

**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 12 Issue 31**  
**August 6, 2021**



Stewardship/Finance Ministry – August 10, 6pm via Zoom  
“In the Garden” Sermon Series discussion – August 11, 1-2pm via Zoom  
Elders – August 11, 6pm Shepherds Room  
Personnel Committee – August 12, 4pm Library  
Wild Things Game – August 13, 7pm  
Stay up to date, check [www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar)

**Zoom Worship** will continue to be live at 10:15 am each Sunday.  
"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45am 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 be shared during worship to Rev. Chris at (412) 956-6590.



Rev. Chris will be on vacation August 14-17.  
Pastor Gena will be on vacation August 21-28.

With Heartfelt  
*Sympathy*

Fairhill Manor expresses its heartfelt sympathy to the family of Harriet Jackman who passed away Sunday, August 1. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers. Condolences can be sent to:

50772 Elk Trail  
Granger IN 46530

**ABC123... We're Making School Kits!**

Our goal this year is to make **123** School Kits, which will be donated to children in need through Church World Service. **Many thanks** to all of you who are purchasing items for the School Kits. All of the sticky notes listing items to purchase had been taken by Sunday, August 1!

How you can still help:

1. If you took one or more sticky notes, please return your items to the boxes in the Narthex by **Sunday, August 8**. Please remove all packaging from the items.
2. Contribute money to help ship the School Kits. Give on Givelify or put money (marked "CWS Kits") in the Offering Plate.
3. Make one or more complete School Kits. Find full instructions at <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/school-kits/> or in the Narthex. Bring your complete School Kits to the Narthex by Sunday, August 15.
4. Help assemble our 123+ School Kits on **Sunday, August 15** right after worship.



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)*

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

August 1, 2021

**Prelude**

Audra Allen, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship**

J.C. Leasure

Come, children of God. Come and find refuge and strength.  
Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.  
Come, heirs with Christ. Come and find forgiveness and joy.  
Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.  
Come, people of faith. Come to the one who is attentive to our pleas.  
Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.

**Opening Hymn**

*“Praise Him! Praise Him”*

Audra Allen, organist

Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
Sing, O Earth, his wonderful love proclaim!  
Hail him! hail him! highest archangels in glory;  
strength and honor give to his holy name!  
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his children,  
in his arms he carries them all day long:

Praise Him! praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
For our sins he suffered, and bled and died;  
he our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,  
hail him! hail him! Jesus the crucified.  
Sound his praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows;  
love unbounded, wonderful, deep, and strong. (Refrain)

Refrain: Praise him! praise him, tell of his excellent greatness;  
praise him! praise him ever in joyful song!

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

Pastor Gena

Invisible yet very-real-to-us God,

Now more than ever we need your presence inside of us, among us, all around us.

Time is always moving on, things are always changing, but sometimes we notice this more – when beloved friends move far away, when loved ones receive devastating diagnoses, when we can’t seem to get back to life as we knew it.

Have mercy on us, loving God. Give us courage to feel and mourn our losses. We have and are losing a lot, and we are stressed and unsettled.

Even so, we give you thanks that you in Jesus did not shield yourself from great loss – the grief of losing friends, the restrictions of freedom for the sake of others, the unfairness of death.

Great and Loving God, we pray today for all who are scrambling to hold on to some semblance of normalcy and contentment, for those who are losing their homes, for those who are searching for work and childcare, for those escaping natural disasters, for those battling illness and disease.

All-knowing and wise God, we pray today for those who are trying to make decisions on behalf of so many others. Be with school administrators and teachers, be with church leaders and business owners, be with public health workers and government officials. Give each of our leaders a deep care and love for

the common good. And give each of us the willingness and courage to walk a mile in someone else's shoes, to be a part of the conversation and the solution.

**Reclaim our hearts for you, O God, that we might put away bitterness and wrath, anger and slander, and be kind to one another, engaging one another with truth and patience, living in love as you have loved us.**

**Divine Healer, we ask now that your love might embrace those we have named aloud this morning who need your special care and presence – as well as those we name in our hearts now....**

**Each of these loved ones is your special child, and we entrust them to your care. Show us how to be agents of your love in their lives.**

**Now nourish, strengthen, and accompany us through this day, that we may do all things honestly and with care, always imitating your love. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior, who teaches us to pray this way....**

*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**

**2 Samuel 15:13-16, 30**

Amy Caldwell

**Special Music**

“The Time for Praying,” arranged by Howard Helvey

Jim Cope

**Children’s Message**

J.C. Leasure

What is something that you do as part of your daily routine? Do you have a routine or just wing it as the day goes on? Some people do a little of both. If you have a routine, what is your favorite part?

You know, part of Jesus' routine was prayer. We see many stories in the Bible where he is praying. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus even teaches us how to pray! Is praying part of your daily routine? When do you pray? What do you pray about? What does prayer mean to you? Prayer is how we communicate with God. We go to God in prayer so we can ask for help. We pray for healing for friends and family. We pray for the food that we eat. We pray for our leaders. We might even pray to thank God for all the good stuff that we have, or thank him for things that make us smile.

In our Scriptures today, we see Jesus go to the Mount of Olives with his disciples to pray. Twice during this story Jesus tells the disciples to pray so they wouldn't fall into temptation. What do you think he means by that? When we pray our mind is focused on God and nothing else. If we are focusing on God, we are not focusing on something that might get us into trouble. Prayer is not just a way to communicate with God, it is also a way to keep focus on him as well. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 we are told to pray without ceasing. It may be hard to close our eyes to pray sometimes like when we're riding bikes or walking, but we should always be praying. When something happens that needs prayer, we will be ready to pray. This will help us keep our focus on God and not something that may get us into trouble.

I want to give you a challenge for this week, but don't think of it as homework. I challenge you to pray every day this week for someone, and when something good happens pray and give thanks to God. Maybe you find it easier to pray in the morning or night, but remember to pray throughout the day as well so you can keep your focus on God. It is good to have prayer as part of your daily routine, like Jesus did.

## Sermon

**“Garden of Death, Garden of Life”**

Rev. Stillwell

Tomorrow is the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary for me and my wife, and we will go out somewhere to celebrate. When we do we always try to go to a new restaurant that we have never been before because few things seem to be as exciting to people as going to a new restaurant especially when that restaurant has just opened up.

One of the best examples of this that I can think of is when it was announced in the paper that new businesses would be coming to the Highlands development on I-70 just outside of my hometown of Wheeling. At the press conference plans for a bookstore, Target, and a water park were announced, but none of the announcements created the excitement that accompanied the announcement that an Olive Garden would be opening. The paper said that the announcement was met with “thunderous applause.” This from a community that has three or four very good Italian restaurants. Likewise, I remember how much excitement the opening of the Olive Garden in Uniontown produced a year or two ago. It was difficult to get a table.

Obviously the Olive Garden has done well with its food and with its marketing. You have probably seen their commercials where they advertise “Hospitaliano!” and make it look like an enjoyable and inviting place to be. It of course is not an actual garden, but the name plays on the abundant use of olives in Italian cuisine as well as the warmth, happiness, and homeliness that we think of when we think of the word, “garden”.

These associations come from many sources, but perhaps none more so than the Bible where there are so many garden references throughout both testaments. Not only that, but the mention of gardens are almost universally positive, life-affirming images. That is, but for one very conspicuous exception. There is one garden in the Bible where sadness and tears are more prevalent than joy and fun, where families go when they are betrayed rather than when they wish to bond, where “hospitaliano” is exchanged for anguish.

This garden is the Garden of Gethsemane, which is located at the base of the Mount of Olives. The Mount of Olives is an olive garden outside of Jerusalem where people tend to go when they are in turmoil. First, as we have heard, was King David who fled Jerusalem when his own son, Absalom, rose up in rebellion against him hoping to become king.

In 2 Samuel we read the account of this event:

“A messenger came to David, saying, ‘The hearts of the Israelites have gone after Absalom.’ Then David said to all his officials who were with him at Jerusalem, ‘Get up! Let us flee, or there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Hurry, or he will soon overtake us, and bring disaster down upon us, and attack the city with the edge of the sword.’ . But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, with his head covered and walking barefoot; and all the people who were with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they went.”

It is so appropriate that this sad occasion took place at the Mount of Olives for olives are so good because they are salty and bitter. Perhaps the bitterness and saltiness come from the brine in which they are soaked, but perhaps it is because of how many tears are shed in their presence. First David and his followers, then 1000 years later Jesus, after having finished eating the bitter herbs of the Passover meal, came with his disciples to the olive garden to pray.

When he reached the place, he said to them, pray that you may not come into the time of trial. <sup>41</sup>Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, <sup>42</sup>Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done. <sup>43</sup>Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. <sup>44</sup>In his anguish he prayed more earnestly and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. <sup>45</sup>When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial. <sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him.

Well there, at the end, we get something that resembles an Olive Garden commercial, but, of course, we know that Judas did not kiss him to welcome him, but to betray him. Soon Jesus is arrested, Peter cuts off a man's ear, and all the disciples come to the time of trial.

What is it about this garden? The Bible says that Jesus came here often, and since this event thousands of people come to it every year to commemorate this sad biblical event, but why does this garden hold such bitterness, such corruption, such examples of death?

When you compare the Garden of Gethsemane to the Garden of Eden they appear to be polar opposites. The former is a garden of death and the latter a garden of life. One a garden of sorrow another a garden of joy. They could not be more different, but, if our own gardens tell us anything about life and the nature of God, we should see that they have much in common. For every garden that has something growing in it is a garden of life, but so also is it a garden of death. In fact, the irony is that the more death a garden has in it, the more life it has in it as well.

Gardens are enjoyable things to have or to visit or to look at, and because of this we think of them as vestiges of life. And they are. Each plant is a witness to the miracle of life. A gardener can remember when each plant was just an itty-bitty seed or a little plant, and everything in the garden except for decorations is a living breathing, growing life form.

Gardens, therefore, are amazing, and life affirming, but if you look closely you will see that there is a lot of death in there as well. Of course there are the plants that grew for a while and died. There are the tomatoes that fell off the plant and you didn't get to them before the slugs did and now they rot at the base of the plant that bore them. Then there are the plants that lose the battle with other plants and don't make it, and of course, at the end of the year all the garden begins, one by one to succumb to the elements.

In the garden everything dies. In fact the garden needs death to give life. I mentioned the book by Michael Pollan a few weeks back, "Second Nature" and in it he describes compost as being better than gold to a gardener, and what is compost? It is not something created by scientists in a lab, not something made by my genius inventors or sold by marketers. It is simply the leftovers of dinner, things not edible by people, but delectable to plants. In other words it is dead stuff. Compost is things that once were alive that have been broken down by much smaller life forms, which, when added to your garden, enables the soil to make new life.

When we eat corn on the cob we take the corn cobs and put them in our garden. When we finish watermelon the rinds go in the garden. Anything left over from dinner goes in the garden where the earth reclaims it, breaks it down, and uses death to bring about new life. It is dirt that brings life out of death.

Here is how the poet, Walt Whitman, describes it in his poem, "This Compost"

Now I am terrified at the earth! it is that calm and patient,  
It grows such sweet things out of such corruptions,  
It turns harmless and stainless on its axis, with such endless successions of diseases'd corpses,  
It distils such exquisite winds out of such infused fetor,  
It renews with such unwitting looks, its prodigal, annual, sumptuous crops,  
It gives such divine materials to men, and accepts such leavings from them at last.

In the garden everything is in a different state of death or corruption, and everything in the garden is in a different state of life or birth, which makes every garden a garden of life and a garden of death.

It is so strange to think of it this way, but we should, because it is true, and the garden teaches us this truth in all its unvarnished, unwashed glory. Truth is the strong compost in which beauty may sometimes germinate, and in the garden it often does, but only because of what lived before and only with the truth that what is beauty today, tomorrow will die and lay the groundwork for the beauty of tomorrow.

This is the truth we learn in the garden about life, but we also learn another truth about God. In the garden everything dies, and that's a fact, but in God, everything that dies someday can come back.

Jesus was the wonderful flower that was cut down in its prime, but we remember the death because it led to the resurrection. What happened in the Garden of Gethsemane was needed to give us the resurrection that happened in the tomb. When we see the cycle of life and death that takes place in every garden we should give thanks that In God death is not the end, but simply one thing needed in order to give life. In this world death leads to life. Previous generations pass on so that the current generations have the resources they need to enjoy their time in God's garden, but through the promise of Jesus Christ who accepted the cup that God put before him, even if it meant his death, death can also lead to eternal life for each of us, but this will never happen unless our bodies, too, are like compost in the garden pushing up the daisies while our souls are in full bloom.

Every day our cells die so that new ones may be born and so that we can grow. Every day we die to our old selves so that we may be made anew in Christ. Let us give thanks and find comfort and inspiration that we have a God who can turn the bitter tears of loss into the joyful tears of birth and who transforms death into something that makes for, not just life, but eternal life.

### **Call to Offering**

J.C. Leasure

Nourished by the bread of heaven and the living waters of salvation, let us return thanks to God as we collect today's offering.

### **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

As we give, we acknowledge our obligation to each other as a community of faith and of our obligation to work together for the welfare of our world.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Rev. Stillwell

Few things help demonstrate the passing of time and season than plants. I even heard recently of a time garden. When we see the fruits of certain plants we know that the next season is near. Likewise, Jesus says "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and

know that summer is near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near....when you see these things happening, know that the Kingdom of God is near.

When you see the turning of the leaves you know summer is ending and fall is near. When you see people loving with the love of Christ you know that the kingdom is near.

When you see the tomatoes turning red you know that summer is peaking and fall is near. When you see people helping friends, strangers, even enemies, then you know the kingdom is near.

When the church picnic arrives you know summer is ending and the fall is near. When you see people forgiving those who have hurt them then you know the kingdom is near.

When you see children at the bus stop you know the autumn is near, and when you see people feeding the hungry and caring for the sick you know the kingdom is near.

When you see preseason football and pumpkin everything you know the fall is near and when we come to this table we know the Kingdom is near.

For the kingdom is something begun by Christ but not yet fully realized, but when we come to this table of the grace, mercy, and love that Christ embodied the kingdom is near. Our job is not to keep it here, but to be renewed with love and hope and leave this table to bring the kingdom near to others.

If we are doing this Christian walk right then people will know that the kingdom is near when we are near for we will be able to show them the fruits of love, grace, self-control that are the sings of God's kingdom come near.

### **Communion Hymn**

*"We Come as Guests Invited"*

Audra Allen, organist

We come as guests invited  
when Jesus bids us dine,  
his friends on earth united  
to share the bread and wine;  
the bread of life is broken  
the wine is freely poured  
for us, in solemn token  
of Christ our dying Lord.

We eat and drink, receiving  
from Christ the grace we need,  
and in our hearts believing  
on him by faith we feed;  
with wonder and thanksgiving  
for love that knows no end,  
we find in Jesus living  
our ever-present friend.

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

Cara Hritz

Loving God,

We meet at this table today to celebrate all you have done for us and to remember your sacrifice. After all of our mistakes, you still choose us. Though we often forget your graciousness, still you meet us here with love. As we eat this bread and drink this cup, let us be filled with remembrance and be grateful. Grateful for the gift you gave us when you sacrificed your Son. Be with us as we go out into our lives this week.

Help us to show the same love and grace you've shown us.

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 in Communion

### Closing Hymn

*"Above All Power"*

Jody Mullis, pianist

Above all powers, above all kings

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones

Above all nature and all created things

above all wonders the world has ever known

Above all wisdom and all the ways of man

above all wealth and treasures of the earth

You were here before the world began

There's no way to measure what You're worth

Crucified, laid behind a stone, You lived to die, rejected and alone.

Like a rose, trampled on the ground, You took the fall and thought of me, Above all

### Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Christ is our peace, so live as people of peace, breaking down the walls of separation, living together as one body, united in love and in purpose.

Worship services can also 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!

### 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

Alice Cokeley  
149 Meadows View Rd  
Washington PA 15301



Don Ainsley  
Ed Alexy  
Avery Allen  
Donna Bakaitis  
Tom Barnhart  
Bill Behrens  
Bristol Allan Berry  
Abby Blanchard  
Susan Britko  
Mabel Brooks  
Wanda Chicone  
John Collar  
Emily Cope Robinson  
Coretta and family  
Ruth Cox  
Irma Davis  
Jessica Duke  
Libby Eberhard  
Fred Engle  
Jay Freudenberg  
Jett Fuller  
Derek Gardiner  
Lois Gayman  
Joe Greene  
Bonnie Gregg

Judy Grover  
Sloan Amelia Hagy  
Kyle Hallam  
Connie Hanning  
Aryn Hess  
Ed & Harriet Jackman  
Family of Caleb Jackson  
Dallas Jacobovitz  
Bob Lanning  
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &  
Ty James Lacock  
Libby LeDuff  
Frank Lippert  
Lee & Betsy Martin  
Dave McConnell  
Don Melvin  
Michaela Nixon  
Ruth Mikuta  
Georgette Murray  
Karen Palfreyman  
Deborah Patterson  
Cathy Rentgen  
Betty Riecks

Betty Jo Riggle  
Jim and Barb Roupe  
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 Picnic

- September 12, 1:07pm
- Kiwanis Pavilion – Washington Park
- Chicken, Hot Dogs & Drinks provided
- Bring a covered dish and/or dessert
- BINGO

### 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

### 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.

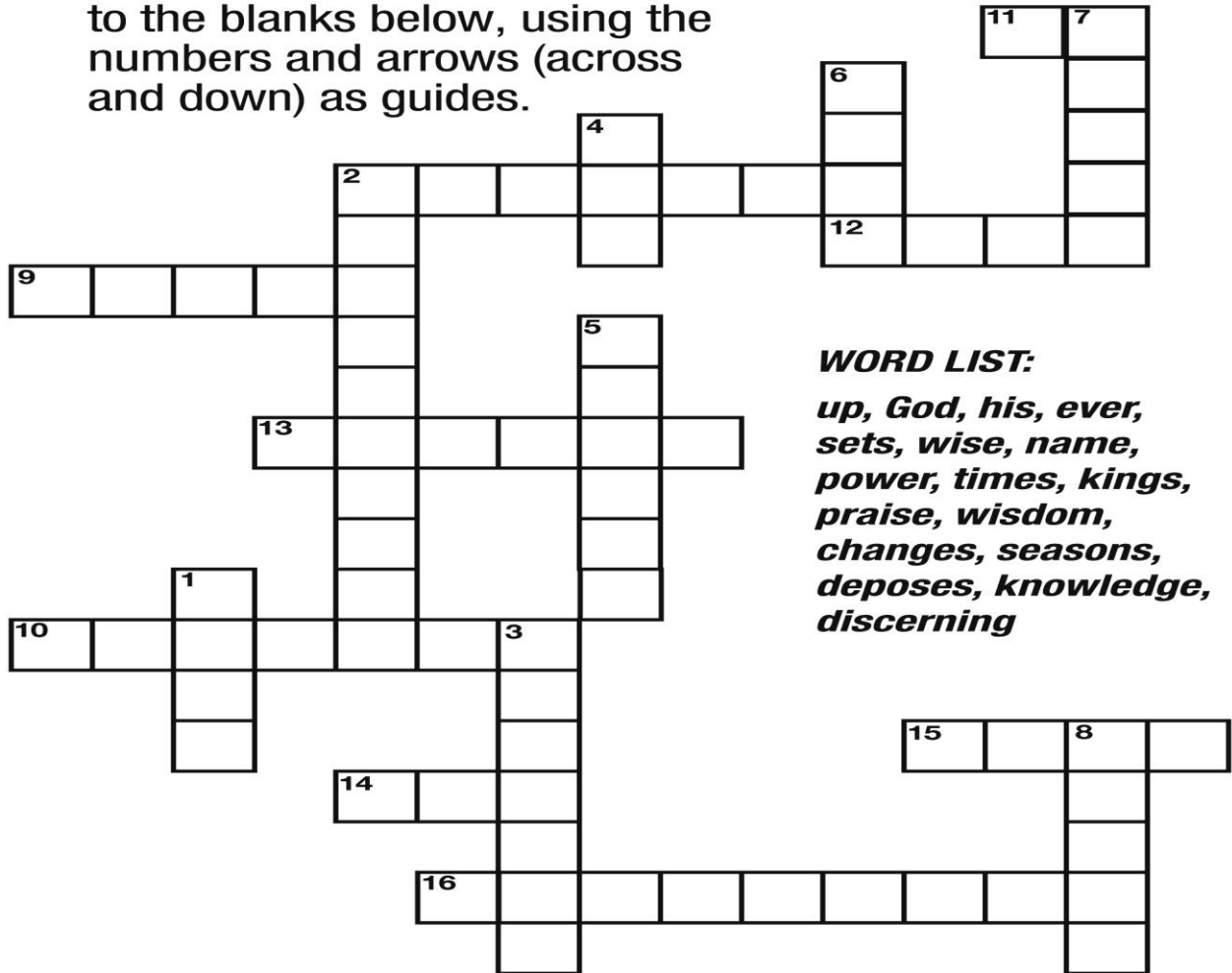
Pastor Gena is off on Friday. Pastor Gena is working from home and comes in to the church as needed. Feel free to text, call, email or set up a time to meet with Pastor Gena.

Rev. Chris is off on Friday.

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

# Puzzle!

Fit these words from the book of Daniel into the squares. Then transfer them to the blanks below, using the numbers and arrows (across and down) as guides.



**WORD LIST:**

*up, God, his, ever, sets, wise, name, power, times, kings, praise, wisdom, changes, seasons, deposes, knowledge, discerning*

“ \_\_\_\_\_ be to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ . He \_\_\_\_\_  
 and \_\_\_\_\_ ; he \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 them. He gives \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to  
 the \_\_\_\_\_ .” DANIEL 2:20-21

Answer: “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.” Daniel 2:20-21