

Manor Talk

**A Publication of
Fairhill Manor
Christian Church**

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Rev. Gena Sheller
Associate Pastor

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Administrative Assistant

Gene Sheller
Congregational Moderator

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Financial Secretary

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Choir Director

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Visit us online at
www.fairhillmanorchurch.org

April

2023



From the
MINISTER

Want to know what the Bible looked like over a thousand years or more ago? Then read below:

If you find this hard to read then you would have a hard time with ancient biblical manuscripts where the writers left no space in order to save every expensive parchment.

Have you ever considered that sometimes that is what your life looks like? Our lives get so full of things to do that we have no room for anything else. When you leave no space for anything in your life you also leave no space for God and your life inevitably ends up a jumbled, run together mess.

As a result, things in your life become difficult to sort out and you spend more time trying to make sense of it all then you would have had you made some room for God in the first place. If our lives are too busy to spend at least a few minutes with God each day in prayer or contemplation then our lives are simply too busy.

I am sincerely grateful that there are spaces between the words in our Bibles today, for the word of God is a living word and when we read our Bible we meet God in the spaces.

As the spring has arrived and our lives get busier and busier be sure to make some space for God. Doing so could turn out to change your life or, at the very least, give you some breathing space.

Rev. Chris



- 1 Tom Glover
Gage Newman
- 4 Shyleigh Jacobs
- 6 Christian Lewis
- 7 Chad Britko
James Roupe
- 8 Don Greene
- 10 Barbara Moninger
- 11 Jody Mullis
Cody Weber
- 14 Bradley Dallatore
- 16 Deb Dotson
Kevin O'Connell
- 18 Isaac Caldwell
- 19 Giovanni Waters
Rob Waters
- 20 Chad Williamson
- 23 William Britton
Jenna Simpson
- 24 Jeff Sherman
- 25 Derek Gardiner
Ruthie Waters
- 27 Rachel Tarentino
- 30 Isaac Mayen

- 18 Brian & Becky Ashmore
Sean & Megan Roach

Camp Laurelview

May 20th – 60th Anniversary – Camp Day

Music, Camp and Farmhouse Tours, Fishing Derby, Scavenger Hunt, Reunions, Potluck Picnic Dinner, Games, Campfire and more 1-7pm.

See www.laurelview.org for camp schedule. There is also a printed copy of the camp schedule on the bulletin board in the hallway by the water fountain.

Scholarships are available to cover part or all of the cost of camp. Ask Pastor Gena for more information. Camp is often a life-changing experience for young people. Please encourage the young people in your lives to participate!



Phyllis Doria would like to thank everyone for the cards and phone calls during her recent ??

We give thanks for **Patty Fraley** and **Sheila Harris**, our extraordinary Card Ministers! Since carrying on this ministry from Rolinda Sprowls in July 2021, Patty and Sheila have mailed nearly 300 cards to Fairhill members on behalf of our congregation! We thank them for helping us to care for and celebrate with each other in this way. If you know someone who could use some encouragement in their mailbox, please let Patty, Sheila or the Church Office know. Thank you for blessing us and helping us to bless each other, Patty and Sheila! Your cards bring joy and comfort to our lives.



If you have any non-perishable food items you would like to donate to the **Community Circle Food Pantry** you can continue to bring them in and place them on the table by the coffee station in the front entrance of the church and Rev. Chris will take them to the pantry at the beginning of each month. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer or are in need of their services they distribute the food every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9-12. The Community Circle Food Pantry is located at 69 E. Pine Ave in Washington, and they can be reached at 724-225-1540.

Bethany Class Schedule - April

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 2 | The Empty Tomb Luke 24:1-12 |
| April 9 | Disciples Believe the Resurrection
Luke 24:13-27, 30-31 |
| April 16 | Jesus Cooks Breakfast John 21:1-14 |
| April 23 | Jesus Reinstates Peter John 21:15-19 |
| April 30 | Jesus Makes a Promise Acts 1:1-11 |

Dear Fairhill Family,

One of the generous gifts that our congregation gives its Pastors is the opportunity to take a 3-month sabbatical rest after every 5 years of ministry. At its March meeting, our Board graciously granted my request for a sabbatical from July 31 – October 31, 2023.

A sabbatical is not a vacation. It is a time for intentional rest and renewal. During this time, I will have no contact with the church or its members (except my family, of course, a fact which will present its own unique challenges). I will be paid my full salary and benefits during the sabbatical, and in return I have made a commitment to remain in ministry at Fairhill Manor for at least one year following my return.

Prior to the time of my sabbatical, I will work with Rev. Chris and all of you to ensure that the programs and activities normally under my leadership are set up to continue to thrive during my absence. Sabbaticals give all of us the opportunity to step into new roles and perhaps discover gifts we hadn't known we had.

I began my ministry at Fairhill Manor as your Associate Pastor in January 2015, so I am long overdue for a sabbatical. During the past three years, we've gone through periods of tremendous change and uncertainty as a congregation, including our transition to a new Senior Pastor and the experience of figuring out how to "be church" during a pandemic, so it did not seem wise or practical to request a sabbatical. During that the same time and for the same reasons, I have filled many different roles, some of which we hadn't previously imagined, and many of which shifted me away from my original call to ministry at Fairhill Manor. Now seems like a good time for me to step away in rest and reflection in order to re-center myself and my ministry. Now seems like a good time for our church to pause and consider how God is calling us into ministry in THIS time and in THIS place and how each of us fits into that vision.

I look forward to seeing how each of us grows during this time of sabbatical. I appreciate your continued love and support, your generosity and grace. Please come directly to me with any questions or concerns you have about my sabbatical. God works in and through each one of us, and you are an important part of the Body of Christ at Fairhill Manor.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Gena

Fairhill Manor Christian Church Board Meeting
Secretary Report
March 8, 2023

We Assemble in God's Name

Moderator, Gene Sheller, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM by lighting the candle representing the Holy Spirit. He gave a devotion and a prayer.

We Celebrate our Past

The FMCC Board reviewed the submitted reports from the Senior Minister, Associate Pastor, Board Secretary, Treasurer, and Church Clerk.

Moderator Gene Sheller asked if there were any questions regarding these reports or if there were any comments from the person submitting these reports. Brian Shaw wanted to highlight on Page 19 under Property that natural gas has gone from \$941 a month to \$1589 a month.

A motion to accept these reports was made by Jerry Puskarich and 2nd by Tom Ulery. The motion was carried unanimously.

We Present Our Offering

The FMCC Board reviewed the submitted Ministry Reports. Reports submitted were from the Elders, Trustees, Stewardship/Finance Ministry, Christian Education Ministry, and Personnel Committee.

Moderator Gene Sheller asked if there were any questions regarding these reports or if there were any comments from the person submitting these reports.

Jerry Puskarich submitted the attached meeting points for the Stewardship/Finance Ministry and the Personnel Committee.

A motion to accept the Ministry Reports was made by Rita Puskarich and 2nd by Linda Reese. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

1. Wedding Policy Task Force

There will be three ways the congregation can respond to the wedding survey:

- a. Pastor Gena created a link on SurveyMonkey so people can go to the link fill out the survey anonymously. It can be filled out by more than one person per household.
- b. There will be about 30 copies mailed out to people who do not have email service. Also a copy can be requested from the church office. These can be mailed back to the church office.
- c. The surveys will be emailed. You can email back a reply but it will not be anonymous.

2. Stained Glass Task Force.

A meeting of the Stained Glass Task Force was held on February 1, 2023. Attached is the Board Report of the meeting.

It was suggested by Jim Michel, a degreed engineer familiar with church building construction, to extend the shingled roof over the stained glass window and installing lights so the stained glass windows would be illuminated anytime.

On March 9, at 10:00 AM, Jerry and Kevin Puskarich are going to climb up to look at the crawl space above the stained glass accessible in the hallway behind the baptistery. Since Nicolella Roofing installed the new roof on the church, Mark Nicolella is going to try to be at the church so he can see what is above the stained glass also. Nicolella roofing might be interested in bidding the job.

Jerry Puskarich said the job will have to be sent out for bids.

There was a discussion on how to pay for this project. There are several options available, but we will have to wait until we get pricing to decide.

3. Moderator Report

Attached

4. Easter Week Schedule

Rev. Chris has made some changes to our Holy Week services. Diane Lindley from Lone Pine Christian Church asked our church to participate in a Living Last Supper to be held at the First Christian Church on Beau Street. Canonsburg Christian and Taylorstown Christian will also participate. Therefore, there will not be a Maundy Thursday service at our church. Also, Rev. Chris wants to change the Good Friday service from 7:00 PM to 12:00 Noon.

5. Sabbatical Request

Pastor Gena presented a letter to the moderator requesting a three-month sabbatical according to the Sabbatical Policy (attached). She explained to the board why she is requesting a sabbatical. She has had a great deal of responsibility since Pastor Mike left the church and during Covid. She has taken on many roles in the church that haven't been filled. She has setup the technology for Zoom and the new digital sound equipment. She needs to refresh herself so she can better serve the congregation. She is not certain of the exact date she will start her sabbatical but it will be the end of July.

Chuck Riggle made a motion to grant Pastor Gena the three-month sabbatical she requested and 2nd by Ed Palfreyman. The motion was passed unanimously.

Leaving in God's Name

Rev. Chris Stillwell closed the meeting in prayer. Gene Sheller adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

In Attendance

Gene Sheller (Moderator), Sharl Burk, Craig Dotson, Deb Dotson, Serena Dube, Von Lacock, Jackie Nelson, Carmen Oliverio, Diane Palfreyman, Ed Palfreyman, Jerry Puskarich, Kevin Puskarich, Rita Puskarich, Linda Reese, Chuck Riggle, Brian Shaw, Tom Ulery, Associate Pastor Gena Sheller*, Senior Minister Chris Stillwell*.

*Indicates non-voting members.

Next Board Meeting is Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted in Christian love,
Sharl Burk, FMCC Board Secretary



Fairhill Manor will be selling tickets to the **Washington Wild Things** game on Friday, June 16. More information to follow. We wanted to make sure you had the date to mark your calendar!!

April 30th will be the 5th Sunday of April. Fairhill Manor has dedicated the 5th Sunday of any month as **Funeral Dinner Fund Offering** day. Envelopes will be provided in the bulletin. You may also give on Givelify. Our goal is to be able to offer a funeral dinner to the family of members that have passed at no charge to them. Please give as you can.



Those who are **sewing dresses** and shorts for needy children thank everyone for their donations of fabric, etc. towards this meaningful project. However, some items are still needed such as: elastic, lace, buttons, decorative sew-on things, medium length shoelaces, wider ribbon, braid, ric-rac, bias tape, and anything else appropriate. Thank you for helping us as we serve others in the world! You can drop off items in the Church Office.



Maundy Thursday – April 6 – 7:30pm

Several members of FMCC are participating in the “Living Last Supper,” a Holy Week Cantata at First Christian Church, 615 East Beau Street, Washington, April 6, at 7:30pm. You are welcome and encouraged to attend this service.

Good Friday – April 7 – Noon

Good Friday service will be held here at FMCC in the sanctuary at noon. The service will be streamed live on Zoom and Facebook for those unable to attend in person. The recording can be watched any time after 2pm on the Church’s website or YouTube.

Sunrise Service – April 9 – 7am

Join us on the steps in front of the Church for Easter Sunrise Service, April 9 at 7am. Bring a chair and/or blanket and dress appropriately for the weather. A continental breakfast will be served following this service. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex if you would like to donate a breakfast item. There will not be Sunday School on this day.

Easter Service – April 9 – 10:15am

Easter Sunday Worship will be held in the sanctuary at 10:15am.

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						Croppers 8am-8pm Large Fellowship Hall
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Palm Sunday Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm		NA 6:45pm	Maundy Thursday Living Last Supper 7:30pm 1 st Christian NA 7:30pm	Good Friday Service Noon	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Sunrise Service 7am Breakfast following Sunrise Service No Sunday School Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm		Elders Meeting 5:30pm via Zoom NA 6:45pm	Personnel Committee 3pm Library Choir 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm		NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm		NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
30						
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am 5 th Sunday Funeral Dinner Fund Offering						