



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

*“Sing to God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.
Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy.”
Psalm 98*



January 25, 2021

Dear Beloved FMCC Member,

We used to think we knew just what that word, “together,” meant. We never used to wonder how the definition might be stretched, how important togetherness might become, or how clever we’d need to become in order to make it happen. But 2020 certainly changed and challenged things didn’t it?

Amid a sea of confusion, fear, and discord, we suddenly became desperate for some kind of joy, precisely when it became impossible to get together for joy in most of the ways we knew (coffee shops, dinner parties, spaghetti dinners, choir rehearsal, Sunday school classes, Sunday morning worship, the Church Picnic or our Drive-Thru Nativity), so we stretched hard. We flexed more than we thought we could. We groaned and reached and complained and expanded and swore (only a little!) and wept (sometimes a lot!).

In the midst of our distance we came together in many ways:

- The trustees worked hard to clean and secure the building from COVID-19.
- Brian Shaw worked to secure a Payroll Protection loan that helped keep the church finances stable.
- The Pastoral Search Committee rose to the occasion and completed a pastoral search almost completely via Zoom.

And in the end, we were together. When we logged on for Zoom meetings and worship services, when our Elder shepherds checked in with us and we checked on each other, when we gathered our young people together for online Bible study, and even when we sat out in the parking lot for our tailgates, we were together in joy. Our togetherness may not have happened in the sanctuary, or in the parlor, or in the Sunday school rooms, but it happened, and through it all, we were together with God, whose love covers every distance and heals every heart, and we are together still.

By now, you should have received from the Stewardship/Finance Ministry a pledge card and a prayer. We hope you will join us in praying the prayer regularly as we discern together our giving for 2021. So

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Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

much is different, and so many circumstances have changed, but here's what we know. With God's help, the music we create, in person or in spirit, will be well worth the rejoicing.

We hope to receive your pledge (either by returning your card by mail or pledging through the website) in time for **Commitment Sunday, January 31, 2021**, when we will gather in prayer to thank God with a grateful heart for our blessings and ask God to bless our gifts as we give to others as God has given to us.

Gratefully,

Rev. Chris Stillwell
Senior Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller
Associate Pastor



To make your pledge, fill out the pledge card mailed earlier this month and send it to:

Fairhill Manor Christian Church
ATTN Brian Shaw
351 Montgomery Avenue
Washington, PA 15301

---- OR ----

Pledge online at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/together-for-joy.
Your information will be emailed directly and only to Brian Shaw.