

August 2021

Manor Talk

A Publication of Fairhill Manor Christian Church

351 Montgomery Avenue

Washington, PA 15301

724-225-8610

fairhillmanor@yahoo.com

Visit us online at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org

Rev. Chris Stillwell

Senior Minister

Rev. Gena Sheller

Associate Pastor

Karen Thomas

Administrative Assistant

JC Leasure

Congregational

Moderator

Brian Shaw

Financial Secretary

Jim Cope *Choir Director*

Audra Allen *Organist*

Jody Mullis *Pianist*

Wray Adams *Custodian*



I don't read the funny pages in the paper nearly as much as I did when I was younger. I guess this is in part because I am busier and, God forbid it, more serious. It is also because some of my favorite comic strips are no longer running. One such discontinued strip is Calvin and Hobbes, and I remember every Sunday how I anticipated coming home from church, holing myself in my room with my lunch and reading the comics from beginning to end, always making sure to savor the full page, full color Calvin and Hobbes for last.

I appreciated the strip which focused on the imaginative life of an ornery six year old because it always managed to speak about the timeless truths of life in a humorous way. In particular, there was one strip that sticks with me and seems particularly appropriate for this time of year. In it Calvin and his stuffed tiger

Hobbes are sitting in a tree. We learn that it is August and school will be returning soon, and Calvin turns to his friend and says, "We'd better get busy. We've still got a lot of nothing to do."

I imagine that is true for all of us whether school is coming back for us or not. Summer is closer to the end than the beginning, but we still have more than a month remaining, and we have a lot of nothing to do; a lot of relaxing, enjoying the sunshine, smelling the roses, reading for pleasure, swimming, and just enjoying the long days.

If that's not enough nothing, here is one more thing; spending time with God in prayer. It is not something to put on your calendar, nor is it something to fit into a schedule. Just take some time when you're doing nothing to spend it with God and see that in God's presence "there is fullness of joy." That is quite a bit of something to receive for all that nothing.

Rev. Chris

Rev. Chris' God in the Garden Sermon Series

- August 1 Be Fruitful: **Genesis 1: 26-31, Galatians 5:13-26**
- August 8 Garden of Death; Garden of Life: **2 Samuel 15:13-16, 30, Luke 22:39-47**
- Rev. Pat Donahoo will bring the Message while Rev. Stillwell is on vacation.
- August 22 Jesus the Good Gardener: **Luke 13:6-9, John 15:1-17**
- August 29 The Implanted Word: **James 1:19-21, Mark 4:26-32**

Dear Fairhill Family,

You might have heard mention of “safe conduct” or our Safe Conduct Policy over the past couple of years at Fairhill Manor – and probably a lot more over the last couple of months as the Personnel Committee has worked to fully implement this Policy which was approved by our Board in January 2017. So, what exactly is “safe conduct” and why do we have a Safe Conduct Policy at Fairhill Manor? I hope to *begin* to answer these questions in this article and then share more about Safe Conduct in future newsletters.

You might guess that Safe Conduct centers on preventing child abuse. It is a positive way of expressing our congregation’s commitment not only to preventing abuse of our children and other vulnerable individuals, but also the responsibility that each one of us has for creating an environment which is free from all forms of harm. Most of the time, if we harm each other, we do so without meaning to. Our Safe Conduct Policy helps all of us know what appropriate and inappropriate interactions look like so we are less likely to accidentally hurt each other. But our Safe Conduct Policy also helps keep those who would do harm intentionally from ever having access to our children in the first place and helps us all know how to take that difficult step of speaking up when we see something that just isn’t quite right.

The Safe Conduct Policy lays out processes for screening and selecting our children and youth volunteers, including an extensive application process, state-required clearances and additional background checks, and yearly required training on how to prevent child abuse. The Policy also provides guidance on how we interact with each other, how we monitor our programming, and how we report suspicious behavior, policy violations and/or suspected abuse.

Here are a few practical ways that you can help develop an environment of Safe Conduct at Fairhill Manor:

1. Become familiar with the Safe Conduct Policy. The full Policy is available on our website at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/safe-conduct
2. Take the online research-based training that all of our employees and volunteers take. Contact the Church Office and the Personnel Committee will set you up with a free account. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn on behalf of all the children in your life!
3. Our children have learned that side hugs are the safest way to hug someone at church. We avoid full frontal hugs between adults and children or among children. So, the next time you greet a child or youth, try out the side hug or give a fist bump or a high five!
4. Our children have also learned that certain interactions with folks who are not family members make it easier for potential abusers to begin breaking down their physical boundaries (a process called grooming). You can help our kids by not initiating these interactions with them: holding kids on your lap, tickling, offering piggy-back rides.
5. If you enter a bathroom and a child or youth is already in there, step back out and wait until they finish. It’s just safer for an unrelated adult and a child or youth not to be in the bathroom together.
6. If you would like to give a child or youth a gift, make sure to talk with their parent/guardian first.
7. Be sure to include a parent/guardian in any online or social media interactions with children or youth.
8. Finally, the rule of 3! In interactions between children and adults, we require at least 3 people be present in the following combinations: 1 adult with at least 2 children OR 1 child with at least 2 adults. If you find yourself alone with a child, move into a public space and pull more people into your group.

Look for more about Safe Conduct next month! When we are all aware and holding each other accountable, Fairhill Manor is a wonderful, loving place for our children and youth to grow in their faith. Thank you for loving our children and youth in ways that honor them as children of God.

Pastor Gena

Worship Assignments

Date	Call to Worship, Call to Offering	Scripture	Elder	Deacon
August 1	Linda Reese	Sandy Todaro	Connie Sheller	Julie Meier
August 8	J.C. Leasure	Amy Caldwell	Cara Hritz	Dawn Couch
August 15	Kevin Puskarich	Donna Stenski	Tammie Wallace	Joyce Brandtonies
August 22	(Open)	Serena Dube	Jackie Nelson	Karen Palfreyman
August 29	Gary Ford	Gene Sheller	J.C. Leasure	Ruth Campbell



- 1 Andrew Glover
Robert Sekorky
- 2 Jeff Caldwell
Jason Vanatta
- 3 Robert Hanning
- 4 Nora Graff
- 5 Sharl Burk
- 6 John Berg
Tiffany Shetler
- 7 Karen Tarentino
- 9 Amy Caldwell
Sheri Leitsch
- 12 Vicki Tipton
- 13 Paige Keener
Bernard Teagarden
- 14 Tom Burk
- 16 Julia Howsare
- 24 Margot Hritz
- 26 Carolyn Blackhurst
Mark Dague
Matt Dague
Judy Hanning
- 27 Amy Mountain
- 28 Karla Glover
Von Lacock
- 29 Donna Bakaitis
- 31 Audra Allen
Candy Wasalasky



- 4 Craig & Debra Dotson
Terry & Janet Houston
- 5 Tom & Sharl Burk
- 8 Von & Lynn Lacock
- 9 Rev. Chris & Jessica Stillwell
- 11 Tom & Tammie Wallace
- 20 Ed & Diane Palfreyman
- 21 Jim & Diane Cope

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

August 7

“Disciples Connect”

In lieu of an in-person general assembly, a one-day virtual assembly will be held.

For more information:

<https://disciplesconnect2021.vfairs.com/>



A **Community COVID-19 Memorial Service** will be held at First Christian Church in Washington on August 19 at 7pm. Please send a photo and information of lost loved ones who died in 2020 from the COVID-19 virus to be added to a video montage that will be shown during the service. For more information: <https://faithlife.com/first-christian-church-washington-pa/calendar/view/67409819>

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship 10:15am	Prayer Shawl 11am Parlor NA – 7pm		God in the Garden 1pm- 2pm via Zoom NA – 6:45pm	NA – 7:30pm		General Assembly Virtual Assembly
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 10:15am	NA – 7pm	Stewardship/ Finance Ministry 6pm via Zoom	God in the Garden 1pm- 2pm via Zoom Elders 6pm Shepherds Room NA – 6:45pm	Personnel Committee 4pm Library NA – 7:30pm	Wild Things Game 7pm	Rev. Chris Vacation
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship 10:15am Packing of School Kits following worship	Prayer Shawl 11am Parlor NA – 7pm		NA – 6:45pm	COVID-19 Community Memorial Service 7pm First Christian Church NA – 7:30pm		First Church of the Nazarene Food Collection 10-11am Pastor Gena Vacation
Rev. Chris Vacation-----						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 10:15am	NA – 7pm		God in the Garden 1pm- 2pm via Zoom NA – 6:45pm	September Newsletter Deadline NA – 7:30pm		First Church of the Nazarene Food Distribution 10-11am
Pastor Gena Vacation-----						
29	30	31				
Worship 10:15am	Prayer Shawl 11am Parlor NA – 7pm					

ABC123... It's time to make School Kits!

Join your Outreach Ministry in making School Kits which will be donated to children in need through Church World Service. Our goal this year is to make **123** School Kits.

How you can help:

1. Purchase one or more items for the School Kits that we will assemble together. Choose one or more sticky notes in the Narthex. Sign your name and phone number next to the number(s) of your sticky note(s) on the record sheet. Purchase the items and return them to the boxes in the Narthex by **Sunday, August 8.**
2. Contribute money to purchase items for the School Kits or to help ship the School Kits. Give on Givelify or put money (marked "CWS Kits") in the Offering Plate.
3. Make one or more complete School Kits. Find full instructions at <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/school-kits/> or in the Narthex.
4. Help assemble our 123+ School Kits on **Sunday, August 15** right after worship.



Church Picnic

- September 12, 1:07pm
- Kiwanis Pavilion – Washington Park
- Chicken, Hot Dogs & Drinks provided
- Bring a covered dish and/or dessert
- BINGO

Fairhill Manor Christian Church
Board Meeting
Secretary Report
July 14, 2021

We assemble in God's name

Moderator J.C. Leasure called the meeting to order at 7 PM with the lighting of the Christ candle. J.C. opened with prayer.

We celebrate our past

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

A motion to accept these reports was made by Linda Reese and 2nd by Gary Ford. The motion carried.

We present our Offerings

The FMCC Board reviewed the submitted Ministry Reports. Reports submitted were from The Pastor's Cabinet, Elders, Deacons, Trustees, Stewardship/Finance Ministry, Evangelism/Outreach, Personnel Committee, and Disciples Women's Ministries.

A motion to accept the Ministry Reports was made by Carmen Oliverio and 2nd by Ed Palfreyman.. The motion carried.

Concerns of the Past

The Pastor's Cabinet met on July 8, 2021 to review the pandemic protocol.

Their revised protocol was presented to the Board for approval. Some protocols were revised and some were new. Their presentation reads as follows:

“Recommendation from Pastor's Cabinet meeting of July 8, 2021 regarding pandemic protocols. The main objective of the Cabinet throughout this pandemic has been the safety of everyone who enters the church. Continuing with that goal the Pastor's Cabinet makes the following recommendations to the General Board.

1. These revised protocols will become effective upon Board approval.
2. Entrance and exit from the church will be by the rear door.
3. Masks will continue to be required by everyone entering the church. This is to protect the children, who cannot yet be vaccinated, as well as other vulnerable groups.
4. The table outside the library will remain in place on Sunday mornings where you can place your offering, select a communion packet and pick up a bulletin.
5. On Sunday mornings, the serving Elder will continue to register attendance of all who enter the building. At all other times, everyone entering the building (with the exception of the Literacy Council, who keeps their own attendance) will sign in on the bulletin board on the right side after entering the back door.
6. In the Sanctuary, social distancing will be modified by leaving every other pew empty. Guides will continue to seat individuals and families.
7. We will continue to enjoy worship music without congregational singing. We hope that congregational singing and the choir will be added back into worship in the Fall.
8. Children may go to the front of the Sanctuary for the Children's Message. After the children will return to their seats. It is anticipated that Children Worship & Wonder will commence in August and then children will leave the Sanctuary by the side door.

9. Water fountains will remain closed.

10. Outside groups will be permitted to use the church under the same conditions as set out above (including entry/exit, wearing masks, signing in, social distancing in the Sanctuary). Weddings shall not be permitted yet; however, memorial services (and dinners?) requested by members of the congregation will be permitted. A new lease is presently being negotiated with the Literacy Council and when that is reviewed and signed, students will be permitted to return. Literacy Council has already agreed that all individuals must be vaccinated and class size will be reduced. Only three rooms will be utilized by the tutors in addition to the two Council offices.

11. Zoom services will continue for worship and meetings if desired.”

These recommendations will be presented to the General Board at its regular meeting on July 14, 2021.

There was discussion on line item #3 concerning the wearing of masks. Gary Ford explained that the wearing of the masks is to protect unvaccinated children and other vulnerable people. The Pastor’s Cabinet will revisit this protocol in time to present to the Board for their September meeting. A tentative date of Oct 1, 2021 for removing masks will be added to the Pandemic Protocol. Moderator J.C. Leasure thanked the Pastoral Cabinet for all that has been done on the Pandemic Protocol. A motion to accept the Revised Pandemic Protocol was made by Carmen Oliverio and 2nd by Connie Sheller. The motion carried.

Issues of the Future

Jerry Puskarich spoke about offering Funeral Dinners for families of our congregation. He suggested using memorial donations from the FMCC Memorial Fund. Jerry and Gary Ford would like to form a committee to explore this process. They will be looking for volunteers, a caterer, etc. A motion to form a committee for the Funeral Dinner process was made by Peggy Oliverio and 2nd by Linda Reese. The motion carried.

John Anderson spoke for the Trustees about the new lease which is being drawn up for the Literacy Council. It is based on the square footage of the rooms which they will be using. The lease will run from August 1, 2021 through Dec 31, 2022. A motion to accept the contract with the Literacy Council was made by Jerry Puskarich and 2nd by Diane Palfreyman. The motion carried.

John Anderson also spoke about the sky lights in the sanctuary and the possible cost to replace them. He will invite one gentleman to access the area and give an estimated cost

John also noted that there is a water problem in the front of the church by the larger fellowship hall. The possible cause is roots of the magnolia tree or bushes out front. Terry Houston has been helping out with this problem.

Rev Chris Stillwell shared good news from Brain Shaw, Financial Secretary. The second Payroll Protection Plan Loan has been forgiven.

Leaving in God’s name

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM was made by Linda Reese and 2nd by Diane Palfreyman. Moderator J.C. Leasure closed the meeting in prayer.

In Attendance

J.C. Leasure (Moderator), John Anderson, Carolyn Blackhurst, Craig Dotson, Serena Dube, Gary Ford, Charles McConnell, Jackie Nelson, Carmen Oliverio, Peggy Oliverio, Diane Palfreyman, Ed Palfreyman, Bette Jo Puskarich, Jerry Puskarich, Linda Reese, Chuck Riggle, Connie Sheller, Associate Pastor Gena Sheller*, Senior Minister Chris Stillwell*, Sandy Todaro

* Indicates non-voting member

Next Board Meeting: Sept 8, 2021

Submitted in Christian love,
Sandy Todaro, FMCC Board Secretary

**Fairhill Manor Christian Church
Emergency Board Meeting
Secretary's Report
July 22 2021**

Gary Ford, Vice Moderator of the Board, began the meeting at 6:05PM with the lighting of the Christ Candle and prayer.

The purpose of this meeting was explained by Trustee John Anderson. Brandi Miller of the Literacy Council had a request for the Board to allow the removal of masks while a tutor and student are social distancing in a class. Without the removal of masks, the Literacy Council could not resume classes. This allows the student to see the teacher's lips and to understand what the teacher is saying to them. Students and tutors will wear their masks everywhere inside of the church, except when they are in one-on-one tutoring. A motion to accept the instruction of ESL students and their tutor without masks, was made by Tammie Wallace and 2nd by Carmen Oliverio. The motion carried.

One item was brought forward by Gary Ford. The Thomas Campbell Apartment Building will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary on Saturday, Sept 25th. They would like to use the FMCC parking lot as an overflow space. There is also a possibility that they will need to have our church van to transport guests to Thomas Campbell from FMCC parking lot. Gary Ford has volunteered to be the van driver. A motion for Thomas Campbell Apartment guests to use our parking lot and to be transferred in our van with driver Gary Ford, was made by John Anderson and 2nd by Ed Palfreyman. The motion carried.

Gary Ford adjourned the meeting at 6:15PM.

Those in attendance virtually via Zoom :

Gary Ford, Vice Moderator, John Anderson, Cara Hritz, Von Lacock, Jackie Nelson, Carmen Oliverio, Peggy Oliverio, Diane Palfreyman, Ed Palfreyman, Bette Jo Puskarich, Jerry Puskarich, Linda Reese, Chuck Riggle, Connie Sheller, Senior Minister Chris Stillwell*, Sandy Todaro, Tammie Wallace.

*indicates non-voting person

Submitted in Christian love,
Sandy Todaro, FMCC Board Secretary



Fairhill Manor will partner with First Church of the Nazarene, 1366 North Main Street, Washington for a food collection and distribution through their food pantry, Heaven's Basket.

Food Collection – August 21, 10am-11am

Food Distribution – August 28, 10am-11am

Items that are most in need are: instant mashed potatoes, rice, condensed soup, pasta, pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pancake mix & syrup, oatmeal, peanut butter and jelly.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Caldwell at (724) 207-3945 or acaldwell8893@gmail.com

