

Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 34

August 14, 2020

The Rev. Chris Stillwell has signed the Letter of Calling from Fairhill Manor Christian Church to become our next Senior Pastor. He will be in worship with us on November 1, 2020. Please remember him and his family in your prayers as they make preparations for his move to be with us. Also, prayers for the congregation of the Connellsville Christian Church as they begin a search process to find a new pastor. More information will follow in future issues of the Manor Minutes.

Those with last names beginning with G-L and M-R worship in the Sanctuary this week at 9:30 am

ZOOM - LIVE

Zoom Worship this Week - Live from the Sanctuary at 9:30 am!

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9 am using the same Meeting ID and password.

Meeting ID: 932 4557 4206

Password: 026316

Fellowship with other "Zoomers" from 9 - 9:30 am.

Text your prayer concerns to Rev. Collins (412) 337-4293. He will share these during worship.

At 9:30 am, mute yourself on Zoom (Not sure how to do that? Login at 9 am and someone will help).

Please be aware that we will be Recording Zoom Worship this week with the hope that we can post it to our website for folks to view later.

Children **WORSHIP & WONDER**

We invite all children to join in Worship via Zoom at 9:30 am. Materials for children to work with during Worship will be attached to the Manor Minutes. Look for the beginning of a new CW&W year soon!



Pastor Gena will be back from vacation on August 17

Worship Attendance Schedule

WORSHIP



WITH US!

August 23: Last names beginning with A-F and G-L

August 30: Last names beginning with M-R and S-Z

September 6: Last names beginning with A-F and M-R

September 13: Last names beginning with G-L and S-Z



Zoom Stewardship/Finance – Tuesday, August 18, 5:30 pm

Zoom Elders Meeting – Thursday, August 20, 6:30 pm

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

Opportunities to Serve.

Contact the Church Office or Pastor Gena if you are interested.

- We are looking for 2-3 people to volunteer in a rotation with Rick Couch to video the Sanctuary worship service. You will sit in a designated pew near the front of the Sanctuary, connect your own smartphone to Zoom, mount your phone to a provided tripod, and follow the action in the Sanctuary for those connecting via Zoom at home. Training provided.
- We are scheduling folks to lead worship either in person in the Sanctuary or via Zoom. Worship pieces include the Call to Worship (provided), Scripture Reading, and Call to Offering (you write - assistance is available). Would you consider leading one or more pieces of worship? Would you write a reflection about "why I give" that someone else could share as a Call to Offering? Take this opportunity to learn and grow and share!

Givelify
Tap. Give. Done.



Fairhill Manor has entered a new era: the age of anytime, anywhere giving. We are now signed up with **Givelify**, the mobile giving app for places of worship and charities.

Givelify gives you a beautiful, 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.



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

Rev. Dr. W. Darwin Collins, Interim Pastor
 Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
 August 16, 2020

Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

Prelude*

Audra Allen

Welcome*

Rev. Collins

Call to Worship*

Rita Puskarich

We gather here this day in person and in our homes to hear God's word for us.
 We praise God for the opportunity to share together.
 We are sent forth into the world to share God's transforming love.
 Lord, encourage us and empower us to do your will.

Opening Hymn*

"How Firm a Foundation"

Organ by Audra Allen

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
 is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
 What more can be said than to you God has said,
 to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
 I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
 that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake
 I'll never, no never, no never forsake!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Rev. Collins

O Gracious God, you who created all nations and peoples with the same care and attention. You shower your grace and gifts on your whole creation and then ask that we share with one another to provide for a just and caring world. You create us with differences of thought and insight and have called us to share those as well, so that we don't seek a common outlook, but a rich diversity of awareness of your world and love. You have not demanded that everyone be the same, have the same degree of faith, offer the same service. You have given freely of your healing love to each one of us. Today we have offered many names in prayer for healing, restoration, hope, and peace. Some of these names have been spoken aloud in this gathering, while others remain in our hearts and our minds as we share those privately with you_____. Yet you hear each cry for healing. You hear all the prayers we offer. Now let us place our trust in your compassion. Let us remember that your blessings extend to all people. Strengthen us in this time to be witnesses to your love and servants in ministry to all your people. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name and continue to pray as he taught us saying...

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.

Anthem*

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand,” performed by Jim Cope and Audra Allen

Children’s Message*

J.C. Leasure

When I was in elementary school, my violin teacher, Mr. McCarthy, would give me tickets to go see the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and the local WSO. I thought it was the coolest thing! I got to hear some of my favorite pieces played by some of the most talented musicians in the world. One day in class Mr. McCarthy told me that I could be in a Symphony one day if I worked hard enough. I thought that would be fun, so I decided I would make that a goal of mine. I didn't realize how much work that would take. Whenever I would make a mistake in a song, Mr. McCarthy would make me start the whole song over again. Even when I would play a song well, he'd make me do it again! This wasn't fun anymore! If we jump ahead a few years to high school, Mr. McCarthy becomes my violin teacher again, and the whole process starts over; scales upon scales, and exercises upon exercises. It never ends! Then one day in 10th grade, he told me that I had a chance to play with the Washington Symphony at their student Side-By-Side concert. He gave me the music for that concert and we worked on it together and practiced all the songs. I had a lot of fun playing in that concert, and the WSO asked me to become a member of the Symphony! If Mr. McCarthy wasn't persistent with me and gave up on helping me reach my goal, I might not have reached it.

In our personal relationship with Jesus and God, we must stay persistent in our faith. We must not give up on praying when we need help. We have faith that God will answer our prayers, so we must keep praying. We see this happen in our Bible story today. A woman went and asked Jesus to heal her child, but he didn't at first. The woman kept persisting because she knew that Jesus could heal her daughter. When Jesus saw the great faith that she had in him, he healed the little girl. Remember when you are praying to God, always know that he will always answer your prayers. So don't give up, like Mr. McCarthy didn't give up on me. And keep praying like the women in our Scripture, and your faith will grow strong too!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

Rita Puskarich

Sermon*

“Nevertheless, She Persisted”

Rev. Collins

I believe that much of the time we come to the scriptures with Hallmark card filters on our eyes, expecting to find just happy messages or, at least, messages that have a happy ending...such is not the case with today's text. This encounter of Jesus with a Canaanite woman is disturbing and unflattering of him.

Read it carefully, consider how you would have felt if you were the one approaching Jesus for help. Granted Jesus has had a very not so nice kind of day with the crowds, the rise and fall of emotions after John's death, his disciples whining, the religious leaders challenging him...Yeah, I can imagine that one more person coming to get help might just set me off too...but this is Jesus! Oh, it would have been easier just to gloss over this encounter, find excuses for Jesus...but look at this scene.

Here before him, in this region of Tyre and Sidon...the north country, away from his typical territory of Galilee and Samaria, was a woman, a Canaanite woman. An outsider, not a woman of Jewish heritage. By identifying her background, Matthew, the Gospel writer who seeks to write for a Jewish audience, makes it clear that this woman was not one of them. You may remember your Old Testament stories of the development of the promised land and how the Israelites had to battle with the Canaanites...old enemies, the other, not one of us.

First, Jesus employs a method we have no doubt practiced at one time to avoid someone who may annoy us...just ignore her, act as if he never heard her. But Matthew says, his disciples wanted a more forceful

display of sending her away...but she would not be ignored or cast off. She persisted. Shouting at him to help her...but Jesus in a matter of fact style says, "You're none of my concern." Oh, his exact words were that his mission was not for the general public, but only "to the lost sheep of Israel."

In her persistence, even in her plea of great respect in identifying him with the cry, Lord, help me, Jesus responds with one of the most harsh and painful to hear remarks in all of his recorded ministry: he answers, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." Wow think of this. Jesus, in trying to escape her pleas, refers to her as a dog...not worthy of receiving his help that is to be given to the children of Israel. This is not Jesus' finest hour.

Instead, Matthew records for us, from this outcast among the Jewish people, this Canaanite woman, some of the most admirable examples of human behavior. She accepts his criticism of her status among Jews but reminds him that even the people of Israel share scraps with their dogs. She may be an underdog, an outcast, but she persists in the face of insults and rejection. And it is she who displays the highest values of life as she persists in her pleas, no matter her personal cost, because it is her child that needs help. You see whether Jew or despised Canaanite, this woman persists because of her love for her child.

I have always felt uncomfortable as I read this passage and, even more so, to preach it. And I know why, it's not that I'm embarrassed for Jesus on this occasion when he shows his most human weakness, but because of what it reveals about me. I see my actions and feelings mirrored all too often in this story as I've judged worthiness on the skin color or nationality or status of others. I've resented being bothered by those others sometimes. I have my own children to care for; I've got my own sick friends. And when they persist, insisting on equal justice and opportunities for help and correcting of ancient wrongs, I often immediately respond with quick and hurtful insults.

We are living through a most painful period during this pandemic as Black Lives Matter protesters remind us of a painful reality that persons of color in our country live daily with discrimination, remarks and restrictions that we white people have often grown immune to hear and recognize. This period has caused me to reflect on the painful reality of my early years traveling with my family through the Jim Crow south on the way to my grandparents in Florida. In my youthful innocence I noticed the bathrooms and water fountains were marked 'whites only'. I saw people in the restaurants were all white, except the servers...it seemed off...but I learned that's just the way it was...so, sadly, I grew to be racist. Thank God, for those faithful ones who persisted. For Civil Rights leaders, for these Black Lives Matter protestors, and for this Canaanite woman, for pastors in my church growing up who reminded me of the worthiness of all people, for all experiencing injustice who refuse to take no for an answer...and who recognized that God's love and grace belong to all.

I think Jesus learned a great lesson that day from this persistent woman...as Jesus has the last word to say...no longer to a Canaanite woman, but to "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." No longer an outsider, but in her faith, she became a child of God...and best of all, her daughter was healed.

So, I pray God will accept my confession as one who too often judged others and discounted them because of their race or their gender or their sexual identity...O dear God, heal me!

Call to Offering*

Sandy Todaro/read by Rita Puskarich

In March of this year, our world as we know it changed dramatically due to the pandemic of the Corona Virus. I left my home and headed to South Carolina to help my family with the childcare of my grandson. Little did I know that I would be there for 3 ½ months. I missed my home, family, friends and Church. But I was comforted that I was with part of my family. I was also able to worship virtually with my

Church family. This was made possible by our Pastors, Church members and staff who work tirelessly to make this happen. During this pandemic, it is important to continue to support our Church and have faith in God. Our gifts continue to pay Church staff, utilities and also meet the needs of the Church community. Our gifts help us remember that God is the source of our blessings. It allows us to demonstrate our gratitude for his care. Even though I was so far away I was able to give back to God and my Church by sending my offering through the Givelify app. Please give with the expectation that God will faithfully supply whatever you need so that you abound in good works.

Dedication of Offering Prayer*

Rev. Collins

God of abundance and joy, we thank you for the many blessings you have poured on our lives. Receive these gifts, lovingly given, and bless them in your service. AMEN.

Invitation to Communion*

Rev. Collins

In spite of the early focus of Jesus' ministry to the lost of Israel, we know that Jesus' extended his mission to the whole world, even as he sent his disciples to go into all the world. God's grace is for all. Just as the sun shines on all who turn their faces to the light, just as the rain showers upon all who stand on open ground, so God's grace in Christ comes as a blessing to all. Borne of the sweat of his suffering love, Christ willingly gave of himself, that we might be made free. You, who are willing to offer yourselves to God, come to the table in love and faith. Here we find forgiveness, hope, and the promise of eternal life.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Kevin Puskarich

Dear God, we are so thankful to be in this place on this warm summer morning. We come to this table that you have prepared for us to celebrate the life of your son Jesus. We are humbled by the incredible sacrifice he made for the forgiveness of our sins so that we have the opportunity for eternal life. May this bread we eat and this wine we drink feed and strengthen our faith such that we live our lives in a way that is pleasing to you. We thank you, we praise you, and we love you. AMEN

Words of Institution*

Rev. Collins

Gathered with his followers around the table, Jesus took the bread and offering a prayer of thanksgiving to God, broke it and gave it to them and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you." Later in the meal he took a cup and offered a similar prayer of thanks to God. He gave it to them and said, "Take and drink. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for many for the forgiveness of sin." Join with all of us by eating and drinking these gifts of God for us, the people of God.

Closing Hymn

"Spirit of the Living God"

piano by Jody Mullis

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Benediction*

Rev. Collins

Go, beloved children of God.
Go into your week and live in assurance that God will hear and be attentive to your needs, as God asks us to be attentive to the needs of others.
Go in peace, in grace and in love. Amen.

* You can listen to these pieces of worship at <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/worship-audio-files>.



Thank you to the Pastoral Search Committee for their hard work and dedication.

J.C. Leasure (Chairperson), Becca Caldwell, Jackie Nelson, Diane Palfreyman, Rolinda Sprowls and Mike Sweeney

Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Pastor Darwin (412-337-4293) 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 and only to Pastor Darwin.

Prayer List:

Avery Allen
Bill Behrens
Bristol Allan Berry
Eleanor Boyles
Mark & Susan Britko
Jordon Burk
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Nick Cross
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg

Judy Hanning
Aryn Hess
Ed & Harriet Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Tom Lane
Bob Lanning
Cheryl Leach
Lee & Betsy Martin
Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Jody Mullis
Georgette Murray
Peggy Oliverio
Joe Palfreyman
Deborah Patterson

Denny Paul
Sadie Reese
Betty Jo Riggle
Chip Rogers and his parents
Jim and Barb Roupe
Cathy Stewart
Beth Teagarden
Melissa Teagarden
Shirley Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash

Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center

Bill Behrens Rm 437
Rev. Marge Frank

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

Matthew 15:28

"Then **Jesus** answered her, 'O woman, *great* is your **faith**! Be it done for you as you *desire*.' And her daughter was healed **instantly**."



PINT JARS - \$5/dozen

There are rings for the jars but no lids.
If interested please contact Amy Caldwell
at acaldwell8898@gmail.com or phone/text
her at 724-207-3945.



Puzzle!

Using the code, fill in the blanks to
discover what we should do each day.

CODE

A	1	B
D		E

F	2	G
H		I

K	3	L
M		N

O	4	R
S		T

U	5	V
W		Y

T

4	1	3	3	4	4	2	4	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	3	1	3	2	4	4	1	3
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

2	4	4	2	4	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

"

1	1	4	4	2	3	3	1	3	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3	3	4	5	4	2	1	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

2	1	3	2	4	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Answer: Talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)