

**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 13 Issue 19**  
**April 22, 2022**

*The Story* Chapter 28 Early Church: New Beginnings – April 24

May Newsletter Deadline – April 25

Bethany Class Wednesday Zoom – April 27, 1pm via Zoom

Funeral Dinner Committee – April 28, 1pm Library

Personnel Committee – April 28, 3:30pm Library

Choir Practice – April 28, 6:30pm Choir Room

Stay up to date, check [www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar)



**Soup Sunday**  
**April 24**  
**following**  
**Worship**

**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 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**

Thank you to the BYKOTA class for the lovely Sunrise Breakfast on Easter Sunday!



**Board Meeting – May 11**

Please turn in your board reports to the office by May 4.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister  
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor  
Elders: Rita Puskarich, Bread  
Kevin Puskarich, Cup  
April 24, 2022 - 10:15am

**Prelude**

Audra Allen, organist

**Welcome**

Rev. Stillwell

**Call to Worship**

Shyla Rash

Leader: Praise the Lord. Praise God in the sanctuary.

**People: Worship God in the mighty firmament.**

Leader: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

**People: Praise God with trumpet and horn. Worship God with lute and harp.**

Leader: Let the people of God sing their praise.

**People: Praise God with tambourine and dance. Worship God with strings and pipes.**

Leader: Let the faithful join the strain.

**People: Praise God with clashing cymbals. Praise God with beating drums.**

**All: Praise the Lord!**

**Opening Hymn**

*“On Pentecost They Gathered”*

Audra Allen, organist

On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,  
a band of Christ’s disciples, to worship, sing and pray.  
A might wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,  
and tongues of fire aglowing inspired each person there.

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

Rev. Stillwell

Eternal God, who was and is and is to come, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and end of all things. Come to us now in visions and dreams, that our eyes may see more than they see, and our hearts may love more than they love. Make yourself known to us in this time of worship,

You gather people together in your name, for your purpose.

We give you thanks that you have called us to be the body of Christ. Forgive us for our internal conflict. Forgive us for our inability at times to see beyond our own selves. Forgive us if we have become closed off to your Spirit.

We pray for this community — that it might always be mindful of your vision for us. We pray for discernment that is pure, not clouded by our own motives. We pray for openness to all people of all colors and cultures.

Bless this gathering as part of your larger community of Christians, we pray. Bless us with your presence. Let your love fall upon us like spring rain and your Holy Spirit move through our hearts like a spring breeze refreshing and invigorating as it blows.

It is in you that we live and move and have our being. Bring your kingdom here on earth, that all may know your glory and find the courage to face each day. We ask this in the name of the one who conquered the grave to bring us eternal life. Amen.

*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**

**Genesis 11:1-9**

J.C. Leasure

**Anthem**

“All Praise and Honor,” by Benjamin Harlan

Choir

**Children’s Message**

Cara Hritz

On a hot day, a fan can really help to keep us cool. How does a fan help to keep us cool? That's right, it keeps us cool by blowing air. I think I will turn the fan on now. Do you see any air coming out of the fan? Well, if we can't see the air, how do you know the fan is working? There are several ways we can tell that this fan is working.

One way that we can tell that the fan is working is that I have tied some red streamers on the front of the fan. Even though we can't see the air, we can see the air blowing those streamers. That is one way we know the fan is working. Another way we can know that the fan is working is that we can feel the air from the fan blowing against our faces. We can't see the air, but we can feel it.

Finally, we know that the fan is working because we can hear the sound of the air and the rattling sound of the streamers as they blow. We can't see it, but we can hear it.

Today we are learning about a special day that many churches celebrate. It is called the day of Pentecost. Today we are talking about the story of how it all began.

The Bible tells us that on the day of Pentecost, Jesus' followers were all gathered together in one place and God sent the Holy Spirit to give them the power to teach others about Jesus. Now, they couldn't see the Holy Spirit, so how did they know the Holy Spirit was there?

The Bible says that they knew the Holy Spirit was there because they could hear the sound of a mighty wind coming from heaven. They couldn't see the Holy Spirit, but they could hear the sound of the wind just as we can hear the air blowing from this fan.

Then the Bible tells us that they saw what seemed to be flaming tongues of fire that came and rested on their heads. They couldn't see the Holy Spirit, but they knew that the Holy Spirit was there because they could see the flaming tongues of fire just as we can see these red ribbons on our fan.

Finally, the Bible tells us that they knew the Holy Spirit was there because they could feel his power. When they were filled with the Holy Spirit, he gave them the ability to speak in languages that they didn't even know, so that they could tell everyone about Jesus. They couldn't see the Holy Spirit, but they could feel his power in their life just as we can feel the air from this fan.

The Holy Spirit is still with us today. We can't see it, but we can hear it as he speaks to our hearts, we can see it moving in our life, and we can feel the power of its presence as it guides us through each day.

Dear Father, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to be our teacher and guide. Help us to listen and obey as he teaches us how to tell others about Jesus. Amen

## **Second Scripture Reading**

**Acts 2:1-21**

Rev. Stillwell

## **Sermon**

### **“On Pentecost They Gathered”**

Rev. Stillwell

When our children's birthdays come around we often end up celebrating them twice. We usually want to have a party on a Saturday, and, if their birthday does not fall on a Saturday that year, we will likely celebrate it on the actual day as well. This is particularly the case with Charlotte whose birthday is the middle of October. In order to increase the chance of good weather for an outdoor party we usually celebrate her birthday with her friends early, and then, a week or two later, celebrate with our family on the day of her actual birthday.

That is sort of what we are doing today, because today we are celebrating Pentecost, which has been described as the birthday of the church, even though actual Pentecost is a few weeks away. When you set up the teaching and preaching schedule for the Story, you are told to put Easter on Easter Sunday and then place all the other stories in the corresponding order. This means that Easter is just about the only holiday that falls on the actual day. So today we will talk about Pentecost, and in a few weeks, we will celebrate it.

When we began this study, I told you of the time when I was a young seminary student in Joey Jeter's Principles of Preaching class he had much advice to give us. He told us about pacing and gesturing. He told us about structuring our sermons and how to use the lectionary. He helped us learn how to say what we wanted to say, but he also gave us some simple advice for the times when we did not know what to say. He said “When Sunday mornings come at you like lines on a highway and you're not sure what to say just tell a story.” Now by this he didn't mean get up there and tell a story about the time your uncle fell into the lake on a fishing trip unless of course you could relate that to the gospel somehow. What he meant was tell the gospel story or retell the story that is your passage for that morning.

That is good advice that I have used a time or two, and it is advice that hymn writers use as well. Our opening hymn today, “On Pentecost They Gathered” is a story hymn and story hymns do two things. It tells a story of the Bible by taking a passage and recounting the events in measures and meter, describing what happened in words and rhyme.

It does this for the same reason a preacher would do this, to remind church members of a very important event, action, lesson, or teaching that needs to be heard again, and by putting it to a tune perhaps makes it more memorable, but that is only half of what a story hymn does.

It also tells us what that story means for us today. After all the Bible is not just a history book to be read and forgotten about, it is a history book about the future that is to be experienced in the present. In that way it is a living history and our hymn does both of these things quite well.

The first part of the hymn retells the story of Pentecost recounted in two verses.

On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,  
a band of Christ's disciples, to worship, sing, and pray.  
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,  
And tongues of fire aglowing inspired each person there.

The people all around them were startled and amazed  
to understand their language, as Christ the Lord they praised.  
What universal message, what great good news was here?  
That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.

That's just about the way that the story happened isn't it? Hymns have to be concise in their usage of words, so a story that takes about 73 verses to tell is told in two stanzas. Obviously much will be left out. The words of Peter as he spoke to the crowds, their skeptical response accusing him of being drunk, the choosing of Mathias as Judas' replacement, are all eliminated in order to distill the story down to its most important elements.

It happened on Pentecost, the day that commemorates the feast of weeks which takes place approximately fifty days after Passover. Because of this people from all over the Jewish diaspora would be in Jerusalem. This story could not have happened if that were not the case.

For the festival the people came to worship and sacrifice in the temple, and the disciples gathered there to worship, sing, and pray just as we do. In fact it is interesting to me that in this hymn it says not Jesus' disciples but a band of Christ's disciples. This refers to the fact that he had other followers besides the famous twelve, but also it helps us identify with the hymn. We are a band of Christ's disciples and we wait for the Spirit to fall on us as well.

They were doing this in response to Jesus' final command, "I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." As it fell on them a mighty wind came blowing and with it tongues of flame which the book of Acts describes as settling on the disciples. This, itself, was an amazing thing, but it was unclear what it signified until Peter began to speak. It was apparent that an amazing thing was happening when Peter spoke and everyone said:

Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.

As amazing as that is, it is what they have to say that is important. After all we live in a day and age in which we have an amazing array of communication devices. I can speak to you through a microphone, text someone on my cell phone, message someone on my iPod, post something on my Facebook page all from the pulpit. I have so many ways to say things, but what if I don't have anything to say?

On the television show, "The Office", there is a very amusing scene in which one character creates a website called WUPHF, described as the last social networking site that ties them all together. This app works so that instant messages, emails, Facebook statuses, tweets, texts, and voice mails are all connected, and the character who developed it says, "Why should I tell you when I can show you?" He then sends a message and three screens jump up on his computer, his desk phone rings, his cell phone vibrates, and a piece of paper comes out of his printer. So many ways to communicate his message but what did he say? Nothing. Nothing at all.

But not so for Peter. He had the best means of communicating ever known, The Holy Spirit, that would transcend the language barrier, and he used it to tell people that the Jesus who was crucified was indeed the long awaited messiah, and he rose from the dead. As this was happening one person in the crowd said to another “What does this mean?”, and that is what our story hymn attempts to explain in its two concluding verses.

God pours the Holy Spirit on all who would believe,  
on women, men, and children who would God's grace receive.  
That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power.  
The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.

We who gather to worship every Sunday hope to feel the Spirit as we worship. It might not mean that we can speak in tongues so that all people can understand us no matter their language. In fact, I have never known that to happen again since it did the first time. I'm not talking about speaking in tongues, but rather, we long to feel the Spirit moving in our life. We feel the Spirit anytime we come to church tired and leave refreshed, any time it is dark outside, but we feel the Son shine in our heart. We know it is the Spirit when we feel a stirring in our life and know it isn't the air conditioning, when we feel God's grace coming into our life and helping us start anew.

It is important to know that we don't wait until we are filled with the Spirit to come to church. Rather, like the disciples before us we come and worship, and pray, precisely because we want to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and so our hymn which has retold the story and told us what it means for us today leaves us with a prayer

O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,  
rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.  
O give us ears to listen and tongues aflame with praise,  
So folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.

That is my prayer for this church. I pray that our faith and commitment may be rekindled so that no matter what happens in our life we will draw on our faith to respond. I pray that we will have ears to listen not only to one another but to what God is trying to tell us through the Spirit. Above all I pray that we may have tongues to sing God's praises to others in order that glad songs of joy shall raise.

### **Call to Offering**

Amy Caldwell

Let us be generous in our giving, that others may see in us the transforming power of God. Let us be lavish in our gifts, that others may draw life from the bounty of God's blessings.

### **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

Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, you are the source of every blessing. In gratitude for your many mercies, we offer you these gifts and offerings, that they may be signs of our commitment to live as your faithful disciples. Amen.

## **Invitation to Communion**

Rev. Stillwell

I hurt my back on Monday and didn't start to feel better until Friday. Even then it wasn't great and any other day I would feel grumpy, but because I felt better than before it made me happy. That is often the way of things. Something we take for granted like good health we appreciate when it is gone so that if it comes back we feel good. If we can feel this way about chronic pain or sickness, how must it feel after a resurrection?

The disciples had many expectations of Jesus and they were all disappointed when he died, when he returned he didn't do any of those things, but no one cared. The disciples were just glad to see him and be in his presence again. When this happened their faith was unleashed and they were not only able to survive on their own once he ascended but they thrived like never before.

Once we stop putting expectations and demands on Christ and simply rejoice in his presence, then our faith is mature. The purpose of this meal is to do that very thing. We come with expectations and lists of things to pray for, but when we share the bread and the cup we are invited to rest awhile in Christ's presence. Maybe we will get what we want, maybe not, but so long as we appreciate that we have what matters most, the risen Lord Jesus Christ we will walk away from this table with great joy.

## **Communion Hymn**

*"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"*

Audra Allen, organist

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.

## **Prayer for the Bread & Cup**

Rita Puskarich

Holy and Awesome God,

We praise you for the Spring of the Earth, for the confidence all winter that we can look forward to Spring – and you will deliver; soft rains, sunny warm days, branches bursting forth with bright, green, tiny leaves, or white, pink, blue or purple blossoms. We thank you for giving us the joys of each season in due time.

You, heavenly Father, are our Master Gardener. You strengthen us with your word, water us with your blood and feed us with your love. You provide for us in so many ways. At this table, we recognize Your gift of grace and the eternal enrichment of our lives through your Son Jesus, our bread of life. We take this nourishing bread as food for our souls, while we remember Him. Amen

## **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

*"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"*

Jody Mullis, pianist

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out his mouth came fire and smoke.  
All around me looks so fine, ask my Lord if all was mine.

## Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Trust where you have reason to doubt. Hope where you have cause to despair. Go with God's blessing.

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Recorded worship services can be found on the Church website or on YouTube,  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih\\_fzHCC2X0Jhc\\_sfniJ7C1O3X](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](http://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  
 Benjamin Dube  
 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

<b>In the Military</b>	
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.

**YOU ARE A BLESSING**

You're Invited to be celebrated at a Disciples  
 Women's Ministry event hosted by the DWM of  
 the First Christian Church (DOC) of Canonsburg

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SATURDAY, APRIL 30 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
 Keynote speaker: Rev. Nikki Mazza-Fredley

A light lunch will be served

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Please bring: Yourself! You are the blessing!  
 Monetary Donations will be collected for the  
 Thomas Campbell Apartments

RSVP by April 24th TO:  
 Rachel @ 724-322-2427 (text or call)  
 Rachel.Neil@zoominternet.net or Donna @ 724-809-1036  
 butterfly57dms@comcast.net

**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.