

Manor Minutes

Volume 12 Issue 14

April 9, 2021

Those with last names beginning with **A-E & F-O** worship in the sanctuary **April 4** at 10:15am. The Worship Schedule can be found at: <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/sanctuary-schedule>

ZOOM – LIVE

Zoom Worship this Week - Live from the Sanctuary at 10:15am!

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45 am using the meeting ID and password.

Meeting ID: 932 4557 4206 Password: 026316

Fellowship with other "Zoomers" from **9:45 – 10:15am.**

Text your prayer concerns to Rev. Chris (412) 956-6590. He will share these during worship. At 10:15 am, mute yourself on Zoom (Not sure how to do that? Login at 9:45 am and someone will help). Those on Zoom are visible to each other for the entire worship service. If you would like to see but not be seen, click Stop Video on your Zoom screen.

Children Worship & Wonder

We invite children age 3 – Grade 5 to participate in Children Worship & Wonder. Join CW&W on Zoom around 10:30 am (contact Pastor Gena for the login information). To learn more and register your child(ren), <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/children-worship-wonder>

Tween Team

Gather online via Zoom with 4th-7th Graders on Sunday evenings from 5-6 pm. JC Leasure and Rev. Chris will co-lead this Sunday.



Pastor Gena will be on vacation: April 5 - 18

Food Drive at First Church of the Nazarene – April 17, 10am-11am
1336 N Main Street, Washington

Personnel Committee – April 20, 6pm via Zoom

May Newsletter deadline – April 22

Stay up to date, check www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



Thank you to everyone that has already received their vaccine and called. Contact Karen at the Church Office (724) 225-8610 after you have been fully vaccinated. She will keep a confidential list. This will help future decisions on increasing in-person Worship attendance.

Church Office hours:

Karen is working from home on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 9 am – 2 pm. She will be in the Church Office on Wednesday & Thursday, 9 a – 2 pm. The Church phone is forwarded to Karen's cell phone.

Pastor Gena is on
Vacation: April 5 - 18

Rev. Chris is off on Friday.

If you need anything at any time, please call the Church Office phone at 724-225-8610.



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor

April 11, 2021

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Rev. Stillwell

Call to Worship*

Serena Dube

We walk together as children of light and love. Come walk in the light.
We gather together as children of light and love. Come; gather in the love of God.
We live together as children of light and love. Come; live in the unity of God's Holy Spirit.
Let us come to worship in the light and love of God.

Opening Hymn

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

Audra Allen, organist

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem
drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Rev. Stillwell

Light of the world, shine upon us with your Holy Spirit. Gather in our midst, that we might know you are truly here. Guide us in unity and love, that we might be a blessing of unity and love for the world.

In a world of danger and anxiety, we come for a word of assurance and help. In a world of selfishness and greed, we come for a word of challenge.

Forgive our sins, Lord—all of them:
sins of action and sins of omission;
sins that have hurt others and sins that have hurt ourselves;
sins of body and sins of soul;
sins of thought and sins of expression;
sins of neglect and sins of intention;
sins of youth and sins of maturity.
Whatever form they take, we know that we are responsible,
so we ask for your pardon and cleansing, through Jesus our Lord

We ask this of you, O God, because in you all things are possible. In the midst of death, you call forth life. When all hope seemed gone, you raised Jesus from the grave. We come before you today, longing for your life-giving presence. God of new life, raise us up with all your people.

So sang the country music artist, Lucinda Williams, in one of my favorite of her songs. She goes on to change a lot of things over the course of the song including but not limited to, the number on her phone and the kind of car she drives all so that someone she doesn't want to see will not find her. It is an extreme reaction and more likely an exaggeration that helps describe how she felt. In this song she is simply describing what she would have done if she could to keep someone out of her life.

I imagine that none of us have gone to such extremes, but we all want to be safe and secure, and there are lots of people that we do not want coming into our house and lying down on our couch. There are people we just don't like. There are people we don't trust. There might be people that we fear, and then there are people we don't know and they may be the ones we want to come into our house the least. They say the devil you know is better than the devil you don't know, and for this reason we keep our doors locked for our own protection, but what if by locking others out we are locking ourselves out as well?

Whenever people change their locks it is usually to put a new one on because they have given someone a key and now they don't want to let that person in, but have you ever considered taking them off all together?

That's what we did where I grew up. I grew up in the country somewhat isolated and we never locked our doors. Well that's not true. We locked our front door, but the side door and the basement door were all unlocked, merely inconveniencing the burglars. And this was even after our home was broken into after we first moved out there. In fact the only time we locked our home was when prisoners escaped from the local prison and were spotted in our area. Now I was a latchkey kid, or I would have been if we had ever bothered to lock our doors, but now I really was, except, because I wasn't used to carrying a key I forgot to take it with me to school. My parents locked our doors to keep them out, but I was locked out as well and had to spend the afternoon at my neighbor's house until my parents got home to pick me up after work.

Maybe we were naive, but there was something wonderful about living somewhere where you weren't always afraid of who was out there. I think leaving our doors unlocked has shaped my life in a profoundly positive way. It helped me to see that the world is not such a fearful place that I need to wall myself in and keep it at bay, and I think that has left me to being open and unafraid to try new things and to go new places.

There was a book that came out at the end of the 1990's that was very influential to me. It is called the Culture of Fear and describes the way in which we often live in fear because images of violence and stories of crime filled our news shows. Glassner decries: "The use of poignant anecdotes in place of scientific evidence, the christening of isolated incidents as trends, depictions of entire categories of people as innately dangerous" as the reason why people are so much more fearful today than ever despite incidents of violent crime dropping by over 50% in many major U.S. cities since these rates peaked in the early 1990s.

The old saying is that if it bleeds it leads, and so we hear a lot of terrible stories, and it makes us fearful, so we lock our doors, just like the disciples did even after they had heard about Jesus' resurrection.

It was the night of the first Easter, although the Disciples didn't know that yet. They had seen the empty tomb. Mary had told them that she had seen the risen Christ. They had been told to go and tell the world the good news and what were they doing? "The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews."

I understand their fear, and I cannot say that I wouldn't have done the same thing if I were them. They had heard that Christ was risen, one of them believed that it was so, but their fear that religious leaders who came for Christ would come for them overrode their hope and their faith.

Isn't it interesting that, if their locks had worked they would have kept out what they feared but also what they loved? What if the locks worked so that Christ came and he could not get in and they feared that the person on the outside knocking assuring them it was their master was tricking them? What would have happened if their fear had kept the one they loved, their risen Lord, away along with those whom they feared? Would we be here today to ask the question?

Fortunately, they did not work. They could not keep Christ out who came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' But they did keep the Disciples in who were supposed to be out spreading the good news. So Jesus tells them again "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'

Receiving the Holy Spirit caused them to change their locks, and from that point on we hear nothing more about the disciples being afraid of the Jewish leaders or indeed of anything at all.

Now after hearing this story from the Gospel of John you may still want to keep the locks on your house. I totally understand. It is better to be safe than to be sorry, but what I am concerned about are the locks that are much more powerful and much more detrimental to our well-being. My concern is that you change the locks on your heart. You see, no physical lock could have kept Jesus out, but the locks on our hearts certainly can.

How many of you have seen Homan Hunt's painting, "the light of the world"? In it you see the crucified Christ with crown of thorns on his head and lantern in his hand, knocking at the door of the human heart. The door is a heavy door. Its hinges are rusty, for it isn't opened often and there is no handle on the outside. If the door is to be opened it must be opened from the inside. The master never forces his way in, for his ways are the ways of love. He just patiently knocks and to any man who opens the door, he is ready to light the way, to free that man to reach out in concern to others. He frees him to be a new kind of person. He frees him to care for those so close to him. He frees him to work for a new kind of world today.

But to so many the door is locked not by bolt or combination, but by fear, and fear is the strongest lock of all. Fear keeps us paralyzed, makes us uncertain what to do and therefore reluctant to do anything. We can be afraid to help someone for fear that we might make it worse or let them down. Afraid to get involved in a situation for fear that trouble will come to us. Afraid to reach out to others for fear that we will be harmed physically or emotionally, and the corona virus has only added to our fears when it comes to interacting with others. Finally, we can be afraid to let Christ in because we fear the loss of our will and that his will will take us where we do not want to go.

I have had the experience time and time again of not wanting to do something for fear of what I would get myself into, but then being glad later that I didn't give into my fear because of what I would have missed.

It should be noted that there is no sin in fear itself. Fear is a warning device that is meant to help increase our awareness as we move forward, it is not meant to be a trap that keeps us ever still.

When the Disciples see Christ he breathes on them the Holy Spirit, and their fear is relieved. The peace of Christ transmitted by the Holy Spirit is the key that opens the locks on their hearts and then they unlock their doors to go out into the world, a world that was filled with just as much danger as before, but a world that is no longer terrifying to them because they have changed the locks on their hearts.

We are not likely to have Christ come into our homes to breathe the Spirit on us, but there is a way that Christ can unlock our hearts from fear just the same. It is said that courage is fear that has said its prayers, and we should cherish that truth in our hearts so that whenever fear threatens to lock our hearts we can pull out the key of prayer and know that it is we who are the master of fear and not fear that is the master of us.

The disciples showed the courage of fear that has said its prayers when they returned to the world to preach the good news, and I hope that each of you will too. There are so many different locks you can use to protect your house, your car, your bike, your possessions, but I hope that the peace of Christ will be the only thing that you will allow to have a lock on your heart this day and everyday forever more.

Call to Offering*

Serena Dube

We give today because we have experienced the grace of God through Jesus Christ, who though he was rich, yet for our sake became poor, so that we by his poverty might become rich. As we give, we pray using the words of the hymn writer,

“Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise.”

Doxology

Dedication of Offering Prayer*

Rev. Stillwell

Generous God, we offer you our gifts as best we can. Although we don't share everything in common, as those first believers did, we are sharing these gifts, that they may be used for the common good. Bless these gifts with the power of your Holy Spirit. Bless us with a spirit of unity and love.

Invitation to Communion*

Rev. Stillwell

I mentioned last week going to the Phipps conservatory, and as great and beautiful as it is inside, one of the most striking scenes I saw that day occurred just outside the building. On the Schenley Bridge is a large metal fence covered with locks. Many were placed by couples with their initials to advertise who it is that has a lock on their heart, but most of them were put there by kids going home after the last day of school to signify their freedom.

I think they are really striking but also incredibly symbolic. They are free from school, and there is nothing that they need to lock away. Of course they used those locks to protect their possessions and they will no longer need to lock their books, their makeup, their ipods, but I hope they also will not lock up the knowledge they have gained but are now free to go out into the world to use it.

I thought of that as I thought of this table and I couldn't help but be reminded of the fact that this meal commemorates the events that took place in the upper room just before the crucifixion, but there are also events that took place in the upper room just after the resurrection that need remembering as well.

For on the night of the first Easter the disciples returned to the upper room and locked the doors for fear of what they had seen and heard, but Christ came to them and brought them peace and joy and when he left they had no need of their locks.

And so we come here as a people whose lives have been locked by sin and Jesus gives us the key to removing those locks.

We put the locks on, but only he can remove them, and when he does I hope we won't keep them around in case we need them again. Rather I hope we will find the nearest fence and leave them forever as a sign of our true freedom.

Communion Hymn

"I Come With Joy"

Audra Allen, organist

I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Diane Palfreyman

Powerful God, by his resurrection from the dead you declared Jesus Christ to be your Son. We gather around this table this morning to break this bread and to bless this cup in remembrance of Christ's blood poured out for us on Calvary's cross. Enlighten us by your Spirit this morning to see again how he could not be defeated and how his message of reconciling love could not be silenced.

Make us a temple of your Holy Spirit, and accept our sacrifices of love and gratitude. It's in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Words of Institution*

Rev. Stillwell

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: That the Lord Jesus Christ, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is broken for you; eat this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; that is poured out for you. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat of the bread and drink of the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. (I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Sharing in Communion

Closing Hymn

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

Jody Mullis, pianist

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

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.

* You can listen to these pieces of worship at
<https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/worship-audio-files>
Previous Worship services can also be found on the Church website or on YouTube,
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih_fzHCC2X0Jhc_sfniJ7C1O3X

PRAYER REQUEST

Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Rev. Chris (412-956-6590) 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!

Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center

Bill Behrens Rm 437
835 S Main Street
Washington PA 15301

Homebound Members:

Phyllis Cimino
317 Wellness Way
Strabane Trails #325
Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

In the Military

Lance Dague
Terrell McClain
Brandon Lipscomb
Daniel Robinson
Shawn Dallatore
Andrew Gregg
Zachary Keene
Sarah Lipscomb
Travis Ringer
Emily Chase
Dylan Demain

Gary Anderson
Avery Allen
Donna Bakaitis
Tom Barnhart
Bill Behrens
Bristol Allan Berry
Abby Blanchard
Mark & Susan Britko
Jordon Burk
Mary Chase
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Sue Donaldson
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Lois Gayman
Rose Ann Gorby
Joe Greene

Sloan Amelia Hagy
Judy Hanning
Aryn Hess
Ed & Harriet Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Bob Lanning
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &
Ty James Lacock
Cheryl Leach
Libby LeDuff
Pastor Michael Lehman
Lee & Betsy Martin
Don Melvin
Parker Muhleman
Michaela Nixon
Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Georgette Murray
Deborah Patterson
Joyce and Denny Paul
Betty & Charles Riecks

Betty Jo Riggle
Chip Rogers and his parents
Jim and Barb Roupe
John Shadeck
Theresa Shape
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Cathy Stewart
John Stewart
Beth Teagarden
Nadine Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Sarah Wittenberg
Marcie Yocum
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash

Fairhill Manor extends its sympathy to Jody Mullis upon the death of her father, Stanley Majesky on Monday, April 5. Please keep Jody and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Friends and family will be received from 2pm-8pm Friday April 9 at the Behm Funeral Home, 1477 Jefferson Road, Jefferson PA 15344. Condolences may be expressed at www.behm-funeralhomes.com.

