

Manor Minutes
Volume 12 Issue 15
April 16, 2021

Those with last names beginning with **A-E & P-Z** worship in the sanctuary **April 18** at 10:15am. The Worship Schedule can be found at: <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/sanctuary-schedule>

ZOOM – LIVE

Zoom Worship this Week - Live from the Sanctuary at 10:15am!
"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45 am using the 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 Rev. Chris (412) 956-6590. He will share these during worship. At 10:15 am, mute yourself on Zoom (Not sure how to do that? Login at 9:45 am and someone will help). Those on Zoom are visible to each other for the entire worship service. If you would like to see but not be seen, click Stop Video on your Zoom screen.

Children Worship & Wonder

We invite children age 3 – Grade 5 to participate in Children Worship & Wonder. Join CW&W on Zoom around 10:30 am (contact Pastor Gena for the login information). To learn more and register your child(ren), <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/children-worship-wonder>

Tween Team

Gather online via Zoom with 4th-7th Graders on Sunday evenings from 5-6 pm. JC Leasure and Connie Sheller will co-lead this Sunday.

DON'T

FORGET

Pastor Gena will be on vacation: April 5 - 18

Food Drive at First Church of the Nazarene – April 17, 10am-11am
1336 N Main Street, Washington

Personnel Committee – April 20, 6pm via Zoom

May Newsletter deadline – April 22

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

You can help Fairhill Manor Christian Church all year through this program, not just at Christmas.

Choose Fairhill Manor as your charity on **Amazon Smile**. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Sign in to smile.amazon.com. Go to "Your Account," then select the option to "Change your Amazon Smile Charity." Type "Fairhill Manor Christian Church" into the Search box. Choose FMCC as your charity!

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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor
 April 18, 2021

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Rev. Stillwell

Call to Worship*

Gene Sheller

In a world of angry fists and loud shouting, we come for a word of peace.
 In a world of death and dying, we come for a word of resurrection and hope.
 In a world of danger and anxiety, we come for a word of assurance and help.
 In a world of selfishness and greed, we come for a word of challenge.
 We come now to worship the One who offers all of these blessings and more.

Opening Hymn

“Come Christians, Join to Sing”

Audra Allen, organist

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
 Loud praise to Christ we bring: Alleluia! Amen!
 Let all with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
 praise we with gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
 Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
 Christ is our Guide and Friend on whom we can depend;
 his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Rev. Stillwell

God of love and grace, as you swing wide the gate of welcome this day, strengthen us to walk through the gate of your love and mercy.

Protect us from harm as we lie down in the fields of your mercy and rise again to travel this journey of faith. Speak to us through your teachings this day, that we may devote ourselves to your guidance and feed on your life-giving word.

Hear our prayers for the many needs we face this day.

For those who are facing serious illness, we pray to you O God.

For those who are trapped in addictions, we pray to you O God.

For those who are concerned about the direction their children are taking, we pray to you O God

For those who are dealing with trouble in their marriage, we pray to you O God

For those who must cope daily with handicaps, we pray to you O God

For those who are feeling pressure to take the wrong path, we pray to you O God

For those who are struggling with depression, we pray to you O God

For those who have lost their employment, we pray to you O God

For those who are having serious doubts about their faith, we pray to you O God

For those whose lives have been torn apart by shootings, we pray to you O God.

For those who fear that their lives matter less than others because of the color of their skin, we pray to you O God.

It is our prayer, as we gather, that together with our fellow believers we may be able to comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of your love for us; a love that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with your fullness.

It is our prayer that we might be able to make some attempt, feeble as it may be to share that love so that we do not just speak your love but live it as well.

In the beloved name of Jesus, our shepherd, we pray 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*” Audra Allen, organist
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 **John 18:15-18; 25-27** Gary Ford

Special Music “My Jesus, I Love Thee,” E.F. Miller Jim Cope

Children’s Message* Cara Hritz

Good morning!

Hasn't the weather been beautiful lately? I love when spring is here! What do you notice when spring comes? Do you see anything that tells you spring is coming? This calendar says that spring started a few weeks ago. I always notice that the daffodils in my yard start to grow and bloom. That's one of the first signs of spring for me. In Ecclesiastes 3:11, the Bible tells us that God makes all things beautiful in His time. It's easy for us to want to rush things. We want the weather to get warmer and sunnier fast. We want to see the beautiful flowers bloom quickly. Sometimes there are things in our life that we don't want to wait for too. But, God tells us that his timing is perfect. He doesn't need to follow a calendar, but he knows the perfect timing. Let's pray and ask God to help us be patient and wait for His timing.

Good and faithful God, thank you for your timing and the way that you make all things beautiful. Please help us to learn and grow when we are waiting. Help us to enjoy all the seasons of life. In Your Name, Amen

Second Scripture Reading* **John 21:1-14** Rev. Stillwell

Sermon* “**Back to Work**” Rev. Stillwell

Everyone loves to take a vacation. Well, most people do anyway, and even if you don’t go anywhere it is nice to take a break from your work. My family is beginning to plan for something in the summer, and we want to go everywhere, but wherever we do go I always add at least a day to my vacation so that when I come home I have some time to recover. I need a day to unpack, and put away, and clean the car, and tend to the yard that has been neglected for a week, but more than anything I need that buffer to prepare myself to get back to work.

It is not that work is so hard, it’s just that in order for a vacation to be restful I need to be able to turn my mind off of work, and if I know I have to go back the next day, then the last day of my vacation is not too enjoyable. It is like the Sunday afternoon of my childhood, when I knew that every passing hour brought me closer to returning to school and the homework I put off all weekend needed finishing.

Like a computer, humans need to be turned off and turned back on sometimes in order to work their best. I take vacation, and then I take some time to put my vacation away, so to speak, and some time to prepare for my return so that when I go back to work I am refreshed and ready. What doesn’t work is when I am

forced to take a break when I do not want to take one. Last year when we suspended service and I spent a Palm Sunday and Easter weekend at home instead of in the sanctuary was maybe the worst couple weeks of my life, and when someone said to me that she felt like people were taking a vacation I got just about as angry as I have ever gotten. Believe me there was nothing I would rather have been doing than being so busy that I wondered how I would get it all in as is usually the case during Holy week.

Because I hate a forced vacation I feel like I have a better understanding of what the Disciples were going through at the end of the gospels now than I did before. The reason I say this is because it strikes me how much time has passed in our story today. When we read John, the entire post resurrection story is told in only in a couple dozen verses, but it takes place over the course of more than a week.

Jesus appears to Mary Easter morning and the disciples minus Thomas that evening. Then a week later he appears to all disciples including Thomas, and now he appears again to the disciples who have returned to their home, the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias, where it all began when Jesus makes his third appearance to the disciples.

What strikes me is that they have been through Hell, but then received the stunning news that Christ had risen from the dead, and then they saw him themselves and received the Holy Spirit, and then . . . nothing. Nothing for a week, and Jesus returns, and then still nothing. So what do they do during this forced sabbatical? They do the only thing they know how to do. They go back home and back to their work that they did before they followed Jesus. They go fishing.

For some of us a story that ends with the characters going fishing is a story with a happy ending, but the story is not over. Now it has returned to its beginning as we remember that Peter started out as a fisherman. He lived with his wife in Capernaum, where they shared a house with his mother-in-law and his brother Andrew. He and Andrew had their own boat and were in business with a couple of partners named James and John, Zebedee's sons. The first time Jesus laid eyes on him, he took one good look and said, "So you're Simon, the son of John" (John 1:42), and then said that from then on he'd call him Cephas, which is Aramaic for Peter, which is Greek for rock.

As Frederick Buechner says, "Now a rock isn't the prettiest thing in creation or the fanciest or the smartest, and if it gets rolling in the wrong direction, watch out, but there's no nonsense about a rock, and once it settles down, it's pretty much there to stay. There's not a lot you can do to change a rock or crack it or get under its skin, and, barring earthquakes, you can depend on it about as much as you can depend on anything. So Jesus called him the Rock, and it stuck with him the rest of his life. Peter the Rock."

Once this happened Jesus told Peter that he would no longer fish for fish. Instead he could fish for men. But here Peter is, back where he started, fishing for fish, and not even finding any of those. It could possibly make a person wonder what it was all for. I myself wonder why Jesus makes the disciples wait, but I have to think there are lessons in the waiting.

Much like we do at Advent, I think the disciples are being prepared for the next chapter in the story as they wait. I think that Jesus' multiple appearances help them to believe that what they are seeing isn't just an illusion or a hallucination. I think they need time to come to grips with all that has happened, and they need some time to think about what it means before this final scene in John's gospel.

I think Jesus waits until they are ready and, as always, Jesus likes to make an entrance. So he appears at the shore, and they do not know him. While they have fished all night but caught nothing he suggests they try a specific spot and, having nothing to lose, they do and catch a lot of fish, and then it is John who recognizes who it is and it is Peter who wants to be the first to greet him.

When Peter and the other disciples and their fish get there, they see a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread...Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. What's the big, burning question here? What do the 153 fish symbolize?

No, the big question here is: where did the fire and bread come from? The answer is simple and powerful. Jesus had provided it. What the disciples had tried and failed all night to do, Jesus accomplished by simply willing it to happen. The disciples had great need to realize that in the coming weeks and years, when they would be rejected and hated for their message, when they would be tempted to doubt the power of the Word, when they would face danger, poverty and hunger – that no matter what the problem seemed to be, Jesus could and would provide. The book of Acts tells us that Jesus kept this promise. When the disciples were placed on trial for their preaching – Jesus gave them the words to say. When they needed proof that their message came from heaven – Jesus gave them the power to perform miracles as validation. And, when they ventured off into regions unknown to preach the Gospel – Jesus provided open hearts and believers who loved their Lord and provided for his apostles. The Risen Lord showed his disciples with this powerful miracle that they could trust him to provide.

But he does one thing more. He lets them help. The disciples have so little to offer but when they realize who he is he says, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught," as if they did this without his help. They bring the fish so that they can have a meal, the most important meal of their life since the last meal that they had with him, and we will talk about this meal next week, but for now it is enough to say that the waiting is over, the vacation has ended. It is time for the disciples, to leave fishing forever and get back to work, and the same is true for us.

Whether you still work a job or you are retired it is time to get back to work, and the work of the Christian is to proclaim the good news, Christ is Risen! As you prepare yourself to get back to work remember this. There is nothing more difficult for us to do than to trust that Jesus will provide what we need when we need it. Too often we are consumed with worry about our lives, what we will eat or drink; or about our bodies, what we will wear even though Jesus tells us not to worry and reassures us that God knows that you need them. Too often we wait until we have exhausted all of our energy and resources before we finally turn to Jesus and lay our problems into his hands.

When you find yourself worrying, agonizing, stressed out remember that it is as easy for Jesus to satisfy your needs today as it was for his disciples then. How can you be sure? What if you've worked all night or all your life and have an empty net? You can be sure because Jesus has already taken care of your greatest need: he has taken away your sins of doubt and worry and has given you the riches of his grace.

You can be sure because Jesus has already done the one thing we haven't done – he trusted God above all things – and he did it perfectly. Instead of worrying, instead of growing frustrated, instead of exhausting all of your resources before turning to Jesus; ask this question that Paul asked. If God did not spare God's own son, but gave him up for us all – how will God not also, graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32) It is time for us to get back to the work of loving, forgiving, helping, praying, and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, but we can give thanks that we do not need to prepare ourselves for this work, for Paul tells us again in Ephesians "we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do". (Ephesians 2:10)

So we who are God's handiwork can get back to work, doing good works in the name of the one who has risen from the dead and who gives us all we need to do this work. Thanks be to God who calls us to participate in the work of building the Kingdom while at the same time gives us all the help we will ever need.

Call to Offering*

Gene Sheller

As we come to give our tithes and offerings, may we search ourselves to see if we have denied Jesus in our life. Whether we have denied Him or conveniently do not remember those times, may our offering help further the spreading of the gospel to other people in the world.

May some of our offering also be used to care for the people of our congregation and others who are in need. May a portion of the offering also help the many ministries of Fairhill Manor Christian Church.

May the offering be a small part of the help for all to resist denying Jesus.

Doxology**Dedication of Offering Prayer***

Rev. Stillwell

As we give, we pray that these offerings will be wisely distributed, honorably handled, and lovingly distributed, in keeping with the name and character of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Invitation to Communion*

Rev. Stillwell

I used to enjoy driving for the opportunity to look out the window and see the world but now, as an adult, I am always driving and so by necessity I am looking ahead and never get to look around. This is a pretty common problem for adults who become so single-minded on where they are going they get tunnel vision and often do not notice what is around them.

This is also something that happens to us as Christians, and I think it is a very big problem. As Christians we look to Heaven as our goal and we can be so fixated on the goal that we lose sight of all else, but I do not think God put us on this earth just so we can die. It is important for us to get to our goal to reach our destination, but I do think that there are things that we are meant to see and learn along the way, and if we miss them we will get to our destination and realize that we have missed our journey.

A person who was raised Jewish but no longer practices the faith is often referred to as a non-observant Jew. There are also a lot of non-observant Christians and it is not because they are not practicing their faith, it is because they are practicing their faith in such a way that they are not noticing all the things that God wants to show them.

When we come to this table we remember that this is what happened to the disciples who were so obsessed with getting to Jerusalem that they forgot, ignored or didn't notice when Jesus told them what would happen there. As we share this meal let us learn from their mistake and ask Christ to open our eyes to what he is doing around us. Let us find some time to be still and rest in God awhile. Let us find time to be fully observant Christians.

Communion Hymn*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

Audra Allen, organist

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)	Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees. [refrain]	Let us drink wine together on our knees. [refrain]

[Refrain:] When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Cara Hritz

Gracious God,

We have felt your presence so closely this Easter season. You have shown us how much you care for us. As we take this bread and this cup, please let it bring nourishment to our bodies and our souls. Let it remind us of your unfailing love that gave your only son for us. Amen

Words of Institution*

Rev. Stillwell

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: That the Lord Jesus Christ, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is broken for you; eat this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; that is poured out for you. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat of the bread and drink of the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. (I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Sharing in Communion

Closing Hymn

"Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"

Jody Mullis, pianist

Come, now is the time to worship.

One day every tongue will confess You are God.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

One day every knee will bow.

Come, just as you are, to worship.

Still the greatest treasure remains for those

Come, just as you are, before your God. Come.

Who gladly choose you now.

Benediction*

Rev. Stillwell

Go forth from this place of worship in humility, knowing it was for you Christ died, in confidence, knowing it is for you he lives, and in hope, knowing it is for you he will come again.

* You can listen to these pieces of worship at

<https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/worship-audio-files>

Previous Worship services can also 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) 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. We are One Body in Christ!

Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center

Bill Behrens Rm 437
835 S Main Street
Washington PA 15301

Homebound Members:

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

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

In the Military

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Terrell McClain
Brandon Lipscomb
Daniel Robinson
Shawn Dallatore
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Zachary Keene
Sarah Lipscomb
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Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Georgette Murray
Deborah Patterson
Joyce and Denny Paul
Betty & Charles Riecks

Betty Jo Riggle
Chip Rogers and his parents
Jim and Barb Rouse
John Shadeck
Theresa Shape
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Cathy Stewart
John Stewart
Beth Teagarden
Nadine Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Sarah Wittenberg
Marcie Yocum
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash

**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 on
Vacation: April 5 - 18**

Rev. Chris is off on Friday.

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

Sign up for **Givelify**, the mobile giving app for places of worship and charities.

Givelify gives you an easy giving experience using your smartphone. There are no frustrating web forms to fill out, and recurring gifts are easy to set up and modify. Even better, it's free to download and use. It's safe and secure and gives you access to your complete giving record.

Want to see how it works? [Watch the demonstration video](#) that shows you all about how to make and track donations.

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