

June 2022

# 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](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org)

**Rev. Chris Stillwell**  
*Senior Minister*  
**Rev. Gena Sheller**  
*Associate Pastor*  
**Karen Thomas**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
**Gene Sheller**  
*Congregational Moderator*  
**Brian Shaw**  
*Financial Secretary*  
**Jim Cope** *Choir Director*  
**Audra Allen** *Organist*  
**Jody Mullis** *Pianist*  
**Wray Adams** *Custodian*



Whenever the disciples misunderstood Jesus he was there to correct them. Even up until the end he does this with Thomas who doubted his resurrection, with Cleopas on the road to Emmaus, and with Peter on the shore of the sea. It must have been so great to have the Messiah right there to correct them when they misunderstood, but what are we to do when we don't understand?

We have something that the disciples do not have which is the New Testament, but sometimes it can be confusing and certainly Christians have spent a great deal of time arguing over its meaning, so what should we do? I have always thought of the teachings of Christ as a lens through which we must look at the Bible. Because John describes him as the "Word made flesh" I value his words above all others, so when reading a passage we should ask ourselves "Is my understanding of this passage in keeping with what Jesus taught?" Oftentimes we might hear so much on a controversial subject that we assume Jesus spoke of it often only to read the gospels and see that he didn't talk about it at all. Of course Jesus did teach many things, but what he taught the most was love. A friend of mine calls this the love filter through which all scripture must pass.

Perhaps the best illustration I have come across is that of Rev. Adam Hamilton who suggests that anytime you're unsure about what the Bible is trying to tell you, run it through the colander of Jesus' teachings. Just like your pasta strainer at home the colander of Jesus' teaching can help us wash away the cultural and temporal understandings of scripture and reveal the eternal, timeless truth that God is trying to tell us.

Whenever you come to a tough passage in the Bible, run it through the colander that Jesus gives us with the great commandment, which is to love God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. If you somehow come away from the Bible feeling empowered to judge or exclude someone, you're doing it wrong. Run it through the colander of Christ again and I can guarantee you that the new answer will be different and more difficult. It's easy to use the scriptures to condemn and to put down, but if you do then you need Christ to correct you and though he is not here his teachings are. Run your faith, your theology, your understanding of scripture through the colander of Christ's teachings again, and do not stop until the only thing not washed away is love.



## Birthdays

- 1 Gerry Huntsman
- 3 Brynn Martinek  
David Waters
- 6 Darla Lewis  
Jane Teagarden
- 8 Becca Caldwell
- 9 Julie Meier  
Diane Palfreyman
- 10 Cathy McVay
- 12 Eleanor Boyles  
Shawn Dallatore  
Nan Sekorky
- 14 Jayme Britton
- 15 Jim Cope  
Lloyd Cox  
Paul Sandy  
Grace Vanatta
- 17 AJ Rizer
- 18 Jessica Stillwell
- 19 Diana Crowe
- 21 Sandy Vanatta
- 22 Jeanne Riffle
- 24 Ray Ingram  
Jakob Mountain  
Garrett Newman  
Jace Simpson
- 27 Cami Allison
- 28 Johanna Vanatta
- 30 Liliene Hess  
Zachary Kunkle

## Anniversaries

- 1 Duane (Bo) & Patty Pryor
- 4 Gary & Carolyn Blackhurst
- 7 Aaron & Johanna Vanatta
- 8 Perry & Jeanne Riffle
- 17 Chuck & Betty Jo Riggle
- 21 Douglas & Maggie Graff
- 29 William & Sheri Leitsch

On June 1, Duane (Bo) and Patty Pryor will celebrate their **70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!**

There will be an open house in the Large Fellowship Hall on Saturday, June 4 from 2-4pm to celebrate this momentous occasion. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

*Celebrating  
70 years  
of marriage*

# June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Stewardship/ Finance 5:30pm Library  NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm		Pryor Anniversary Large Hall 2-4pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 10:15am  Graduate Sunday  Pentecost Sunday School Picnic	Prayer Shawl 11am Parlor  Book Club 7pm Zoom  NA 7pm		Personnel Committee 4pm Library  Elders 6pm Shepherds Room  NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm   Rev Chris Off	-----	-----
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship 10:15am    Rev. Chris Off	Book Club 7pm Zoom  NA 7pm  -----		NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship 10:15am	Prayer Shawl 11am Parlor  Book Club 7pm Zoom  NA 7pm		NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm	Mary Louise Engle Henderson Memorial 3pm	
26	27	28	29	30		
Worship 10:15am	Book Club 7pm Zoom  NA 7pm	Bethany Class Luncheon 1pm Eat'n Park	NA 6:45pm	NA 7:30pm		

**Fairhill Manor Christian Church Board Meeting**  
**Secretary Report**  
**May 11, 2022**

**We Assemble in God's Name**

Moderator, Gene Sheller, called the meeting to order at 7:06pm by lighting the Christ Candle. He gave a devotion on being kind to each other 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.

While going over the Secretary Report dated May 27, 2022, Rev. Chris mentioned that there will be deacon training on May 18 because we are going back to normal communion the first Sunday in June. The youth practiced making communion bread.

The Church Clerk had nothing to report, but Associate Pastor Gena mentioned that Barb Roupe passed away on April 29.

A motion to accept these reports was made by Tom Ulery and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Puskarich. The motion was carried.

**We Present Our Offering**

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

While going over the Treasurer's Report, Associate Pastor Gena asked Brian Shaw when the roof would be paid off. He said it will be paid off September 2024.

A motion to accept the Ministry Reports was made by Kevin Puskarich and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Serena Dube. The motion carried.

**Old Business**

Ed Palfreyman brought up the metal framed acrylic skylight replacement. He has tried to get bids from four contractors. Only one contractor, Cascade Associates, bid on the job. This bid was from a year ago in the amount of \$46,987.00. Ed said a new bid for this year will probably be a lot more money.

Jerry Puskarich suggested records be kept of the contractors that did not bid. If you have to apply for a loan for this work, the lender might require more than one bid. By keeping these records there will be proof you requested bids but were turned down.

**New Business**

**Sound and Video Equipment**

Associate Pastor Gena went over the items outlined under How Sound/Video Has Changed at Fairhill Manor Chart.

Associate Pastor Gena suggested videos be more permanent. Cameras would be mounted in the sanctuary. The computer in the sound room is not capable of supporting our needs.

The equipment needs upgraded if we are to continue with Zoom. The new equipment would make it easier for people to operate. We would not be panning with different cameras and the sound would be better.

The speakers for the organ are not connected to the sound system and they need replaced. Jerry Puskarich said a woofer was damaged and there is dry rotting on the speakers. If we purchase new organ speakers, the speakers will be able to be connected to the sound system and would fit a new organ if that is needed in the future.

Jerry Puskarich also mentioned if we get a new sound system, it will be better for our congregation and for people outside the congregation to watch the services. The services can go on YouTube Live and Facebook Live in addition to Zoom.

If it would be good to streamline everything so less people have to operate equipment on Sundays.

The music issues would be solved and people on Zoom would be able to see everything better.

Jerry Puskarich stated that sustainability of the system is what we are talking about.

Jerry Puskarich contacted four contractors.

1. Live Wire – no bid.
2. Stereo Outlet – bid on installing one camera for about \$3,900.
3. Ed Simon Company – a certified technician came. He gave a bid for a two camera setup of approximately \$15,000. Jerry Puskarich asked for a three camera quote which was approximately 15,900.
4. CC Sound – as of today, they have not had time to come and look at the equipment. They are calling back in a week to ten days.

Jerry feels Ed Simon Company is the best option. They will do wiring, new computer, video sound cards, hardware, digital sound board, software, and cameras that will pan, tilt, and zoom. They will also do training. They will give us Sunday support for the initial startup. The system can also be expanded by adding more cameras.

Gene Sheller said we will wait for a written presentation for the new equipment before the board votes on it.

Jackie Nelson gave thanks for everyone currently operating the Zoom and sound system.

### **Wedding Fee Schedule**

Jerry Puskarich presented a wedding fee schedule and asked if it was acceptable. Brian Shaw brought up the employment tax for the fee schedule because it has to be budgeted.

Jackie Nelson suggested under the Building Use Fee to scratch off Non Member so it will just read Building Use Fee.

Tom Ulery made a motion to add 10% to the Building Use Fee to cover the employment tax. Tom changed his motion from adding 10% to the Building Use Fee to adding \$50 to the Building Use Fee from 0 to \$50 for members of the congregation and adding \$100 for non-members of the congregation from \$300 to \$400. This motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Puskarich. The motion was accepted.

Jerry Puskarich is putting ads out for a wedding coordinator

### **Funeral Dinner Policy**

The policy was self-explanatory. However, the fifth Sunday offering that will be used to help fund the funeral dinner committee will be a special offering in addition to the regular offering. Some of the board members believed the whole offering would be used. Therefore, if you want to give to the funeral committee you have to write it on your check or put you money in an envelope marked funeral committee.

Connie Sheller made a motion to accept the policy and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane Palfreyman.

Jerry Puskarich suggested using some of the escrow accounts to jump start the funeral dinner policy. There is \$13,000 in the memorial fund that could be used. It was decided to discuss this at the next meeting after a proposal from the Stewardship/Finance ministry is presented.

### **Wedding Policy**

Amy and Becca Caldwell suggested having the wording in the Wedding Policy changed where it says a marriage between a man and a woman.

Jerry Puskarich suggested the wedding policy needs to be revamped and reviewed.

It was decided that Amy Caldwell and Rev. Chris work together to change the words in the wedding policy and present it to the board at the next meeting in July.

Discussion on the matter is encouraged. Connie Sheller suggested there is a book people can read on this subject.

### **Leaving in God's Name**

Moderator closed the meeting by rereading the verses on being kind to each other and a prayer. Gene Sheller adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

### **Board Members in Attendance**

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

\*Indicates non-voting members.

### **Non Board Members in Attendance**

Becca Caldwell, Amy Caldwell, and Peg Oliverio.

### **Next Board Meeting is Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 7:00pm.**

Submitted in Christian love,  
Sharl Burk, FMCC Board Secretary