

Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 38

Sept 11, 2020

Please remember for the safety of others, anytime you enter the Church:

Wear a mask

Sign in

Use the hand sanitizer

Thank you!!

Those with last names beginning with G-L and S-Z worship in the Sanctuary this week at 9:30 am

ZOOM - LIVE

Zoom Worship this Week - Live from the Sanctuary at 9:30 am!

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9 am using the same Meeting ID and password.

Meeting ID: 932 4557 4206

Password: 026316

Fellowship with other "Zoomers" from 9 - 9:30 am.

Text your prayer concerns to Pastor Gena (724) 263-0033. She will share these during worship. At 9:30 am, mute yourself on Zoom (Not sure how to do that? Login at 9 am and someone will help). Please be aware that we will be recording Zoom Worship this week and posting it to our website for folks to view later.

Children **WORSHIP & WONDER**

We invite children to join in worship via Zoom at 9:30 am. Materials for children to work with during Worship will be attached to the Manor Minutes. Look for the beginning of a new CW&W year soon!

Worship Attendance Schedule

WORSHIP  WITH US!

September 13: Last names beginning with G-L and S-Z

September 20: Last names beginning with A-F and S-Z

September 27: Last names beginning with G-L and M-R

October 4: Last names beginning with A-F and G-L



2021 Budget Meeting – Stewardship/Finance and Trustee
Tuesday, September 15, 6 pm via Zoom

Elders Meeting – Thursday, September 17, 6:30 pm via Zoom

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

New Learning Opportunities!

How It Works

- Each month we will have the opportunity to watch 2 recorded webinars.
- Each webinar lasts for 1-2 hours. Watch on your own time, at your own pace.
- Links to the webinars will be available at the beginning of the month. These will be emailed to you after you register (see below). If you cannot access the webinars via the Internet but could watch them on DVD, please indicate that in your registration.
- We will gather via Zoom on the **First Monday** of the following month for discussion.

September Webinars

Empowering the Laity to Care for Pastors

Presenter: Rev. Greg Alexander

Pastors and their families are human, too! They have the same realities to deal with in their lives as do the members of their congregation. This webinar will explore healthy and unique ways laity can help meet the needs of their pastors.

The Rev. Greg Alexander is the General Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky. He has been working with congregations and pastors as a member of the CCK staff for over 25 years and brings that experience to this webinar. In addition, he is an adjunct faculty member of Lexington Theological Seminary as an instructor in Congregational Systems.

Using Congregational Assets to Strengthen Community

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Joe Blosser

Does your congregation have a building that sits empty most of the year? Do you have a large plot of land around the church? Are there local leaders, key influencers and great storytellers in your congregation? Do you have cooks, seamstresses, contractors and grandmothers? This webinar intends to help pastors and lay leaders explore the ways the various assets of their congregations could be put to more intentional missional use. We will consider charity and volunteer work and also think of systemic changes congregations can support through grassroots coalition building, policy and structural change and racial reconciliation.

Rev. Dr. Joe Blosser is the Robert G. Culp Jr. Director of Service Learning and Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy at High Point University. He is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He joined the HPU faculty in 2011 after teaching at the University of Chicago and DePaul University. He primarily teaches Business Ethics, Educational Ethics, Christian Theology and Civic Responsibility and Social Innovation.

Discuss these webinars via Zoom on Monday, October 5 at 7 pm. A link/call-in number for this discussion will be sent to you during the last week of September.

Register at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/webinars or by calling the Church Office.



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Dr. W. Darwin Collins, Interim Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

September 13, 2020

Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

Prelude*

organ by Audra Allen

Welcome*

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship*

Rita Puskarich

How large is your heart, O God, and how great your forgiveness to us.
Your mercy is forever and your compassion is endless.
Oh, how large is your heart, our God, and how extravagant your grace,
Our praises are to you forever.

Opening Hymn*

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

organ by Audra Allen

Come, thou almighty King, help us thy
name to sing; help us to praise:
one God, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us, ancient of days.

To thee, great One in Three eternal
praises be hence evermore! They sovereign
majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Pastor Gena

We praise you, God!
You, O God, deliver us!
It is you who forgives us!
In you we are saved!
Praise be to you, O God!

Gracious and merciful God,
In you there is fullness of life, but we have not always lived for you.
In you we find forgiveness and release, but we have not always forgiven others and released ourselves
from hatred and pain.
In you we are loved, but we have not always loved ourselves, nor have we always loved others.
May you be moved with compassion as you look upon us and forgive us again, we pray.
Teach us to forgive.
Teach us to live for you.
Teach us to love as you do.

We give you thanks for giving us abundant opportunities and ways to return to you.
Thank you for this time of worship each week that re-centers us and refocuses our attention on you.
Whether at home or here in the Sanctuary, give us the sense that we are one body, that we are united in

purpose and in love. Help us to remember each other in prayer and support as we see each other's faces. Give us the connection that we need during this fragmented time.

We pray now for those who are sick or in trouble. Heal their disease, relieve their distress, return to them joy. Show us how to love, we pray.

We pray for all who suffer the violence of war and all whose lives have been upended by natural disaster. Bring an end to violence, we pray. Help us to live in peace with our neighbors. Help us to live in harmony with the earth. Show us how to love, we pray.

We pray for children and for all who depend upon others for support. Protect those who are vulnerable and weak. Give strength and wisdom to those who care for them. Show us how to love, we pray.

We pray for those who lead and make decisions on our behalf. Stir up in them a desire for justice, enable them to fulfill their responsibilities with integrity, and drive from them any spirit of selfish gain. Show us how to love, we pray.

We hold those in our hearts and minds who need your special care today. For those in joy or distress, we pray now in the silence of these moments.

And now strengthen our resolve to love and show mercy throughout our days. Lead our feet to holy moments of wonder and belonging. Guide the work that you have set out for us to do in this time and in this place. We pray these things together in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray this way...

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.

Anthem*

“Day by Day”, Swedish folk song
performed by Jim Cope and Audra Allen

Children's Message*

Pastor Gena

Do you ever make art (like coloring, drawing, painting, writing poems or stories, crafts)? Why do you make art? What do you enjoy about it? Do you ever make art to show how you feel? Why does making art help with that?

One of today's scriptures is a psalm (Psalm 114) that celebrates God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Do you remember how we talked a couple weeks ago about how the pharaoh in Egypt forced the Israelites to do hard, dangerous work without pay, or any human rights, to build his empire? Many countries have enslaved people to build up wealth and power— including the United States—even though it is unjust. It isn't right.

Do you remember the baby Moses? And God talking to Moses from a burning bush? God used Moses to free the Israelites from Pharaoh's hard labor. Pharaoh didn't want to lose all the work they were doing for free, but God kept making it harder and harder for Pharaoh to keep them. Eventually the Israelites were able to flee, and God divided the Red Sea so they could walk through the waters to freedom.

Psalm 114 is a poem that uses art and creative expression to depict God's wonder, strength, and loyalty toward the Israelites. In the poem, God even taunts the mountains and the seas—which should be immovable forces or objects—saying that they trembled and fled.

Art like this psalm can be a way to resist (push back against) mighty powers and oppressive forces that hurt people. Look around this week for art that resists mistreatment and unfair practices in your community—here at church, in your schools, public spaces, at home – maybe even something that you have made!

Dear God, thank you for art and all the ways you give us to express ourselves. Thank you for caring for your people. Thank you for calling on us to resist things that aren't right and work together to find a better way. Amen.

Scripture Reading*

Matthew 18:21-35

Rita Puskarich

Sermon*

“Beware Your Limits of Forgiveness”

Rev. Collins

Oh, I do love Peter! He made life so much easier for his fellow disciples...and even generations later for us in turn. You see living in relationship, whether in families or among friends...or even among members in the church does create some uncomfortable situations...hurt feelings, jealousies, times of tension that leave us upset with one another. The disciples wanted to know what was expected of them...we want to know what is expected of us! So, Peter, boldly steps forward and no doubt feeling somewhat sure of himself comes to Jesus to ask for clarity of how often should they forgive one another in those uncomfortable situations.

I have a belief that by this time in their travels with Jesus that they have learned that their teacher goes beyond what the normal expectations and requirements of faithful Jewish devotees would recommend. So...in place of forgiving once or twice...why not say 7...you know once for each day of the week. Now that's generous and compassionate. And just as he was prepared to pat himself on the back, Jesus corrects him by saying not 7 but seventy-seven times...or it also can correctly be translated as 70 times 7. Please don't get hung up on the precise number...Peter didn't, he well understood that what Jesus was truly saying was this is not a question that deserves a definite number. Like saying a kagillion...it's endless.

Forgiveness for Jesus had much more to do with the quality than the quantity. Forgiveness for one who wishes to live like Christ is a way of being, a way of living and relating to others...even those we do not know. And to those for whom we have no responsibility.

Consider how Jesus clarifies this concept of forgiveness. In this remarkable story of the king and his servant. Now how this servant ever accumulated the debt to the king, I can't imagine...for it was a sum of 10,000 talents...might as well have been that kagillion. As great as a national debt. For a denarii was the equivalent of a day's work and a talent consisted of 20 years of a day laborer's wage...or 200,000 years of wages. No Jesus was exaggerating for a purpose.

And the purpose was to correct our understanding of the importance of forgiveness. Without forgiveness relationships would never be mended, families would disintegrate into loneliness, and most importantly, without it we have no hope. Among the ways we approach life from our common sense is to repeat that old adage, “Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice shame on me.” To forgive, especially if it is a limitless number of times makes us look foolish, look weak. And for us who want to be like Christ the answer to that is...and your point is?

Not to forgive is to hold a grudge, to feel wounded and angry leads to seeking revenge or to getting even. All these responses lead to a continuation of separation and hurt. We all have our stories of hurt and

offense...and we live in a time when the world seems so angry and divided...forgiveness is our Christian response to all of this. But as C. S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*, “Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.”

So much of the time we look for alternatives...some avoid the ones who have offended them, or seek revenge by criticizing them to others, some seek revenge, some just sulk in the darkness feeling paralyzed.

With all these methods the relationship is not healed, the pain doesn't go away, we are stuck in the past...forgiveness is the way of Christ...it's the banner that rises above the cross...it's the only solution that lasts and brings peace and reconciliation.

Oh, it doesn't mean that we condone what was done or forget or ignore it, it just means that we refuse to allow past hurts to infect and darken our future. Forgiveness creates room for us to breathe, to make new relationships. Forgiveness is a matter of the heart and spirit, for it is something that must be learned, it does not come naturally for us. We must rise above our instincts.

Thankfully, we have examples of when forgiveness was practiced...it was 2006 in Lancaster County where a man by the name of Charles Carl Roberts took 10 young Amish girls hostage in their one room schoolhouse. Tragically he shot 8 of them, killing 5 before he committed suicide. What followed that seemingly unforgivable event, shook the world as the Amish community in their profound grief reached out to the family of the shooter to offer their forgiveness and grace. Only forgiveness could heal that chasm.

And the most powerful dynamic of forgiveness is that **we** can't create the power to forgive...it originates with God...for we can only share the forgiveness that we have already received...forgiven, and so how many times should I forgive others....

Call to Offering*

Rita Puskarich

Offering. Yes, I first think monetary. We need to give to support our beautiful building and grounds. Fairhill Church is well cared for and we have a pleasing and comfortable building to share. We have very competent and caring staff who go over and above to meet the needs of this congregation. However, I also consider offering as time, talent, skills, enthusiasm, concern, thoughtfulness, kindness, intelligence, possessions, physical strength, patience. - Whenever you have one of these attributes, please consider sharing them as an offering to God and to each other.

Dedication of Offering Prayer*

Rev. Collins

Thank you, God, for this high and holy moment in worship and in life when we have something to give that others need. Take our gifts, our witness, our lives to benefit all your human family. May your glory be known among us and in all the world. Amen

Invitation to Communion*

Rev. Collins

Christ's table is spread for all of us—a place of gathering, of fellowship and of praise. Whether in this sanctuary or in the privacy of our homes, we are gathered. Let us rejoice as we respond to God's gracious invitation to receive these gifts of Christ's body and blood that we may be strengthened to live as faithful disciples. Let us come...the table is prepared, the presence of Christ is with us.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Kevin Puskarich

Dear God, it is so uplifting for us to be here in your house and give thanks for your forgiving spirit. We come to this table that you prepare for us to celebrate the life of your son Jesus. We are humbled and

grateful for the unselfish sacrifice he made for the forgiveness of our sins so that we have the chance for eternal life. May this small meal of bread and wine fill our souls with the love and forgiveness that our Savior Jesus affords us all. As we go forward, help us to also show love and forgiveness to those we come in contact with. We thank you, we praise you, and we love you. AMEN

Words of Institution*

Rev. Collins

Gathered with his followers around the table, Jesus took the bread and offering a prayer of thanksgiving to God, broke it and gave it to them and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you." Later in the meal he took a cup and offered a similar prayer of thanks to God. He gave it to them and said, "Take and drink. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for many for the forgiveness of sin." Join with all of us by eating and drinking these gifts of God for us, the people of God.

Closing Hymn

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

piano by Jody Mullis

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.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Benediction*

Rev. Collins

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Now go into the world and offer forgiveness to others. The world needs your witness and love. Go in God's peace and grace

* You can listen to these pieces of worship at <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/worship-audio-files>.



Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Pastor Darwin (412-337-4293) 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 and only to Pastor Darwin and Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

Prayer List:

Avery Allen
Donna Bakaitis
Bill Behrens
Bristol Allan Berry
Mark & Susan Britko
Jordon Burk
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Nick Cross
Irma Davis
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg

Judy Hanning
Aryn Hess
Ed & Harriet Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Tom Lane
Bob Lanning
Cheryl Leach
Lee & Betsy Martin
Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Jody Mullis
Georgette Murray
Peggy Oliverio
Joe Palfreyman
Deborah Patterson

Denny Paul
Sadie Reese
Betty Jo Riggle
Chip Rogers and his parents
Jim and Barb Roupe
Cathy Stewart
Beth Teagarden
Melissa Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash

Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center

Bill Behrens Rm 437
Rev. Marge Frank

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



Fairhill Manor has entered a new era: the age of anytime, anywhere giving. We are now signed up with **Givelify**, the mobile giving app for places of worship and charities.

Givelify gives you a beautiful, easy giving experience using your smartphone. There are no frustrating web forms to fill out, and recurring gifts are easy to set up and modify. Even better, it's free to download and use. It's safe and secure and gives you access to your complete giving record.

Want to see how it works? [Watch the demonstration video](#) that shows you all about how to make and track donations.

Ready to get started? [Download](#) the Givelify app for Android or iPhone.