

Manor Minutes
Volume 13 Issue 18
April 15, 2022

Prayer Vigil 7am Saturday, April 16 – 7am Sunday, April 17.
If you signed up for a prayer slot from 7am – 11pm on Saturday, please pray in the Parlor in the Church. If you signed up for a prayer slot from 11pm Saturday – 7am Sunday, please pray in your home.

The Story Chapter 26 The Cross – April 15

Good Friday Service – April 15, 7pm

The Story Chapter 27 The Resurrection – April 17

Sunrise Service – April 17, 7am

Prayer Shawl – April 18, 11am Parlor

Bethany Class Wednesday Zoom – April 20, 1pm via Zoom

Choir Practice – April 21, 6:30pm Choir Room

Stay up to date, check www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



Soup Sunday
April 24
following Worship



Join us for a great lunch and fellowship!

The special **Easter Offering** supports General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). You can place your donation in the offering plate, online through the FMCC website/Givelify or directly to the Disciples Mission Fund at disciplesmissionfund.org/give.

Bethany Class

The Bethany Class Zoom will open at 8:30 am on Sunday.

The class will begin at **9am** on Sunday.

Meeting ID: 883 3055 7258 Passcode: 344061

Unit 2: Liberating Gospels

April 17 Resurrection of the King Matthew 28:1-10

April 24 Freedom in the King John 8:31-38

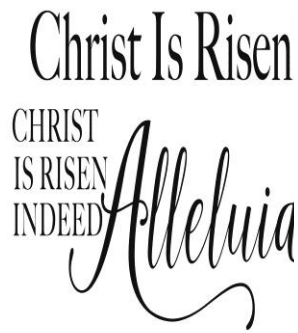
This Zoom class will also be available Wednesdays at 1pm. You will use the same Meeting ID and Passcode as Sunday link.

Bethany Class Luncheon – May 1, 1pm at Tower Restaurant



Pastor Gena will be on **vacation** from April 18 – April 24. Please contact Rev. Chris, your Shepherd Elder or the office if you have prayer requests or are in need of anything.





Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
351 Montgomery Ave.
724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Kevin Puskarich, Bread
Rita Puskarich, Cup
April 17, 2022 - 10:15am

Prelude "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," by Dan Forrest Choir
Accompanied by Pastor Gena and Audra Allen

Welcome Pastor Gena

Call to Worship Serena Dube

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: Look, life is here,

People: Even when the tomb is empty.

Leader: Listen, love is calling,

People: Even when death is all around.

Leader: Believe, for hope reigns victorious;

People: This is the gift of resurrection.

Leader: This is the miracle of Easter.

All: Hallelujah! Amen.

Opening Hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" Audra Allen, organist
Accompanied by the Children's Bell Choir

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! All creation, join to say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Pastor Gena

On this Easter morning, we welcome you, Jesus, into our lives. We welcome your resurrection, for it is life-changing, life-giving and life-sustaining. We welcome the hope it brings into our world. We welcome the joy it brings into our darkness. We welcome the empty tomb, for we know that it means that you are alive and with us.

God of new and renewed life, we praise and worship you! We give you thanks for your presence in our lives – resurrected and powerful! We celebrate your victory over death, over all the powers that would defeat us!

O God, with faces touched by the light of a new day, and hearts warmed by our prayers and praises, we come to you with the needs of our world and the burdens of our hearts.

Into the light of Easter morning, we raise those who are struggling with illness, with despair over their lives, or with the breakdown of relationships... May the light of Christ shine upon all.

Into the light of Easter morning, we bring those places in our world where war, violence, poverty and need are the experiences of everyday life... May the light of Christ shine upon all.

Into the light of Easter morning, we bring the headline news. We hold in our hearts the pain of those suffering violence, bereavement or conflict... May the light of Christ shine upon all.

And into the light of Easter morning we bring ourselves and those we love - the private struggles, the heart's yearnings, the disappointed dreams, the fears and anxiety.... May the light of Christ shine upon us all.

Raise us up, risen One! Renew our lives, living One! Resurrect our dreams, resurrected One!
Through Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray together as he taught us...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response:

*“Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”
Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.*

First Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Linda Reese

Anthem

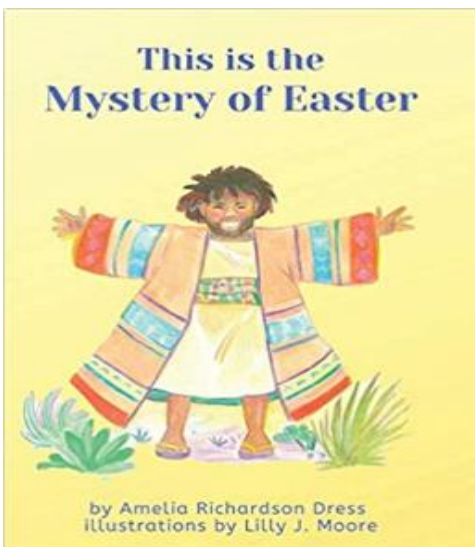
“Easter Song,” by Allen Pote

Choir

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

This morning we will share the book, “This is the Mystery of Easter,” written by Amelia Richardson Dress and illustrated by Lilly J. Moore. This lovely book invites us all to wonder about the mystery of Easter.



There once was a man who loved big enough to change the world. People knew he was in God and God was in him. Everywhere he went, people would ask him, “What’s the best way to live?” This man, whose name was Jesus, would answer:

Love.

Love God.

Love yourself.

Love everyone else.

You can receive a free download of this book by signing up for Amelia’s newsletter at <http://www.ameliadress.com/mysteryofeaster-2/>.

Sermon**“Built To Last”**

Rev. Stillwell

Friends, our long wait is over, for God has been glorified and revealed in the form of Jesus who we can say is the Christ. Though we have ruminated, commiserated, and concentrated upon the Lenten season and upon the betrayal of Jesus, and the Last Supper, trial, and crucifixion during Holy Week we have come to the culmination of the Christ event. For the boy who was born in a manger, the lowly carpenter's son from Nazareth, who had no money, who owned no property, who commanded no armies and ruled no lands, who entered Jerusalem on a donkey and who did not resist the Roman soldiers as they arrested and crucified him has overcome death. He has resisted the violence that is the result of a sinful world with the ultimate form of non-violence. He has given us hope that the sins of this world may be resisted not through war and force, but through peace and sacrifice. Today Jesus Christ has risen from the tomb. Will you pray with me?

Raise us, O God, from the pits that threaten to imprison us. Help us find a way out. Open the doors of our tombs, small and large, and hasten the day when we walk as a risen people, able to live fully in your magnificent and sure salvation. Call us by name to send us as messengers in your name. Amen.

The gospel of Jesus Christ describes a lot of things. It describes Jesus' life and teachings. It describes his actions and miracles. It describes the political situation in Israel two thousand years ago, but what it describes the most I think is the coming of God's Kingdom. Mentioned 115 times, Jesus sometimes says that it is near, or it is here, or it is on the way, and all of these things are true.

Every time someone shares the good news the kingdom is near. Whenever people love and forgive and do as Jesus has taught the Kingdom is near, and yet just in doing those things the Kingdom is there. This is because the Kingdom is in the process of being built.

I know that the kingdom is not a physical place, we are not talking about a castle that is being raised, and yet I still like the word built to describe its coming. In effect Jesus is the kingdom, and where he goes the kingdom is there, but his physical presence cannot be everywhere all at once, so Jesus ascends to Heaven with the idea that wherever two or three are gathered in his name he will be there and there the kingdom will be as well. Each time something occurs that inspires faith the kingdom is there and if the goal is for the kingdom to be on earth as it is in Heaven, then each time faith is inspired or kindled the kingdom is built a little more.

That, more than anything, is the point of the resurrection; to inspire faith. Why did Christ stay on that cross? Why did he allow himself to be brutally tortured then killed? He did these things to show that the worst that the world has to offer cannot overcome God's power and God's love, and it worked.

His followers believed in him, but they didn't understand him or his mission and certainly they could not comprehend his kingdom, no matter how many times he told them. He had to show them. They believed in him for many reasons. They wanted Israel united, they wanted Rome gone, they wanted blessings and fame, but he kept telling them this crazy thing that made no sense, and it was only after the crucifixion and resurrection that it made sense.

On the day when his resurrection occurs Luke writes:

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. 24:6 Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 24:7 that the Son of Man must be handed over to

sinner, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." 24:8 Then they remembered his words, 24:9 and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

They had faith, but they had put it in all the wrong things. The resurrection was proof that Jesus was who he claimed to be, but the fact that Jesus soon leaves again and for good without changing the things many of his followers wanted changed - Israel was still a vassal state of Rome, the poor were still poor and the hungry still hungry, Lazarus would eventually die- shows that Jesus' kingdom was not of this world. It was not of this world did this does not mean that it wasn't going to impact this world.

It all begins not with his disciples but with the women who were the first to come to the tomb. They were the ones, who saw and believed, and they went to tell the disciples but again Luke writes:

24:11 But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 24:12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Only when Peter saw for himself did he believe, and his faith was renewed. From this the disciples go to tell the good news of Christ's resurrection, and two thousand years later the church is established and yet sometimes it seems like we are further from the kingdom than ever before.

Daily we are confronted with evidence that suggests that there are more bad people than good, and more bad news than uplifting news. More and more it feels like things are falling apart rather than being built up, yet I remain, as my friend once described it, a committed optimist.

I believe there is more good than bad in this world, much more in fact. It is just that the bad gets noticed, and the reason its gets noticed is because destruction is easier than building. Remember I spoke of this when discussing the rebuilding of the temple. Not only is it easier to tear down than buildup it is more impressive in that it is a much bigger change.

It was three years ago at this time that the Cathedral of Notre Dame caught fire in April. While it was not completely destroyed it took less than four hours for one of the most magnificent structures ever built by human hands; a cathedral that took a hundred years to build, to be gutted. The churches restoration and resurrection continues today.

So building and rebuilding are much slower than destroying. Likewise kindness and compassion are less flashy than hatred and cruelty. I recently saw a wonderful musical called, "Come From Away", that told of a story that I had heard but did not know well. It is the story of September 11, 2001. Of course I am sure you are wondering what rock I must have been living under to not hear much of this story, but I am referring not to what happened in New York City that day, but what happened in Gander, Newfoundland that day and the following week.

While 19 people were destroying two buildings, thousands of lives and a nation's peace and security 9,000 people were building something else. All airspace in America was closed forcing 38 international aircraft to be diverted and land unexpectedly at the Gander airport, doubling the population of the small Newfoundland town. The Gander townspeople spring to action and prepared to house, feed, clothe, and comfort the nearly 7,000 passengers along with 19 animals in cargo. The story begins with fear and destruction among the people of the town and the people on the plane, but results in bonds of friendship that are formed and maintained to this day. I completely understand why the destruction and death that occurred that day were front and center in our minds and in our media, but the story of strangers opening their homes and their lives needs to be heard more as well.

The nature of life in this world is that it takes months if not years to build something that can be destroyed in a matter of seconds. It is also true that we are prone to noticed danger and death so that we might be prepared for it, but we need to do a better job of noticing love and life. Death and destruction lead the news because they are flashy, they are striking, they are more impactful, but they are not the whole story, for there is also life, and building, and rebirth.

The resurrection is the one time that building something was as flashy as destroying something. One minute Jesus was broken and battered, dead and buried, the next he was alive and better than before, and that one act inspired people to build something that we have been building painstakingly for two thousand years.

We have been inspired to build the Kingdom and we have been instructed to use the tools of love and good and life because love is stronger than hate, good lasts longer than bad, and life overcomes death. This is the good news, but because love and good and life are better than hate, and bad, and death they are harder. It is easier to hate than love; love takes more work. It is easier to be bad than good; good takes commitment. It is easier to cause death than to bring life. Any fool can kill but only God can bring life.

Building something is so much slower than destroying, which is why we often do not notice it. We often do not notice the flowers until they are in full bloom or the leaves on the trees until they green. When a house is being built we might pass it many days before we see how much progress is made. When it is done then we see the difference.

This is how God builds the Kingdom. God's way are slow then quick, they are quiet and then loud, they are incremental and then all at once. God is building his Kingdom, and it is slow, because unlike the things of this world it is built to last. Along the way some will choose hate, some will choose destruction, some will choose death over life, and they will be noticed far in excess to their actual number. But we are called to build up rather than tear down, and that includes simply noticing where good things are happening, where signs of life are occurring, where hope is being born and reborn.

The Kingdom is built to last and we as its inhabitant have been built to last as well for what is a Kingdom with no one to live in it? We are built to last, but it often does not seem that way. With every ache and pain, every visit to the doctor, every pill we take we are reminded that our bodies are fragile vessels, and they will one day give way for each of us. When God came as the Word made flesh you might think that God would come in a body that was indestructible, but, as he hung upon the cross, Jesus' body proved no more durable than anyone else's, and yet, like us, Jesus was built to last.

Our bodies are not all that we are. What we see is not all that there is. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is proof that God's Kingdom is built to last because we have been built to last so that even when someone tries to destroy us in some way or other we will rise again. This is the promise we have of life after death, but let us not wait until we die to receive this gift.

Let us use our life to build something that will last. Let us live in such a way that when our bodies are gone the impact of our having lived will last. May the resurrection inspire your joy and your hope, because despite all the destruction we see in the world, we should be steadfast in the believe that Jesus, The Holy spirit, the Kingdom, and each one of us have been slowly, lovingly, painstakingly built by God. Therefore the forces of death and destruction may reign supreme for a time, but like all things they will fade leaving nothing but the things of God, the things that have been built to last.

Call to Offering

Bring your hope. Bring your love. Bring new life, as you share your gifts with the Risen Christ.

Owen Stillwell

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below! Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dedication of Offering Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

Creator and savior of the world, help us inspire one another to acts of love and deeds of mercy and grace. Receive these gifts of our hands and the offering of our very lives, that we may embody the presence of Christ as we love and serve you.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

I have been working on my garden and trying to get it ready. We have raised beds which means that we have to fill it, and it can be hard to find things to fill them with. We compost food and leaves. We live near a horse farm and so use manure and fill it with whatever dirt we can find. It's funny that growing vegetables and flowers is such dirty work, but it is precisely the dirt that makes them grow.

We want our life to be so nice and clean and orderly and then the hassles and stresses of life dirty up our days. And of course so much of our lives are just filled with manure that we often use the expression, "that stinks", and often times we are left just trying to get by with whatever we can find, but the next time you find yourself wanting to curse another bit of mud that has fallen into your life remember the words of the gospel group, Mary Mary:

"We all need a little bit of dirt to grow. Need a little rain to wash our souls"

The fact is that it's the rotten and smelly things in the dirt that produce beautiful flowers and healthy foods and terrible and rotten things in our lives, if properly tended, can cause the fruits of faith to grow within us.

A person who has never experienced pain, does not know suffering or loss, who has never looked at death, cannot appreciate how much Christ loves them and how much Christ can save them. For he too experienced quite a bit of dirt on that not so Good Friday. His body was torn, and his blood shed, you can imagine he was filthy when he was taken down from the cross, but, like a seed planted in the ground, he was placed in a tomb and three days sprung forth new and more beautiful than before.

At this table we remember those events and proclaim that actually that Friday was Good after all, and not everything that smells stinks, and not everything that is dirt is bad. As we commune with our crucified and risen Lord let us not ask that God spare us from getting dirty in this life, rather let us ask God to help us use our dirt right, so that out of it something beautiful may grow.

Communion Hymn*"I Come with Joy"*

Audra Allen, organist

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Kevin Puskarich

Words of Institution

Rev. Stillwell

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Sharing Holy Communion

You will receive the bread and cup together. Please hold them; we will take each together as one body. Disciples of Christ believe in an Open Table. All who profess Christ and follow Him are welcome to share His meal.

Call to Discipleship

Rev. Stillwell

If you have come to know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and you would like to profess that you intend to begin a life of faith, learning to walk in his way of Love, you are welcome to contact one of the Pastors to take this step. If you would like to join this part of the Body of Christ at Fairhill Manor Christian Church, to covenant to journey together in this life of faith, please reach out to one of the Pastors to learn more. We all take these moments to rededicate our lives to following Jesus.

Closing Hymn

“Christ Arose”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!
Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o’er his foes; he arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Christ is risen! Alleluia! The tomb is empty. Alleluia! Go with joy to meet the risen Christ. Alleluia!
Amen!

Recorded worship services can be found on the Church website or on YouTube,
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih_fzHCC2X0Jhc_sfniJ7C1O3X



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 to Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

Homebound Members:

Phyllis Cimino
317 Wellness Way
Strabane Trails #325
Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokeley
900 N. Cass Lake Road, Apartment 324
Waterford, MI 48328

Bernard and Jane Teagarden
441 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317

Nadine Teagarden
826 Old National Pike
Claysville PA 15323

Ed Alexy
Avery Allen
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Jim Banish
Tom Barnhart
Abby Blanchard
Susan Britko
Mabel Brooks
Sandra Carman
Denise Charles
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Jett Fuller
Derek Gardiner
David & Lois Gayman
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg

Linda Hainer
Kyle Hallam
Judy Hanning
Aryn Hess
Ed Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Kenger Family
Family of Pam Kloss
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &
Ty James Lacock
Von Lacock
Bob Lanning
Libby LeDuff
Lee & Betsy Martin
Dave McConnell
Don Melvin
Michaela Nixon
Carmen Oliverio
Ruth Mikuta
Deborah Patterson
Bo & Patty Pryor
Kayda Richards
Cathy Rentgen
Betty Jo Riggle
Dave Ross
Jim and Barb Roupe

John Shadeck
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Cathy Stewart
John Stewart
Bernard and Jane Teagarden
Beth Teagarden
Nadine Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Sarah Wittenberg

In the Military

Lance Dague	Andrew Gregg
Terrell McClain	Zachary Keene
Brandon Lipscomb	Sarah Lipscomb
Daniel Robinson	Travis Ringer
Shawn Dallatore	Emily Chase
Dylan Demain	

Zoom Worship will continue to be live at
10:15 am each Sunday

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45am using the
following meeting ID and password.

Meeting ID: 932 4557 4206 Password: 026316

Fellowship with other "Zoomers" from 9:45 – 10:15am.

Text your prayer concerns to be shared during worship
to Rev. Chris at (412) 956-6590.

Church Office hours:

Karen is working from home on Monday, Tuesday and Friday,
9 am – 2 pm. She will be in the Church Office on Wednesday & Thursday, 9 am – 2 pm.
The Church phone is forwarded to Karen's cell phone and can be reached anytime.

Pastor Gena is off on Friday. Pastor Gena is working from home and comes in to the
church as needed. Feel free to text, call, email or set up a time to meet with Pastor Gena.

Rev. Chris is off on Tuesday during the school year.

If you need anything at any time, please call the Church Office phone at 724-225-8610.

Puzzle!

Follow the arrows and fill in the blanks to discover what the women found at Jesus' tomb on Easter morning.

T

BEGIN ▶

T	H	E	A						
B	S	T	O						
M	O	C	N						
T	H	R	E						
R	O	O	D	E	F	W	P	R	O
E	A	F	S	G	Y	A	S	H	L
N	A	L	I	A	A	W		E	L
N	G	E	D	T	J	B	A	D	C
F	O	T	H						
E	H	M	E						
I	S	N	O						
H	E	H	T						
E	R	E	R						
H	S	R	E						
A	I	S	N						

◀ END

Arrows indicate the path from the 'T' to the 'END' through the grid.

Answer: The stone was rolled away from the door.
 An angel said to them, "He is not here; he has risen!"
 (See Luke 24:1-8.)