

Manor Minutes
Volume 16 Issue 16
April 18, 2025

- Bethany Class Luncheon – April 22, Noon @ Eat'n Park
- Deficit Task Force Meeting – April 22
- Personnel Committee – April 23, 6pm
- Choir Practice – April 24, 6:30pm
- Croppers – April 25 & 26, Large Fellowship Hall

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

April 20 – **Sunrise Worship Service**, 7am
Breakfast following Sunrise Service
(No Sunday School)
Easter Worship Service – 10:15am
(No Children Worship & Wonder)



Save your items for the Rummage Sale that will be held on **May 8-10**. All items donated will be put out for sale with the proceeds going to the FMCC General Fund.



CAN YOU HELP?

There will be a **Community Blessing Service** on May 4th from 1-4pm under the pavilion on Main Street in Washington (across the street from the Observer Reporter). Several churches from the city will join together for prayer and worship. There will be 6 worship bands, food trucks and free children's activities. FMCC will have a table to distribute temporary tattoos to children and to share news about Fairhill. We need 3 or 4 people to represent FMCC at our table. If you are able to help with this event, please contact Rev. Chris or call the Church Office (724) 225-8610.



**“50 Days of Spiritual Practice:
From Easter to Pentecost”**
by author Traci Smith

Pastor Gena will be sharing a daily text from this resource embracing Eastertide, the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost. If you would like to receive a **daily text** from Pastor Gena during this time, please sign up in the Narthex with your name and cell phone number.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Gene Sheller, Bread
Connie Sheller, Cup
April 11, 2025 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Anthem

“Easter Song,” by Allen Pote

Choir

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Gary Ford

Leader: Christ the Lord is risen today.
People: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Leader: Earth and heaven in chorus say:
People: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Leader: Love’s redeeming work is done.
People: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Leader: Christ has opened paradise.
People: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Leader: This is Easter Sunday.
People: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn

“*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! All creation, join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Gena

On this Easter morning, we welcome you, Jesus, into our lives. We welcome your resurrection, for it is life-changing, life-giving and life-sustaining. We welcome the hope it brings into our world. We welcome the joy it brings into our darkness. We welcome the empty tomb, for we know that it means that you are alive and with us.

God of new and renewed life, we praise and worship you! We give you thanks for your presence in our lives – resurrected and powerful! We celebrate your victory over death, over all the powers that would defeat us!

O God, with faces touched by the light of a new day, and hearts warmed by our prayers and praises, we come to you with the needs of our world and the burdens of our hearts.

Into the light of Easter morning, we raise those who are struggling with illness, with despair over their lives, or with the breakdown of relationships... May the light of Christ shine upon them.

Into the light of Easter morning, we bring those places in our world where war, violence, poverty and need are the experiences of everyday life... May the light of Christ shine upon them.

And into the light of Easter morning we bring ourselves and those we love: our private struggles, our heart's yearnings, our disappointed dreams, our fears and anxiety... May the light of Christ shine upon us.

Raise us up, risen One! Renew our lives, living One! Resurrect our dreams, resurrected One! Through Jesus the Christ, our risen Lord and Savior, we pray together as he taught us...

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 Lesson

Isaiah 65:17-25

Gene Sheller

Anthem

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna," by Mark Hayes

Choir

A Children Worship & Wonder Story

Pastor Gena

"Jesus Is Risen: Appearance to Mary Magdalene"
Based on Matthew 27:57-28:10 and John 20:1-18

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 24:1-12

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

"Living In Resurrection"

Rev. Stillwell

Have you ever gone on a journey? I don't mean a trip where you pack a bag, get on a plane and return a week later. I mean a journey where you pack as much as you can because you don't know how long it will take you to get where you're going, to a place that is strange and different and you know you won't be back for a while.

The stories of our culture are filled with such journeys; in fact the idea of such a journey makes for a good story. So heroes like Dante descend into the Inferno. Phineas Fogg goes around the world in 80 days. Frodo takes the one ring to Mt. Doom in the heart of dark Mordor.

In Homer's Odyssey, Odysseus makes the long journey home from Troy after a long war and goes through a series of adventures which he survives because of his strong desire to get home to his family only to find that when he gets there home has changed, and he has changed.

Now the closest I have ever come to a Homeric journey is when my dad and I packed up a moving van with all that I owned and traveled across the south and southwest from Wheeling to Fort Worth, TX and he and I saw things we had never seen before except maybe on TV. I remember one time sitting in the passenger seat and exclaiming with horror that the single engine plane I saw out of my window was going to crash into the side of the road only to see it pull up at the last second and dust the crops with pesticide. When I finally did return home four years later, home had changed, and so had I.

As I say the idea of a journey is what makes so many stories compelling and the gospel story is no exception. For the disciples went on a journey with Jesus Christ when he said to them "Follow me." This

journey took them from the shores of the Galilee to Capernaum, from Nazareth to crowds in small towns all across Israel, and eventually it took them to Jerusalem.

In fact, they had begun their journey to Jerusalem a while ago and when they got there it ended in disaster. Jesus entered to the sound of cheering and praises as the Son of God should. Then he threw the money changers out of the temple just as God's anointed would. Then he set down with his disciples after a week of teaching and turning Israel's capital on its ear to celebrate the Passover, the most holy of Jewish holidays, as you would expect a true rabbi to do.

Things were going so well, and then it all went to Hell almost literally when he told them that he would be arrested after one of them betrayed him. Then Judas left. Then he said that they would deny him, and they said that they would not, but they did. Even then it seemed like this was nothing that Christ couldn't get out of. He told his captors, "Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?"

Why didn't he? As they beat him, as they tried him, as they mocked him, as they hung him on the cross, he did nothing until the unthinkable happened and he drew his last breath. The journey which started with such passion, hope, excitement and possibility, ended in the complete humiliation and destruction of the one whom they had given up their lives to follow. At that point it seemed to be a journey to nowhere.

As if that wasn't enough, to make matters worse, to add insult to injury, they woke up the next day to their friend Mary telling them that someone had taken his body so that they could not even perform the traditional burial rites. Peter went to investigate and seeing that what Mary had said was true, did the only thing he could think to do. "He went home, amazed at what had happened."

Later that night Jesus appeared to them and eventually ascends into Heaven, but the gospel of John tells us a bit more. In John's gospel he appears to them, and they go home to where they began the Sea of Galilee

I often wonder what that walk home must have been like. Certainly, it was more different than the journey to Jerusalem. It is a lot easier to go somewhere when you are excited about what you will find there, but when you are returning home after a journey that did not end well every step must feel like failure.

They saw Jesus risen from the dead so their journey was complete and the happy ending that they had hoped to find was found, but I have to believe that their joy was overshadowed a bit by the fact that their faith had failed them.

They abandoned Christ during his time of need. Moreover, he had told them many times that he would die and be risen. As they were closer to him than anyone, they should have known what was happening. They should have understood. They should have believed. Jesus had told them, but they didn't listen, they didn't understand, and they didn't believe.

Fortunately for them the story doesn't end there. From this point on they do understand and they do believe and they live a life inspired by their belief in Christ's resurrection.

T.S. Elliot once remarked:

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

That was the disciples' experience. To go on a journey that was wonderful and bewildering and only at the end did they wind up where they had begun and finally understand not only where they had been, but where they were and where they were going so that the book of Acts tells us that disciples go around preaching the good news of Christ to all whom they meet.

Peter who failed so miserably is redeemed so wonderfully when Jesus appears again by the Sea of Galilee and commands him to "Feed my sheep".

From the point of the first Easter, the disciples' journey is complete and they returned to their homes, only their homes were not the same because they were not the same. They no longer lived in Galilee. They lived in the resurrection.

We too have journeyed to Easter, but we did so expecting to find the tomb empty and Christ resurrected. We experience resurrection today, and, in that regard, we have one step up on the disciples, but can we do what they did and live in resurrection not just on Easter but for the rest of our lives?

To live in resurrection is to live in the joy and power that comes from Christ. It is to see the hope of Christ in every situation. For if Christ is risen from the dead, if he has power over all things including death then there is nothing that can overcome him, and it means knowing that even when we abandon him, he never abandons us.

The hope of the resurrection is that this world is not just where Jesus died. This world is where Jesus lives! And because Jesus lives, because God has broken the power of sin and death, we have been set free to live as well. Sometimes that is hard to believe. The principalities and powers of evil often appear to be in control. Some days it is hard to see with eyes of faith. That is why we need the church, so that in those times when our sight is blinded by tears, we can hold on to another's faith.

Above all living resurrection means expecting resurrection. It doesn't mean that things are always going to be great and happy. After all, in order for there to be a rainbow there must be a thunderstorm, in order for there to be a spring time there must be a winter, in order for there to be a resurrection there must be a death. Living in the resurrection does not mean that trouble and trial will not find us; it simply means that trouble and trial will not end us, for there is good news always to be found.

If we learn anything from the Easter story it should be that we should always expect a resurrection to occur in our life. It may not look all bright and white and shiny or new but it will be there, and having heard the gospel story we have no excuse to expect anything less.

Our Lenten journey is complete but our Easter celebration is just now beginning, and now, as we return to our homes, I hope that you will find that it is a changed place, because you are a changed person. May the power of the resurrection live in you that you may live without fear, love without limit, believe without fail, and know that the Lord God who rose from the grave can make all things new.

Call to Offering

Linda Reese

Leader: As we celebrate this Easter the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, let us pause and think about what the Resurrection means to us.

People: Resurrection! It means that Jesus is indeed the Son of the Living God.

Leader: Resurrection! It means that Jesus does indeed have the power to forgive sins, and that we are forgiven.

People: Resurrection! It means that death and sin no more have power over us, and that we shall live forever.

Leader: Resurrection! It means that we now have His Spirit within us, and that we are empowered to be His witnesses. This offering that we bring today is part of our witness: that Jesus is our living Lord, and that we are committed to spreading the good news to all people.

The 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

Rev. Stillwell

God of life and love, we are grateful for your promise of resurrection and new life. Your love is stronger than the powers of evil and injustice. With joy, we bring our gifts to you this day. Use our gifts and our lives to proclaim Christ's triumph over death. Amen

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

The disciples went on a journey with Christ and when they returned home at their journey's end they not only discovered that they had changed, they also discovered that their journey was not over. I am sure you have read a good book or seen a great movie that left you wanting more, and you were pleased to find out that there was a sequel, another installment in the story.

Sometimes these continuations of the story live up to our expectations and sometimes they do not, but we always want to know what happens in the lives of the characters. In our story, the gospel story, Luke will write a second chapter about the acts of the Apostles who, now living in the resurrection, go out onto the world to preach the good news starting in Jerusalem.

But then Acts ends, and we find out that the story continues on. It continues on in the letters of Paul and the revelation of John, but mostly it continues on in us, for everyone who hears the story and responds to it by following Jesus becomes a new chapter in a story that doesn't end.

As we share the story and live the story of Jesus Christ it is important that we always come back to its origin, which we do when we come to this table. For here, we remember not only his birth, death, and resurrection, but the love and forgiveness that he shared with his disciples on the night before his death. Here, we remember that he served the lowly, taught those who would abandon him, and commanded that they love one another as he loved them.

This is the greatest story ever told not so much because of the kings and soldiers, or the crowds and miracles, but because of the love and mercy that was shown at this meal and in the days ahead in Jerusalem and Galilee. It is why we want to be a part of the story and why others may want to be a part of it when we tell it to them.

Come to this table now and receive the plot of forgiveness, the theme of grace, and words of life.

Communion Hymn

"In the Garden"

Sam Johnson, organist

I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses; and the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses. And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, and the joy we share, as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Gene Sheller

Dear God, this past week we have remembered the sad and ecstatic events of the long ago Easter week. We come to this table to remember what Jesus did for us during that week. We are extremely sad when we read that the crowd shouted "Crucify Him." We are sad because he had to endure this time before and while he was on the cross. We remain sad when we remember his being placed in a tomb. And yet we are ecstatic because he triumphed over death and became our Savior. He saved us from our sins and enabled us to spend eternity with you, God. Please bless this bread, representing Christ's body and this cup, representing his blood, and please bless us as, together, we take them, remembering, thanking, and

praising Jesus for his kindness in sacrificing his human life for our sins. In our Savior's name we pray, Amen.

Words of Institution

Rev. Stillwell

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

Rev. Stillwell

This is the promise of the gospel: God already knows you. God already loves you. God has already gifted you. God has already called you. You are invited—to deepen this knowledge, to feast in this love, to cultivate these gifts, and to follow this calling. There is a place for you among the people of God in this community of faith.

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

"Christ Arose!"

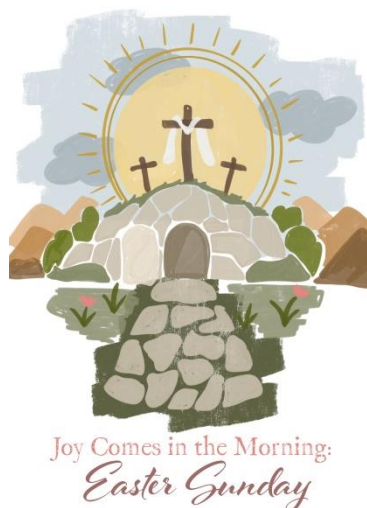
Sam Johnson, organist

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord! Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

We have heard the story. Life triumphed over death. Grief became joy. Go now and tell the good news: Christ is risen! Alleluia!



Joy Comes in the Morning:
Easter Sunday

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REQUESTS

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!

Homebound Members:

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokeley
900 N Cass Lake Rd, Apt 324
Waterford MI 48328

Chuck and Mary Wiseman
880 S Main St, Apt 214
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Carol Brown
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Terry Bailey
Bob Bakaitis
Donna Bakaitis
Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Berezny
Jeff Caldwell
Bryan Carter
Wanda Chicone
Ruth Cox
Sue Donaldson
Benjamin Dube
Connie Faust
Kim Fleissner
Gary Ford
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Barb Graff
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Paul Harton
Alberta Haught

Aryn Hess
Danni Iams
Ed Jackman
Von Lacock
David Leonard
CJ Martin
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Dick Pilgun
Betty Riecks
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle

John Samida
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Pat Sorice
Darci Sprowls
Wayne Starnes
Cathy Stewart
Jane Teagarden
Beth Teagarden

In the Military

Lance Dague	Andrew Gregg
Terrell McClain	Zachary Keene
Brandon Lipscomb	Sarah Lipscomb
Travis Ringer	Emily Chase
Dylan Demain	Noah Rudolph

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.