

Manor Minutes

Volume 12 Issue 17

April 30, 2021

Those with last names beginning with **A-E & F-O** worship in the sanctuary **May 2** 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. Our time continues to center around, "Faithful Families: Lent and Easter Devotions." JC Leasure and Pastor Gena are the co-leaders.



Personnel Committee – May 4, 3pm-5pm in the Library

Board Reports due – May 5

Elders Meeting – May 12, 6pm via Zoom

Board Meeting – May 12, 7pm via Zoom

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



Nebraska newspaper editor and resident of Nebraska City NE, J. Sterling Morton had an enthusiasm for trees and advocated strongly for individuals and civic groups to plant them. Once he became secretary of the Nebraska Territory, he further spread his message of the value of trees. On January 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture.

Today "Arbor Day" is celebrated in all 50 states. The most common date for the state observance is the last Friday in April, National Arbor Day. A number of state Arbor Days are at other times to coincide with the best tree planting weather, from January and February in the south to May in the far north.



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

May 2, 2021

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship*

Von Lacock

Come to Christ, the true vine, and bear much fruit.
We have come to abide in the vine, and to bear the fruit of salvation.
Come to love one another, for love is of God.
We have come to the household of love, for God is love.
Come to set aside your fears, for perfect love drives out fear.
We have come to love one another, as God has loved us. Come! All are welcome here.

Opening Hymn

“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”

Audra Allen, organist

Holy Spirit, Truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine.
Voice of God, and inward Light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.

Holy Spirit, Love divine, glow within this heart of mine.
Kindle every high desire, purify me with your fire.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Pastor Gena

Living God, you are alive and active in our world and in our lives. Thank you for calling us to get up and come together this morning. Whether with reluctance or hesitation or fear or joy, we are here, and we give you thanks. Come and speak to us this morning; let us know the comfort of your presence as we sit together. Draw us to yourself, even if we aren't sure we belong here, even if we don't think we know you well enough to qualify. Help us to sense your joy in the curiosities of our hearts, our determination to plant ourselves where hope is found. May we follow our hearts to you as we worship.

All-knowing God, forgive us when we compare ourselves with each other, wishing we were more like someone else, vying for more of your love and affection, judging ourselves by how others seem to know and love you more. We know that each of us is the one you love. You are working in each one of our lives in different and wonderful ways. Help us to trust you with our lives, turning to you for guidance and direction. When we see how you are working in the lives of others, turn us from jealousy toward celebration. And make us ever more sensitive to your directions, your movements in our own lives.

Thank you for experiences which lead us to new understandings. Thank you for those who have revealed you to us, who have helped us to see you moving in our lives, who have helped us to understand what you are teaching us. Thank you for those who have taken the time to listen to our hearts, to walk with us on our journeys. Develop in us a hunger to know you more, a thirst to understand your word written in our

Someone has to provide a starting action that sets the other actions in motion. Without that beginning action, the other actions don't happen either. But when someone starts the action, then one action leads to another and another. We call this process a chain reaction. We can push just one domino, which pushes the next one, which pushes the next one, and so on, forming actions linked together, like a chain!

One of our friends, Ty Dunkle, had to use at least 3 simple machines and 4 chain reactions to pop a balloon for a 7th grade industrial technology project at Trinity Middle School. Let's watch how Ty did it. <https://youtu.be/A74VarUQ11A> How did he get the action going? What were some things that happened in the chain reaction?

We hear in the Bible about another kind of chain reaction that's been going on for a long, long time. In a letter called 1 John, we read this in chapter 4, verse 19: "we love because God first loved us." The author of this letter reminds us that love is a chain reaction! When someone loves and cares for us, we learn how to love, too. Our love grows when we share it with others. They share the love they receive from us, and the love keeps going like a chain reaction.

I wonder who started the first push setting all of this love in motion. 1 John 4:19 gives us a clue, doesn't it? We love because God first loved us! God set the chain reaction of love going by giving us love as a gift. Because God loves us, we become part of the chain reaction, keeping and growing God's love in the world!

We thank Ty Dunkle for sharing his video with Isaac and me so we could share it with you today. Hey, that's another chain reaction!

Dear God, thank you for loving us and starting the chain reaction of love. Show us how to keep your love going until every person knows you love them and care about them. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading*

John 21:20-25

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon*

"What About Him?"

Rev. Stillwell

When I was in school there seemed to always be one piece of advice that every teacher had. One that they all read from the same book or were taught in the same course and that was to worry about myself. "Don't worry about what Johnny's doing," they say, "just worry about yourself," or, "Don't worry about what Whitney's grade is worry about your own." Sometimes, whenever I did something wrong, I would look for a classmate that I just knew was worse or had done something worse and I would cite their guilt as my defense. Now whether or not they were as bad as I claimed or whether or not they actually did what I told the teacher they did, it did not make me any less guilty for what I had done. "Let 'em worry about Trent, "the teacher would say, "You worry about yourself."

I am not a teacher but I find myself saying that to my children all the time now. My son makes a mess, and I tell him to clean it up and he says, "What about Charlotte? She helped make it too." Like my teachers told me, I say, "Don't worry about her, worry about yourself." It's like that for anything. "Eat your food. But Charlotte's not eating her's. Worry about yourself."

I use an example from children to discuss the apostle Peter because he so often acts like one, and here in the last section of the Gospel of John he does so again. As we heard last week, Peter is redeemed, but he cannot leave well enough alone. He has just had the largest amount of shame anyone has ever had lifted off his shoulder and what does he do? He turns to John, who is also known as the beloved disciple and says, "What about him?" I love it. Peter has had all the guilt of denying Christ taken away. His role as the

foundation of the church is restored, and he is entrusted with the task of caring for Jesus' sheep, and the first thing he does is to look at John who had followed him and says, "What about him?"

I don't know if they were rivals, but Peter was the rock Jesus would build the church on and John was the beloved. Likewise, Peter was always trying to outdo the other disciples and show he was first in faith. He walked on the water before sinking. He rebuked Christ for saying he would be crucified. He swore he would not deny him. He was the rock, but John was the beloved. Peter and John remind me of the sibling rivalry that existed between Mary and Martha, when Martha who had been working to clean the house was angry that Mary was not helping complained to Christ. Remember what he said? "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Here Jesus gently chided Martha and reminded her that Mary was right to focus on her relationship to Christ first. Martha should have worried about Christ and not what her sister was doing.

In the same way Peter's pattern is a constant one of sin and redemption followed by sin. He gets it wrong one way. Christ opens his eyes and he sees the error of his ways, then he gets something else wrong. Here Peter had so much sin forgiven, and instead of focusing on his own redemption turns to Christ and says, "What about him?" "What about that other guy?" "What about my brother, what are you going to do with him?"

To this Jesus replies, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' In other words, "it is not your concern. Focus on yourself." When I was on a swim team they always taught us not to worry about the other swimmers. If you turned your head to look to see what the other swimmers were doing you would lose valuable time. Coach Brubaker told us to keep our focus by looking straight ahead, "Worry about yourself and doing your best," he said.

Now this can be seen as an admonishment from Christ to Peter but it should also be seen as a grace. After all, dealing with your own sin is enough work, why should we want to be judge and juror of someone else's? Of course Christ told us earlier that we are our brother's keeper, so he is not telling us here that we should not care about others. When they fall we should help them up. When we can guide them or encourage them we should. But, when it comes to sin, the focus must be squarely on us. If we focus too much on what those people are doing, or how awful that person is then, not only may we be blind to our own sin, but we commit another sin as well.

Jesus told his disciples "Judge not lest ye be judged", and I am so thankful for that command even as I admit I have as much difficulty as anyone in following it. It is hard to determine someone's guilt and sentencing. I do not wish that power for myself. Have you ever had jury duty? I did once and it was not a high profile case, but it was important. The problem is that both sides were equally convincing in their argument, and it was hard to prove guilt let alone decide on the sentencing. We as a jury were all over the place. I would not want the power of judgement, which is why I am so glad Jesus tells us not to. But we have such a hard time remembering that lesson. We come to church not because we are perfect but because we know we are not. We are people who are no more holy than others, but we realize that we have sinned and therefore need God's grace to be forgiven. Let that always be the mark of distinction for a Christian.

When it comes to sin, therefore, we still need to be reminded to worry about ourselves. Don't worry about others. Let Christ worry about them. Share the gospel with them of course, but leave it up to Christ to judge their faithfulness to it. Christ tells us and Peter to follow him, but if we stop to look at others in order to judge how well they are following Christ we will certainly fall behind and lose our way. Of all the sins that our Lord condemns, this might be the worst sin, not because of its severity, but for its pervasiveness; for it is the sin which we are quickest to do. This sin isn't one of the biggest, railed against

in the Old Testament like eating shellfish, wearing clothes made from two kinds of fabric, it is not outlawed by the Ten Commandments, it doesn't rank alongside murder, or theft but it comes so easy. So does the sin of envy which also comes from worrying about others and not ourselves. Perhaps there is a bit of envy in Peter's words, "What about him?" Peter was the rock upon which the church would be built. He had just been given the responsibility of feeding the sheep, but now he wants to know what John is going to get. It is a strange answer Jesus gives. "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?" We don't know if that was what Peter was thinking, but, if Peter is like others, he might judge his gift from Christ in comparison to what the other disciples get.

After all, we so often spend time worrying about the other guy. What is someone else getting? Even when we are getting what we want or need, we're peering over, checking to see if someone else is getting more. Does he have a better place in line than I do? Is her piece of cake larger than mine? Is Peter's position lessened if another disciple also gets a good job? Is our gift of eternal life lessened if it is also given to people we don't like?

Peter may also be asking from simple curiosity, which is not in itself a sin, but, if it leads to worrying about things that do not concern us, may also lead us astray. Maybe Peter is just curious about what is going to happen to John, and it is simply something he isn't supposed to know. Maybe he was just curious, but Christ's revelation to John is just for him not for Peter.

We have enough to concern ourselves with and if everyone would focus on examining themselves, and removing the log in their own eye before addressing the speck in someone else's eye then the world would be a much better place, and we would be much better people for it. Here is a case where it is okay even encouraged to be selfish or self-centered. Let us not ask ourselves, "what about him, or what about her, or what about them?" God has given each of us a path to walk and a savior to follow and that should be more than enough to concern us.

Call to Offering*

Von Lacock

"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation," said Paul to the church at Corinth; "everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new." Let us express that new life by sharing our morning offering that others may be made new in Christ as well.

Doxology

Dedication of Offering Prayer*

Rev. Stillwell

Bountiful God, you fill the poor with good things and cause the hungry to be satisfied. May these gifts be instruments of your grace and may our very lives be the means of spreading your blessings. Make these gifts be for the world a sign of your boundless love and your overflowing abundance. Amen.

Invitation to Communion*

Rev. Stillwell

When we tried to teach our children how to ride a bike without their training wheels it was mostly successful. One of the ways we helped them is to tell them to look at something in the distance, pick something and focus on it. Sometimes it was a post, and sometimes it was a garbage can, and sometimes it was my wife, but the point was to just keep looking at it, because I noticed that every time that they looked away, the bike would start to wobble and then they would fall down.

As my kids started to get better, I began to test them even to the point where I would start yelling, "Look at that bird over there." "Hey, is that a dog, is that the ice cream truck?" And after a while they would learn to keep looking straight ahead. It is an important lesson to understand that, as long as you look straight ahead, you won't fall. For us on our journey as Christians, you might think of it in the same way

as riding a bike. As long as we continue to focus upon Christ, we won't waver, we won't wobble, and we won't fall down.

Certainly that is easier said than done. There are truths to the faith which are, if not obvious, at least pretty easy to understand, but still difficult to do, and in all the things that we do and all the places we go let Christ be our focus. For we know there are a million things that are vying for our attention, calling our hearts to look away, and be distracted. We know that if we look away too long. We will waver, and we will wobble, and we will fall.

The good news is that when that happens, and it has happened, and it will happen again, Christ will be there to pick us up and to continue to lead us, and to call us to follow. So wherever you are this week, as you come to this table if you are wavering, if you are wobbling, if you have fallen down, or if you are back on track, He is here at this table to lead us and calls us to follow.

Communion Hymn

“When You Do This, Remember Me”

Audra Allen, organist

You my friend, a stranger once, do now belong to heaven.
Once far away, you are brought home into God's family.
“When you do this, remember me.”

Now my Lord is also yours, my people are your own;
Embraced together in God's arms, I enfold you now in mine.
“When you do this, remember me.”

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Craig Dotson

Lord we give thanks for the opportunity to worship on this Sunday and for all the blessings we have received. We take this special time in our service to offer prayer for all of God's children in need of healing for physical or spiritual issues. We recognize the unique sacrifices offered for us and give thanks for the lessons the Bible offers. May we receive the guidance to use those lessons in our daily lives. We offer this prayer in the name of our Lord above. 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

“They'll Know We Are Christians”

Jody Mullis, pianist

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Benediction*

Rev. Stillwell

As children of God, live gratefully and responsibly, at peace with the family of God and looking to the day when we will see God face to face.

* 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

PRAYER REQUEST

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!

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

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

Ed Alexy
Gary Anderson
Avery Allen
Donna Bakaitis
Tom Barnhart
Bill Behrens
Bristol Allan Berry
Abby Blanchard
Mark & Susan Britko
Jordon Burk
Mary Chase
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Sue Donaldson
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Lois Gayman
Rose Ann Gorby
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg

Sloan Amelia Hagy
Kyle Hallam
Connie Hanning
Judy Hanning
Aryn Hess
Ed & Harriet Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Bob Lanning
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &
Ty James Lacock
Von Lacock
Cheryl Leach
Libby LeDuff
Pastor Michael Lehman
Lee & Betsy Martin
Dave McConnell
Don Melvin
Parker Muhleman
Michaela Nixon
Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Georgette Murray
Karen Palfreyman
Ryan Palfreyman
Tammy Palfreyman
Deborah Patterson
Joyce and Denny Paul

Betty Jo Riggle
Whitney Ringer
Jim and Barb Roupe
John Shadeck
Theresa Shape
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Rolinda Sprowls
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



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.

Ready to get started? [Download](#) the Givelify app for Android or iPhone.



Becca Caldwell is Graduating from Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School.
We are celebrating by holding a Socially Distanced Tailgate Party.
We will have delicious individually boxed lunches provided by PW Catering LLC.
Grab your lawn chairs and join us (rain or shine) in celebrating this milestone in Becca's life.

May 29th, 2021 from 11am – 1pm

Fairhill Manor Christian Church 351 Montgomery Avenue Washington, PA 15301

Please RSVP by May 15th Amy 724-207-3945 call or text or acaldwell8898@gmail.com.

Let us know how many will attend and your sandwich preferences.

Turkey, Roast Beef, Ham Pretzel bun, Italian or Club

We hope to see you there!

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



Answer: C (See Luke 1:1-4.)

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.

Rev. Chris is off on Friday.

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

2021 PENTECOST OFFERING BE THE NEW CHURCH

SUNDAYS MAY 16 AND MAY 23

newchurchministry.org

The 2021 Pentecost Offering is a special offering in support of the new church movement in your Region and across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

BE BOLD + BE COURAGEOUS + BE GENEROUS + BE THE NEW CHURCH

Be the New Church. For the past thirteen months, many Disciples living across the United States and Canada have been struggling with social isolation. They've stayed away from their various places of worship to protect the health and safety of themselves and others. It has been hard.

How have new church leaders responded? By launching communities of faith in creative and innovative ways. It's looked like spreading the word about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through Door Dash food deliveries, meeting with folks every week on Zoom to discuss anxiety, and making sure that the spiritual needs of transitioning out of correctional facilities are met. From hospital and prison chaplains to tri-vocational pastors, courageous new church leaders have answered the call to be the new church.

To support them and their efforts to continue the new church movement, please contribute to the 2021 Pentecost Offering, collected in most congregations on Sundays, May 16 and May 23. Each year, half of the gifts made go to your own Region to support local new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders. Through programs such as Leadership Academy, New Church Hacks, and Water the Plants, your gifts make a difference across the life of the Church. By participating in this Special Day Offering, you ensure the viability, vitality and sustainability of unique new church plants in your area and in states, provinces, and territories far away.

Please give generously. Let's all be the new church, together. To access additional Pentecost Offering resources, including images, videos, and stories to share, you can visit:

<http://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/pentecost>