

**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 13 Issue 22**  
**May 13, 2022**



*The Story* Chapter 31 Revelation: Move That Bus! – May 15  
Prayer Shawl – May 16, 11am Parlor  
Bethany Class Wednesday Zoom – May 18, 1pm via Zoom  
Stewardship/Finance Ministry – May 18, 5:30 Library  
Deacon Training – May 18, 7pm Sanctuary  
Stay up to date, check [www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar)

### Bethany Class

The Bethany Class Zoom will open at 8:30am on Sunday.  
The class will begin at **9am** on Sunday.  
Meeting ID: 883 3055 7258 Passcode: 344061

Unit 3: Liberating Letters

May 15	Freedom from the Law	Galatians 3:18-29
May 22	Freedom, Love, and Faith & The Fruit of Freedom	Galatians 5:1-26

This Zoom class will also be available Wednesdays at 1pm.  
You will use the same Meeting ID and Passcode as Sunday link.



A new **book group** is beginning on May 23!  
All are welcome to join. Our first book selection is *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer* by Richard Rohr. Read Chapter 1 and join us via Zoom at 7 pm for discussion (or quiet listening) and fellowship. We will not meet on May 30 but will meet every Monday evening at 7 pm thereafter. We will choose our next book together as a group. If you need help ordering a book, please contact the Church Office. Scholarships are always available.

## Send A Card!

Sheila Harris' grandson, Parker, was born terminally ill with an incurable disease. His parents were told he would only live 6 months. Then they were told he wouldn't live to see 5. Now he is turning 10 in July!!!

Parker is immobile and non-verbal with the brain development of a 6 month old. This makes buying gifts for him difficult, but he LOVES cards.

For his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday his parents would love for him to receive 100 cards. No presents or money, just a card to brighten his birthday.

They would like cards to arrive by July 1. Mail to:  
Parker Stone  
136 Allen Rd, Ste 100 #1059  
Bakersfield, CA 93314

**Zoom Worship** will continue to be live at  
10:15am each Sunday

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45am using the  
following 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 be shared during  
worship to Rev. Chris at (412) 956-6590.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister  
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor  
Elders: Jackie Nelson, Bread  
Diane Palfreyman, Cup  
May 15, 2022 - 10:15am

**Prelude**

Dan Baker

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship**

Isaac Mayen

Leader: As the sun rises in the morning,

**People: let all creation worship God.**

Leader: From the highest mountains to the deepest seas,

**People: let all creation proclaim the name of the Lord.**

Leader: God alone is worthy to be praised.

**People: God alone makes all things new.**

**All: All praise, glory, and honor be yours, forever.**

**Opening Hymn**

*"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"*

Audra Allen, organist

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;  
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou mayest smile at all thy foes.

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Stillwell

God of love and goodness, you lead us into pastures of plenty giving us food for our bodies and nourishment for our souls. You show us the source of salvation, filling our hearts with the clean, fresh water of your love. You guide us on difficult paths, comforting us with the assurance of eternal life in your name. Help us to recognize your voice, that we may be at peace in your presence, even when we are afraid.

Risen Christ, rise in our hearts and in our lives. Bring new life into our midst when death threatens our hope. Expand our love within our communities when love is in short supply. Grant mercy in our world when sin and shadows threaten the peace. Resurrect us with your grace, and raise us up as new creations in your love, we are forgiven, accepted, and free.

Spirit of life, breathe new life within us. Blow through our worship with your enlivening presence, and rise up in us with new hope. Dwell in our community, in our church, and in our hearts this day, that your love may bind us together and sends us forth to serve.

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O Lord, who pours out healing and hope, even in the presence of our enemies. Compassionate Shepherd, Source of living water, Spirit of eternal life, we give you thanks for guiding us in the way we should go. Amen.

*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:**

*“Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”  
Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.*

**First Scripture Reading**

**Revelation 21**

Donna Stenski

**Special Music**

Dan Baker

**Children’s Message**

J.C. Leasure

**Second Scripture Reading**

**Revelation 22:1-7**

Rev. Stillwell

**Sermon**

**“All Things New”**

Rev. Stillwell

We often think that new is better. Any time something has aged just a little and begun to show some wear we want to replace it with something new. New clothes are exciting, but wear them a few times and they begin to feel old. A new haircut lasts a few days, and then we often go back to styling it the same old way. Still, this tendency for new to fade to old does not dampen our enthusiasm for the new any less.

So many commercials advertise products as being new and improved and we think, maybe we’ll try that cleaner even if it didn’t work before. Maybe I’ll buy that potato chip even though I hated it the last time I ate it. After all, it is new. I once knew a used car dealer whose motto was, “Everyone drives a used car” and that is true, because as soon as you drive it off the lot that new car becomes a used car. Still, when it comes time to replace that used car it is hard to resist the new car smell.

So new is a great motivator. Make something new and people will try it, but we all know too well, that new is not always better. Paradoxically the problem with new sometimes is the very thing that makes it appealing. Something that is new is so precisely because it has no history. It has no previous use or previous owners. Many people would rather have a home with some history and some character rather than a brand new home that looks the same as the others in the neighborhood. Others would rather have older furniture complete with nicks and scratches that make it unique rather than something out of a catalogue. Many prefer the clothes that are worn to the point of perfect fit rather than something brand new that needs to be broken in.

My friend, Mike, was just such a person. I clearly remember the day I accompanied him to the mall to buy a new pair of tennis shoes. I remember this normally mundane event because of the abnormal event that took place after. I remember how we walked back to his car in the parking lot and he had me lay the shoe box on the pavement behind his car so that he could run it over with his truck several times in an attempt to make them feel old and familiar.

I was so shocked and confused by his actions, but maybe I shouldn’t have been. The truth is, as exciting as new is, the lure and comfort of the familiar is just as strong. This is why we often pay more money for new jeans that look old but this type of shortcut misses the point entirely. When it comes to appreciating the old, we like the memories that come with the familiar. We like the past that is evoked by the memories that come with the familiar. There is always a tension, therefore, between the old and the new. We get

tired of the old and long for the new, but then we miss the old while getting frustrated at how quickly the new becomes the old, and so it goes.

This tension may be most evident when it comes to our thoughts on Heaven. Part of the allure of reaching Heaven is the hope of being reconnected with the familiar. One of the reasons we hope to attain it is because there we believe we will be reunited with our lost loved ones. Our parents and grandparents who loved us, our children who left too soon, our pets whom we have not seen since childhood we hope will be waiting to welcome us, and we also hope that when we do see them, they will not appear as they did at the end of their life, but they will look as we remember them. If all dogs really do go to Heaven I expect to see my old friend, Gidget, running and wagging her tail to greet me like she did all her life whenever my mother came home from work or when my dad had a sandwich to eat, and not as she was when she died, aged and limping and whimpering with cancer.

That is what we expect to find at the end of our life but have you ever thought about what you expect to see? Have you ever thought of what Heaven would look like? I bet that it looks something like some place that you spent in your life, some place you remember fondly. Usually, I think of a beautiful field with wonderful trees and flowers, and I notice that often Heaven to me looks a lot like the campus of Bethany College or the hills of Oglebay Park where I spent so much time in youth.

My preaching professor, Joey Jeter, once told a story of a man named Billy who was dying. When his last moments came, Dr. Jeter went to his bedside and Billy told him that he saw heaven last night. Joey asked, "What did it look like?" to which Billy joyfully responded, "Well, I couldn't quite tell about all of it. But there was a building right in the middle that looked like the capitol of Texas. It was marvelous." Joey wondered, why the state Capitol of Texas? But then he remembered that Billy had lived his life on a farm in south Texas and had never left the area except for one trip to Austin where he saw the capitol. It must have been the most beautiful thing he ever saw, and so, when he saw Heaven, his brain reached back for the most beautiful thing he had ever seen to describe what was in front of him.

That explanation makes sense to me because the joy of heaven is seeing the old and familiar. As we come now to the final book of the Bible, the Revelation of John, we get our first clear look at what Heaven is like and it is described as being new. He writes, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' (Revelation 21:1,2,5)

So, John's vision of Heaven, which has endured to inform our own idea of Heaven by being recorded in the Bible describes a place where everything is new.

This is understandable because, to John's audience, new was undoubtedly better. After Jesus ascended into Heaven his disciples went throughout the Roman Empire preaching the good news of Jesus Christ first to the Jewish people and then to the Gentiles. They established the church in many cities and taught theology. It would be a fitting and happy ending if it were not for all the opposition they encountered. The book of Revelation is the last chapter in our story, and many people interpret it to be about a future that has not happened but I subscribe to an interpretation of Revelation called preterism which argues that the prophecies in this book have already been fulfilled. The lesson of the book of Revelation, in this view, is not that God will send tribulation to us, but that the history of the church is one where tribulation and trial have come to all who have preached the good news, but we are assured that whenever tribulation comes we can turn to God and find God. Because of the awesome love of our Lord we will never be abandoned.

This is John's message to Christians in the early church. They were being persecuted. They had no power or money or respectability to hold onto. The world to which they were going was better in every way than the one that they would be leaving behind so there was no reason for them to hold on to the old.

They say that freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose, and in that way the early Christians were truly free, but in John's vision, the final vision recorded in the Bible, Heaven is described as being new yet also familiar. It was a new city, but it was a new version of the old familiar city of Jerusalem. The difference was that it had been purified of all that defiled it and made it less than glorious so that it shown like a jewel. It still had its walls as before only now they were made of sapphires, emeralds, and pearls.

So Heaven is a place where the old and familiar things will live in eternity and never decay or age or suffer. In Heaven what is old is not lost or discarded for something new, rather it is restored to the glory it was always meant to have. It is a place where the old and familiar faces of our lives will receive the freshness and beauty of being new while retaining the charm and comfort of being old.

We have come to the end of the story, but really it is the end of the story so far, because each one of us is another chapter in the story of God and God's love for us. The book of Revelation concludes our Bible because it leaves us with the promise that whatever we face God faces it with us, and God will always send a deliverer to help get us through the trials of life. Most importantly wherever you are in your story, Revelation promises that God is leading us to a wonderful ending. We have seen God do amazing things by calling Abraham to go to the Promised land, leading the Israelites out of Egypt by parting the Red Sea, by overcoming death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but the final chapter of our story lets us know to just wait, you haven't seen anything yet.

John's vision of the coming Kingdom implies that everything old will be new again, yet everything new will be familiar as an old pair of jeans.

Just as Jesus Christ is referred to as being the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, all at once, so too is everything in Heaven as new as a newborn baby and as familiar as an old pair of shoes. You think antiques are nice? You think the newest electronic gadget is great? Just wait. You haven't seen anything yet!

### **Call to Offering**

Owen Stillwell

We who already claim the promise of eternal life wish to share that good news with others, both here and around the world. Let us give generously so all the world may know.

### **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

Loving God, you have given us the task of loving one another. May the gifts we offer bring love and life to others. May the love we share bring hope to our world when it forgets how to love. Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Pastor Gena

At this Table, we remember and give thanks for the life of Jesus and his teachings. We remember the death of Jesus, and we celebrate his resurrection. At this Table, we remember what Jesus demonstrated for us through his dying and rising again: nothing can separate us from the love of God. At this Table, we give thanks for the gift of the unearned yet overwhelming grace of God.

But at the Last Supper that we remember here, Jesus pointed us toward the future as well. He said things like, “I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of God” (Mark 14:25, similar in Matthew 26:29).

In Luke we read that Jesus said to his friends, who were reclining with him around the table, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.’ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, ‘Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes’” (Luke 22:15-18).

This Table is a table of anticipation. Jesus has promised that he will come again. Jesus pointed us to that great day when he will eat this meal with us again in the kingdom of God. In our Scriptures this morning, we get glimpses of what that new heaven and new earth – that kingdom of God - might be like. The river of the water of life, fruit from the tree of life, leaves for the healing of the nations. God making a home right among us. No more death or mourning or crying or pain.

Jesus has promised to meet us here again, in true presence, at this Table. This Table is a table of hope, of assurance that a better day is coming. May our Table today be long enough and wide enough that all people looking for that hope and assurance will find a welcome seat.

### **Communion Hymn**

*“A Hymn of Joy We Sing”*

Audra Allen, organist

A hymn of joy we sing around your table, Lord;  
again our grateful tribute bring, our solemn vows record.

### **Prayer for the Bread & Cup**

Jackie Nelson

Holy God, three in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, graciously hear our prayer.

We eat and drink at this table today remembering the precious truth that Jesus is our peace.  
He is called the Prince of Peace. Jesus died for our peace.

This world certainly is not peaceful. It is torn by war, pain, sickness, hate, murder, fear and grief.

This table is peaceful. The bread and cup are peaceful. This room is peaceful. Can we just stay here?  
No. We can't. Would You come with us?

We can leave here hopeful, renewed by Your Word and strengthened by the Holy Spirit  
who comes with us when we leave. We can share peace, where we are, with whoever we meet.  
In Jesus name. Amen.

### **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.*

## 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

*"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"*

Jody Mullis, pianist

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

## Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

May you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as the Lord abounds in love for you all.

Recorded worship services can be found on the Church website or on YouTube,  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih\\_fzHCC2X0Jhc\\_sfniJ7C1O3X](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih_fzHCC2X0Jhc_sfniJ7C1O3X)



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

## Homebound Members:

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

Mrs. Mary McDonough  
949 Bruce Street  
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokeley  
900 N. Cass Lake Road, Apartment 324  
Waterford, MI 48328

Bernard and Jane Teagarden  
441 Valley Brook Road  
McMurray, PA 15317

Nadine Teagarden  
826 Old National Pike  
Claysville PA 15323

## 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

Ed Alexy  
Avery Allen  
Terry Bailey  
Donna Bakaitis  
Jim Banish  
Tom Barnhart  
Abby Blanchard  
Susan Britko  
Mabel Brooks  
Sandra Carman  
Denise Charles  
Wanda Chicone  
Emily Cope Robinson  
Ruth Cox  
Irma Davis  
Benjamin Dube  
Jessica Duke  
Libby Eberhard  
Fred Engle  
Jay Freudenberg  
Jett Fuller  
Derek Gardiner  
David & Lois Gayman  
Joe Greene  
Bonnie Gregg

Linda Hainer  
Kyle Hallam  
Judy Hanning  
Aryn Hess  
Ed Jackman  
Dallas Jacobovitz  
Kenger Family  
Family of Pam Kloss  
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &  
Ty James Lacock  
Von Lacock  
Bob Lanning  
Libby LeDuff  
Lee & Betsy Martin  
Dave McConnell  
Don Melvin  
Michaela Nixon  
Carmen Oliverio  
Ruth Mikuta  
Deborah Patterson  
Bo & Patty Pryor  
Kayda Richards  
Cathy Rentgen  
Betty Jo Riggle  
Dave Ross  
Jim Roupe

John Shadeck  
Hannah Simpson  
Doug and Tracy Smith  
Cathy Stewart  
John Stewart  
Bernard and Jane Teagarden  
Beth Teagarden  
Nadine Teagarden  
Gary Weaver  
Nikki Wells  
Tom Williams  
Chuck & Mary Wiseman  
Sarah Wittenberg

**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 am – 2 pm. The Church phone is forwarded to Karen's cell phone and can be reached anytime.

Pastor Gena is off on Friday. Pastor Gena is working from home and comes in to the church as needed. Feel free to text, call, email or set up a time to meet with Pastor Gena.

Rev. Chris is off on Tuesday during the school year.

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