

Manor Talk

**A Publication of
Fairhill Manor
Christian Church**

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2023

Thoughts from Rev. Chris



“O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.”

This is the first line of the great Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”, which we will begin singing this Sunday, and it perfectly encapsulates the longing desire Israel had for centuries that God would send a messiah to save them. It marks the change in our relationship to God where before, people went up to the mountain or to the temple to meet God, but now God has come to us, face to face, to meet us wherever we are. Now on the other side of that great event, we still long for God to come to us and help us.

This is good, since we remember that what God has done in the past God will do in the future. It is also good because this desire for God to come to us strikes at the heart of what was so special about Jesus Christ also perfectly described in another hymn, “O Come all Ye Faithful,” which sings in its refrain, “O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.”

These two hymns tell both sides of Christmas, which are that God came to us, making it easier for us to go to God. During this time of Advent we will gather to ask in songs, words, and prayers for God to come and change our lives, help those in need, comfort the lonely, fix the world, bring peace on Earth, but we know that God has already come in the form of Christ, and he has given us what we need already. I believe God always, but in this time especially, is calling us to change ourselves, help those in need, comfort those who are lonely, and to be the change we want to see in the world.

Ours is a relational God, who wants to have a true relationship with us. Too often we do not want the give and take that comes with being in a relationship. We simply want God to come and do the things we do not want to do or believe that we cannot do for ourselves, but Advent reminds us that God came to us in the form of Jesus Christ to show us the way; the way to peace, hope, joy, and love. God has already answered our call, now we must ask ourselves will we answer God’s call? Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Rev. Chris



- 1 Cadence Shetler
- 3 Beverly Lane
Tammie Wallace
- 5 Ed Palfreyman
- 7 Chris Crowe
- 8 Von Lacock, Jr.
Linda Martin
- 9 Richard Sumney
- 10 Joshua Hatfield
- 11 Kristin Ramirez
- 12 Lauren Kunkle
- 13 Chuck Riggle
- 17 Lela Davidson
Rita Puskarich
- 18 Elizabeth Herrnberger
Ty Lacock
Owen Stillwell
- 19 Avery Allen
Linda Dallatore
- 20 Carol Daniels
- 21 Waylon Newman
- 26 Hollan Martinek
- 29 Lisa Shriver
- 31 Elinor Newman
Carmen Oliverio



- 1 Zach & Laura Houston
- 3 Terry & Jeannie Allison
- 6 Kirk & Debbie McDonough
- 8 Charles & Patty McConnell
- 28 Kevin & Sharel O'Connell
- 31 Justin & Courtney Gatten

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the wonderful gift you gave me in my three-month Sabbatical! I asked for time to rest and re-focus, and that is what you gave me. You respected my time away and were super-careful about how you interacted with me when you did see me out and about. This allowed me to truly get some distance from my ministry at Fairhill, which in turn gave me space to rest deeply and to gain a new perspective on and appreciation for our shared ministry.

During August, Isaac and I spent quality time together before he returned to school. We traveled to Kentucky, where we revisited my alma mater, Lexington Theological Seminary, toured horse country, and found an awesome fun center to play in. Being home during September allowed me to be more present to Isaac as he made his transition to the Jr/Sr High School. I also enjoyed many days of walking in the neighborhood and nearby parks as the Fall began. I reached out to old friends and mentors and reconnected after many years. October brought a solo trip to Ocean City Maryland and two trips to Lancaster and Philadelphia, first for fun fall activities and then for a 76ers game.

Thank you to all who stepped into my roles while I was on Sabbatical. Thank you especially to the CW&W Storytellers for stepping into the Greeter role, to Cara Hritz for taking on my many traditional Storyteller weeks, and to Linda Reese for learning a new Story in addition to her usual ones. Thank you to Rev. Chris for stepping into more worship roles, filling the gaps, and for planning a lovely welcome back luncheon.

My Sabbatical brought many joys, but, most of all, it brought the gift of deep rest and reflection. I am truly grateful.

With Love in Christ,
Pastor Gena



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. Rev. Chris will take them to the pantry at the beginning of each month. **Items needed most at this time are: Gravy (Jar or Packets), Canned Vegetables (specifically corn and green beans), Corn Bread Mix, Pie Crust, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing (boxed), Canned Pumpkin, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Cranberries (canned), Jello/Pudding Mixes, Evaporated Milk, Cake Mixes, Frosting.** If you or someone you know would like to volunteer or are in need of the Food Pantry's services, they distribute the food every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9-12. The Community Circle Food Pantry is now located at **65 E Cherry Ave** in Washington, and they can be reached at 724-225-1540.



ANGEL TREE

The Salvation Army Christmas **Angel Tree** gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 10. Please place them around the easel in the Narthex.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing – December 14 9am-6pm at the Washington Giant Eagle. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



POINSETTIA ORDERS

The beautiful poinsettia tree that adorns our sanctuary each Christmas Eve is a tradition that we all look forward to every year. Please fill out this form and return it to the church office by **December 3rd with payment.** Indicate the color and number of poinsettias you would like to order. Cost per plant is \$11. Please **make checks payable to "Fairhill Manor" and indicate "Poinsettias" in the memo line.** Plants may be picked up following the Christmas Eve service.

_____ RED Poinsettias

_____ WHITE Poinsettias

ORDERS are due by December 3rd

Given by

In Memory/Honor of (circle one)

In Memory/Honor of (circle one)

In Memory/Honor of (circle one)

Additional Comments:

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Personnel Committee 4pm Shepherds Room	Large Hall Reserved Shetler 10am-4pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm	Dartball @ Home 7pm	Elders Meeting 5:30pm via Zoom NA 6:45pm	Choir practice 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		Drive-Thru Nativity 6-8pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am Drive-Thru Nativity 6-8pm	NA 7pm	Dartball @ Home 7pm	NA 6:45pm	Bethany Class Christmas Party Small Fellowship Hall 1pm Choir practice 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm	Dartball @ Laboratory 7pm	NA 6:45pm	Choir practice 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Breakfast at the Manger 9am Worship 10:15am Christmas Eve 7pm			NA 6:45pm	Choir practice 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
31						
No Sunday School Worship 10:15am						