We often think of friendship as a nice thing, but a low-key, low-intensity type of relationship. "Let's just be friends," we might say to someone who wants to spend a little too much time in our life, but when Jesus called us friend it is not only an incredibly familiar claim for the Son of God to make, but also an incredible commitment. It turns out there is a level of friendship more expensive than the deluxe best friend option.

I cannot imagine the disciples knew fully what he was saying at the time that he said it, but now the message is heard again to the community and they can be consoled by the words, because they know that Jesus did not just talk the talk, but walked the walk, or maybe it would be better to say crossed the cross.

From this we know that true Christian faith conquers the world not by military might or doctrinal arguments or coercion, but by love. Christians believe in the Son of God who, rather than shedding the blood of others to prove that he was the Messiah, allowed his own blood to be shed. God's children triumph not by inflicting suffering on others or by avoiding pain at all costs but by allowing God to work within and through them even in their suffering. This is not to say that suffering is redemptive, but that it sometimes cannot be avoided.

What applies to individual Christians applies also to the Christian community. The Church triumphs over false teaching not by force or argument, but because of and through the suffering love of the crucified Messiah. This is the truth to which the Holy Spirit testifies: God's son was tortured and broken for us. He was and is a friend to us in the highest sense of the word, and we are called to friend all of God's children in the same way. This is the faith that overcomes the world: God's love brings life even out of brokenness and death. This is the victory to which we are called: loving God's children, and thus living our faith in the crucified, risen Son of God.

Call to Offering

Barb Bailey

We who love God are led by the Helper and Advocate to be more than hearers of the word, but doers of the word as well. Let us open ourselves now to the joy of sharing God's love and concern with the world.

Communion Hymn

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Carson Throckmorton, organist

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

Around this time of year in Children Worship & Wonder, we hear the story of the Good Shepherd quite a bit. We begin to connect the Good Shepherd of the 23rd Psalm, who leads us to the good, green grass, and beside the cool, still waters, to Jesus, who calls himself the Good Shepherd in the Gospel of John. While we have learned that the Good Shepherd knows each one of his sheep by name, slowly we begin to realize that Jesus knows each one of us by name. While we have learned that the sheep know the sound of the Good Shepherd's voice and so follow him as he walks in front of the sheep to show them the way, slowly we begin to realize that we too can learn to know the sound of our shepherd Jesus' voice and follow him as he walks in front of us to show us the way. While we have learned that the Good Shepherd feeds his sheep on good, green grass, and good, clean water, slowly we begin to realize that Jesus feeds us at his Table, the Table of the Good Shepherd. It is on this Table that we find a special plate and a special cup. At this Table, Jesus feeds us, his sheep. Eventually the Good Shepherd Jesus has to leave, but he is

still with us in the holy bread and in the holy cup. As we hear the very words of Jesus, we all share in his presence here.

We like to wonder about God's stories in Children Worship & Wonder. In the stories about The Good Shepherd and the Lord's Supper, we often wonder if the people gathered around the Table of the Good Shepherd have names. We wonder if we might even be one of those people gathered around that Table. We wonder what it's like to feel the very presence of the Good Shepherd as the bread is blessed and broken and shared, as the cup is blessed and poured and shared. We wonder if we have ever been close to a Table like this. We wonder how many people can come to this Table.

The children have so many interesting things to say as we wonder. This is why I continue to urge you, even beg you, to spend a week or two or more with our children in the Children Worship & Wonder Sanctuary. You are always welcome there.

A couple weeks ago, Grace Melvin listened carefully to the story of The Good Shepherd and the Lord's Supper. When we wondered if we had ever been close to a Table like this, Grace thought of her grandmother's table. That table is a very old table that has been in the family for more than 100 years, and Grace's family gathers around it for holidays and other special meals, she said. Then Grace added that the table at her grandmother's house is special because you can make it bigger to fit more people around it. You can pull it apart and put more pieces into it to make it as big as you need so everyone can fit around one table and enjoy the feast together.

I've been sitting with that image Grace shared with us ever since. For the Table of the Good Shepherd is just like that. It is extendable. It gets as big as is needed so everyone can fit around it and share in this great Feast of love together. You are one of those people who are invited to this Table. Here, you are known by name. There will always be room for you here. Come and hear the words of the Good Shepherd and share in his presence here. Thanks be to God for this extendable Table and for our children, who help us to see in new ways.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Kevin Puskarich

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

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

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

"I Shall Not Be Moved"

Carson Throckmorton, organist

I shall not be, I shall not be moved. I shall not be, I shall not be moved; like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved. When my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved, when my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved; like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.

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.

Puzzle!

Use the list of names to identify each thankful Bible character. Then use the symbol code to complete Psalm 79:13, NKJV.

NAMES: Elijah, Naaman, Mary & Martha, paralyzed man, Jairus, Moses, Rahab, Hannah

 Led his people through the Red Sea.	 Jericho fell, but she and her family were saved.	 Her prayer was heard and she gave her son to God.
		
Ravens brought him food.	Cured of his leprosy, he worshiped God.	
		
Their brother was raised from the dead.	Lowered through a roof, Jesus healed him.	Jesus brought his daughter back to life.
		

WE ... W _ LL G _ VE Y _ _ _ NKS F _ _ EVE _ ;
 WE W _ LL S _ _ W F _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _ ISE
 _ _ LL GENE _ _ _ _ NS. Psalm 79:13, NKJV

Answers: Moses, Rahab, Hannah, Elijah, Naaman, Mary & Martha, paralyzed man, Jairus; We ... will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations. Psalm 79:13, NKJV

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 513
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Alice Cokeley
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Ed Alexey
Avery Allen
Jeannie Allison
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Jim Banish
Martin Berisford
Eleanor Boyles
Mabel Brooks
Leslie Byron
Sandra Carman
Denise Charles
Wanda Chicone
MaryAnn Coates
Zach Correll
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
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris

Rick Herrnberger
Aryn Hess
Janet Houston
Ed Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Kenger Family
Ivy Lacock
Ty Lacock, Jr.
Bob Lanning
David Leonard
John Lewis
Lee Martin
Shirley McClellan
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
Sandy 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
Jonathon Ward
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