

December 2020 Manor Talk

*A Publication of Fairhill
Manor Christian Church*

Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Rev. Chris (412-956-6590) and 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 Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

"Nothing but a Child"
—Steve Earle

Every day is heard a precious little sound
And every mother, kind and every father, proud
Looks down in awe to find another chance allowed

Nothing but a child could wash those tears away
Or guide a weary world into the light of day
Nothing but a child could help erase those miles
So once again we all can be children for a while

This is one of my favorite Christmas songs and I love that line "Nothing but a child could help erase those miles, so once again we all can be children for a while"

I love it because that cuts to the heart of what the Christ event is about. Christ came as a child with the goal of making us children again. At first that might not seem right, especially when one looks at how children can behave at this time of year. I love Christmas, and I look forward to it, but one thing I dread is the craziness it inspires in my children as December 25th approaches. You would think it would put them on their best behavior but often the opposite ensues. The excitement, the sugar, and the pent-up anticipation leads to a lot of fits and fights and arguments amongst themselves. That is not what Christ had in mind when he said "Whoever becomes like this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 18:4).

Rather I think he wanted us to become like children in that we would be Trusting much as a child implicitly trusts their parents. I think he wanted us to sense our dependence on God the way a child is dependent on their parents. I think he wanted us to be innocent and full of joy the way that children are. I think he wanted us to appreciate the world the way a child does. Sometimes children do turn their nose up at food or a present because it does not meet expectations, but mostly they appreciate the world in ways that we adults have become too cynical to do. My son still gets so excited about finding feathers. Charlotte yesterday gave me a leaf that looked plain and boring to me, but to her was beautiful.

The fact is that our experience is good in so many ways but the cost of it is that it hardens our hearts, closes our minds, thickens our skin, and when Christmas comes around, we are asked to believe again in things we may feel too old to believe. I'm not talking about Santa Claus or Frosty but the idea that a child can change the world, that God loves us so much that he would give us Christ so that we may live eternally, and that God is still very much alive and present in this world.

My wish for you is that the Christ child will be born within your hearts again this Christmas and help erase those miles so that when Christmas comes, you can be children for a while.

Rev. Chris

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Cadence Shetler
- 3 Tammie Wallace
- 5 Ed Palfreyman
- 7 Cathy Anderson
Chris Crowe
- 8 Von Lacock, Jr
Linda Martin
- 10 Linda Hainer
Joshua Hatfield
- 11 Kristen Ramirez
- 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



- 3 Terry & Jeannie Allison
- 8 Charles & Patty McConnell
- 28 Kevin & Sharel O'Connell
- 31 Justin & Courtney Gatten



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