

# Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 52

December 18, 2020

**The building at 351 Montgomery Avenue may be closed, but Church is NOT!  
Worship on Zoom!**

## ZOOM - LIVE

**Zoom Worship this Week - Live from the Sanctuary at 10:15 am!**

"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 – 10:15 am.**

Text your prayer concerns to Pastor Gena (724) 263-0033. She 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. During Advent, we will center our conversations around our Advent devotional for families, "Prince of Peace" by Sarah Reinhard. JC Leasure and Pastor Gena are co-leading this time."

Reverse Advent food dropff – December 19, 11 am – 1 pm

Tween Team Zoom – December 20, 5 pm via Zoom

Christmas Eve Worship Service – December 24, 7 pm via Zoom

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



### Board & Annual Reports

There will be a Board meeting on January 13, 2021 via Zoom.

January Board reports are due on **January 5**. This is a report of your ministry from November & December.

Annual reports are also due on **January 5**. This is a summary from your ministry's 2020 Board reports.

Thank you so very much for all of your prayers, emails, and cards. It was a very rough time for me and I appreciate your expressions of sympathy.

For all of us, thank you again.

Donna Stemski, Tom McKee and Carol Martz

*Thank You*

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**Salvation Army RINGING OF THE BELLS** - FMCC will NOT be participating, as a Church, in this year's Bell Ringing Campaign. However, if anyone would like to participate on an individual basis to ring bells please contact Capt. Jason at the Salvation Army, 724-225-5740, ext 113.

**REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR COLLECTION** – For anyone who has collected the food items listed on the Reverse Advent Calendar please know that there will be a drive-thru, drop-off of the items on Saturday, **December 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** at the front driveway of the Church. Other non-perishable items will also be accepted. These items will be delivered to the Community Circle Food Pantry on Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any questions please contact Marsha Sams at either 859-421-7227 or [msams822@gmail.com](mailto:msams822@gmail.com).

Thank you all for our generous love gift. It is much appreciated and unexpected. It and you are a real blessing. Again, thanks.

Rev. Chris

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



Dear Fairhill congregation,  
Your generosity is overwhelming. Thank you for your very kind Christmas gift! It is an honor to serve in ministry with you as your Associate Pastor. Your love and support encourage me daily in our work together. May you know the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Christ this Christmas and all through the year.

With gratitude  
Pastor Gena

### **BLESSING BOX DONATIONS**

You can still contribute to the **Blessing Box Ministry**. Money can be mailed to Carol Davis at 770 Duncan Ave, Washington.



The Christmas Offering supports **regional ministries**. In 32 regions across the United States and Canada, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship. Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister.

You can participate in the Christmas Offering by giving directly to the Disciples Mission Fund through their website [www.disciplesmissionfund.org/give](http://www.disciplesmissionfund.org/give), through Fairhill Manor on the Givelify app, or by writing a check to Fairhill Manor with “Christmas Offering” in the memo.

2020 Christmas Offering

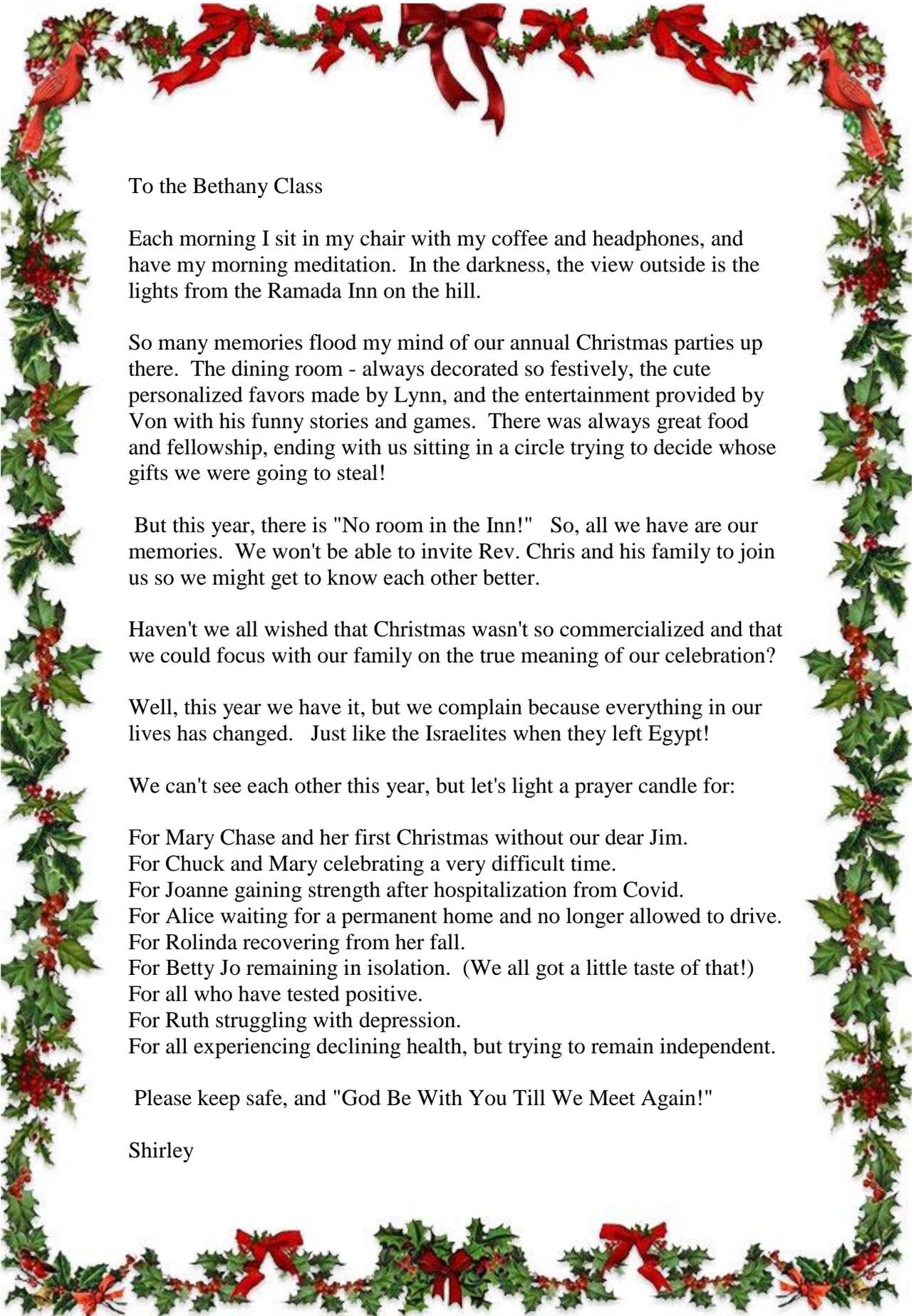
**REJOICE**  
A special day offering of  
Disciples Mission Fund



When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

Matthew 2:10

Our finest gifts supporting the Ministries of our Region – Received December 13th & 20th in most Congregations



To the Bethany Class

Each morning I sit in my chair with my coffee and headphones, and have my morning meditation. In the darkness, the view outside is the lights from the Ramada Inn on the hill.

So many memories flood my mind of our annual Christmas parties up there. The dining room - always decorated so festively, the cute personalized favors made by Lynn, and the entertainment provided by Von with his funny stories and games. There was always great food and fellowship, ending with us sitting in a circle trying to decide whose gifts we were going to steal!

But this year, there is "No room in the Inn!" So, all we have are our memories. We won't be able to invite Rev. Chris and his family to join us so we might get to know each other better.

Haven't we all wished that Christmas wasn't so commercialized and that we could focus with our family on the true meaning of our celebration?

Well, this year we have it, but we complain because everything in our lives has changed. Just like the Israelites when they left Egypt!

We can't see each other this year, but let's light a prayer candle for:

For Mary Chase and her first Christmas without our dear Jim.  
For Chuck and Mary celebrating a very difficult time.  
For Joanne gaining strength after hospitalization from Covid.  
For Alice waiting for a permanent home and no longer allowed to drive.  
For Rolinda recovering from her fall.  
For Betty Jo remaining in isolation. (We all got a little taste of that!)  
For all who have tested positive.  
For Ruth struggling with depression.  
For all experiencing declining health, but trying to remain independent.

Please keep safe, and "God Be With You Till We Meet Again!"

Shirley



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor  
December 20, 2020

**Prelude**

Audra Allen, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship\***

Gene Sheller

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art.  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.  
As we gather to worship, we say with Mary,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

**Opening Hymn**

*"Christians All, Your Lord is Coming"*

Audra Allen, organist

Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth.  
Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth.  
Dance and move to show God's glory; kneel and pause to hear God's word.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Rise and let your songs be heard.

Christians all, your Lord is coming, hope for peace is now at hand.  
Let there be no hesitation, walk in faith where life demands.  
Bear the word that God has given; share the birth that stirs your soul.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ will come and make you whole.

**Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle**

Matt, Tiffany, Cadence & Jayden Shetler

Reader 1: Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.

**Reader 2: From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.**

Reader 1: Long ago the people were given a sign of God's presence.

**Reader 2: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"**

Reader 1: which means "God is with us". God's promise to us remains sure and true.

**Reader 2: God's anointed One too will soon walk among us lighten our darkness to restore the joy of our salvation, to save us from our sins.**

Reader 1: Four lights now shine in spite of our despair. Jesus is coming soon!

*Lighting of the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love Advent Candles*

*Unison Prayer:* God of mystery, help us accept your gifts of grace that we cannot begin to understand. Plant a stubborn hope deep in our hearts as we will be able to embrace the Christ-child when Jesus is birthed anew in our lives. Teach us your ways of joy. Amen.

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer\***

Pastor Gena

Surprising God, we are astounded that you might actually want to use us to carry out your plans! Sometimes we are confused at your coming, not understanding exactly what you are asking of us. Help us to draw so close to you that we recognize you when you are speaking to us. Give us patience to listen to your voice even if it is casting a different vision than we expect. Give us grace to see and understand when you are leading us in new ways that we haven't experienced before. Give us courage to follow, knowing that you are with us, equipping us with what we need to do your work.

God of Possibilities, thank you for the many people throughout our history of faith – and in this very congregation of your people – who have listened to your voice, who have opened their lives to your plan. Thank you that with you nothing is impossible. With you, we can heal from past hurts. With you, new life can come where hope is lost. With you, a light shines in the darkest night and the darkness does not overcome it. With you, the last become first, the weak become strong, the lost are found, and all creation lives at peace. We praise you, for with you, nothing is impossible.

Faithful God, we confess our sins to you, for we know that you have been merciful to all generations past, and you extend mercy to us too. Even though we know that you are always there to guide us, we still often make plans without listening to you, soon discovering that our own agendas drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We are sorry and turn again to you. Forgive us, we pray, that our lives may praise your name forever.

God of Love, we join our voices with Mary, celebrating your greatness, singing of your blessing, especially for those who are poor and oppressed and in need of your care.

We pray for the world, that our destructive ways may be overturned, even now, through the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ; for nothing is impossible with you.

We pray for the mission of your church, that we may proclaim the good news of your love as we rejoice in the gift of our Savior.

We pray for all who are suffering. May we feed the hungry and lift up the lowly through the power of your life-giving Spirit.

We remember before you those who have died and pray for those who will die today, that they may rest with you eternally in your kingdom where there is no end.

God of Love, we pray now for those nearest and dearest to us, those about whom we are worried and concerned. Be with them we pray...

Through Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we praise you, almighty God, forever and ever. Hear us now as we pray as Jesus taught us...

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

### **Special Music**

“How Shall I Greet Thee?”, E Stuart  
Performed by Audra Allen, Organist

### **Children’s Message\***

Pastor Gena

Today’s scripture comes from the Gospel of Luke. It tells of the time when a messenger angel comes from God and tells Mary that she will have God’s special child, Jesus. Soon after learning that she will be Jesus’ mother, Mary sings a song, a hymn of praise to God. Sometimes we call this song the Magnificat because “magnificat” is the first word of Mary’s song in Latin. “Magnificat” means something like “praise.”

Listen to the words of Mary’s song:

I’m bursting with God-news;  
I’m dancing the song of my Savior God.  
God took one good look at me, and look what happened—  
I’m the most fortunate woman on earth!  
What God has done for me will never be forgotten,  
the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.  
His mercy flows in wave after wave  
on those who are in awe before him.  
He bared his arm and showed his strength,  
scattered the bluffing braggarts.  
He knocked tyrants off their high horses,  
pulled victims out of the mud.  
The starving poor sat down to a banquet;  
the callous rich were left out in the cold.  
He embraced his chosen child, Israel;  
he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.  
It’s exactly what he promised,  
beginning with Abraham and right up to now.  
(Luke 1:46-55, The Message)

Mary’s song of praise is similar to another song she had heard before. Her parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on, taught her the song of Hannah, a woman who lived in ancient Israel. Like Hannah, Mary sang her thanks and praise to God.

Parents taught Hannah’s song to their children, who then passed the song on to their children until Mary heard it and sang a similar song. Mary’s song has now been passed down all the way to us today! I wonder why it is important for us to keep singing these songs.

Both Hannah’s song and Mary’s song praise God for bringing down the rich and lifting up the poor, feeding the hungry and sending the rich away empty. These songs tell us that some rich people were greedy, taking more food and resources than they needed, while other people were starving and poor, not getting enough of what they needed to live. But these songs also celebrate God’s justice. Justice is a big word, but it simply means that God is fixing the problem! God’s justice makes sure that no one has too much, and no one has too little. Everyone will have what they need to live and grow.

While we wait for Jesus this Advent, it's important we help bring justice into the world, too. One way to do this is by sharing what we have and receiving what others give to us, so everyone can have what they need.

Dear God, thank you for the stories and songs we hear when we read from the Bible. Thank you for Mary's song that helps us remember you are a God who wants justice. Show us how we can help fix the problems we see so that everyone can have what they need. Amen.

**Scripture Reading\***

**Luke 1:26-38**

Gene Sheller

**Sermon\***

**"I Believe in a Christmas World"**

Rev. Stillwell

Well, here we are, another Christmas time. Every year we bring out the same decorations, play the same Christmas songs, write cards to the same people and come back to this same place to hear this same story that we have heard over and over again. Why do we do this? Do we believe that things will turn out different this time? Do we believe that if we do not do these things God will not send the Christ child to us?

Certainly not. For we know that what we celebrate is something that happened once before, and yet what we celebrate is something that continues to happen. Jesus the Christ has come, the Kingdom of God is coming. The reason that we do these things without fail every Christmas is that we need to be reminded of what has happened, what is happening, and what will happen. We humans live in linear time, moving constantly in one direction away from our birth towards our death, but God's time is cyclical. For everything in God's time there is a season and a time, and these seasons and these times come and go, and return again. What connects these times is the constant presence of God, holding, strengthening, and sustaining the fabric of the universe and transforming mere time into history.

The result of this action of God in our world is that, no matter how much time passes, no matter what is going on in the world, the word of God still speaks to us. Just take a look at this passage from Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
<sup>3</sup> When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup> From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

The last part of the book of Isaiah was preached more than 2500 years ago at a critical time in the history of Israel, yet I am certain that we can identify with the feelings expressed in this passage. Two and a half millennia ago many of the Jewish leaders had been deported to Babylon, the temple had been destroyed, the very fabric of the Jewish faith stretching almost to the point of tearing apart. The Babylonian captivity lasted almost two complete generations. But now the world was changing. Persia had defeated Babylon, and that meant that the Jewish people were going back home. Oh, what a glorious feeling that should be, that feeling of going back home. Some of you can remember what it was like when WWII was over and the boys came back home. Still others know exactly what it is like

for loved ones to come home from Iraq. Although it is great to have a war over, that doesn't mean that all the problems have been solved.

Going back home to Palestine was not as great as many of the Jews had hoped it would be. The temple was still destroyed. Many towns were still in ruins. Some loved ones were still missing. They went home all right, but home was just not the same. The world had changed. Additionally, when they returned to Jerusalem there was intense political/religious fighting about what should be done for the future of Israel. Some wanted to have a capital campaign and rebuild the temple. Others, however, didn't see that as a high priority. National unity was in short supply. Do you get the picture? Babylonian captivity had come to an end, but in some ways the problems of the Jewish people were just beginning.

It is in the face of these enormous problems that the prophet cries out in Isaiah chapter 64, and asks, "God why don't you come down and do some big thing?" And there's not so much a question mark as an exclamation mark at the end of that question. Listen again to how the chapter begins: "*O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!*" In other words, "Come down here and show us what you can do God! Quit waiting around, God! Come on down and do a big thing every now and then, God!"

Have you ever sounded like Isaiah? Have you ever wanted God to do that? Have you ever been in a situation that felt so overwhelming to you, that you were so desperate for something to work out for you or someone you love, and you found yourself praying, "God, why don't you come down and do a big thing?" "Come down and take care of this for me." "Come down and turn back the clock, make it all go away, make it the way it used to be, make it the way it should be." Have you ever prayed that or something like that?

The ancient prophet was taking one of those hard looks at the world, and wanted the world to change, and more than that, he wanted God to change it. Can you blame him? Why didn't God end their exile earlier? Why didn't God make going home easier? Why? Why? And while we're reading this we might think, why didn't God stop the virus from killing so many people? Why didn't God stop that hurricane from hitting the coast? Why? Can't God every now and then tear through the heavens, make a dramatic entrance upon the stage of human existence and actually change the world? Can't God do one big thing? And what about racism in the world? And what about sexism in the world? And what about hunger in the world? I mean really, doesn't God see the starving children of the world? Can't you come down and do one big thing, God, at least for them? Haven't you ever prayed that, hoped that, whispered it under your breath, "Please God, do just one big thing."

It's a common emotion, isn't it, to want God to come down and save us in a big way, rescue the world in dramatic fashion. It's an emotion that I have quite often, but what I'm becoming more and more aware of is that God is radically at work in the world, but not so much in big ways but small ways.

For example, *I believe God intervenes in the world by human interaction with the world.* Not so much coming down from on high but rising up within each and every one of us, that's the presence of God. This is the ultimate meaning of the Christmas story, that God became flesh in Jesus Christ, and in turn, the power to change the world lies within every single person who welcomes God's presence into his or her real world life. One of the most sacred beliefs that holds the universe together is this idea that, "I can make a difference in the world." It doesn't matter if we are male or female, young or old, rich or poor, we need to believe down in our bones that "I can make a difference in the world." Or better said, "God can make a difference in the world through me." If we ever lose that one belief, if we ever let go of that one article of faith, then not only will we be lost individually, our world as we know it and

cherish it will also be lost in a sea of cynicism. It's one thing to pray, "God, why don't you do something big!"; it's quite another to pray. "God, why don't you use me to do one big thing, or a few medium things, or even a few small things to make the world better."

Let me say it another way. I have come to believe that God rules the world by reigning in the hearts of ordinary people. That's how God rules the world. That's how God rearranges the pieces of this world. The grace and love of God begins to change how people see themselves, how they see and treat others, what they do with their time and talent and financial resources. Jesus rules the world, but Jesus only rules when Jesus is allowed to reign, reign inside the human heart.

During the Christmas season we sing of Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, but that does not mean that he lived in a palace in Jerusalem, that does not mean he was a Republican or a Democrat or had any party affiliation at all, that does not mean he tried to rule the world through the force of military crusades. Some of the followers of Jesus did that, but not Jesus himself. He rules the world by reigning in the hearts of ordinary men and women.

But there's even more to the way that God works than this. God rules the world and changes the world through the willingness of individual people, but there is also a culmination of divine influence that exceeds individual potential. For instance, 30 years ago the Berlin Wall fell. Now there were all kinds of people working on that great project of freedom. Many of them experts. But even the experts didn't see it coming. Somehow that one event became more than the sum of its parts. In other words, when it comes to the working of God,  $2+2$  does not always equal 4. Sometimes  $2+2=22$  or 22,000. It's a spiritual quantum leap. It's the exponential power and grace of God.

God works through human effort, to be sure, but God is not limited by human efforts. The power of God within us can bring us to live to our full; potential and beyond. That's the part of God's working that is beyond rational explanation, and it's that very part that we trust and rely upon again and again in life.

I have faith in the human spirit, but I also have faith in God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit to work, not only through people but beyond people. Faith is the courage to believe that life doesn't always add up. A solitary Baptist preacher starts the fire of a Civil Rights movement that changed the nation. One preacher? It doesn't add up. Thank God! A single man in a South African prison becomes an icon of freedom and eventually president of the nation that imprisoned him. It doesn't add up. Thank God! One woman decides to sit where she wants to sit on the bus and a human freedom movement explodes across the nation. It doesn't add up. Thank God!

And think about this. Soon we celebrate the birth of Christ. He was just a baby. In a manger. Among the animals. Born in poverty. Mary and Joseph scared to death. Yet, blossoming from the soil of his oneness to God was a garden of courage and love and compassion that completely turned the world upside down. And he wants to turn your life and my life upside down too. All of this from a single baby? That's right, a baby. Because with God life doesn't always add up. Sometimes it's more than what we can say or imagine. Thank God it doesn't add up. Rejoice that God is not in the adding-up business, but in the creating, redeeming, sustaining, and multiplying business.

Look back to Isaiah. After making angry demands he ends with a prayer saying:

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup> Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

The prayer isn't so much for God to do one big thing as it was earlier. That seems to have been a very human stage the prophet went through then dismissed. Instead, he turns around and recognizes that God is the potter and we are the clay. That image—potter and clay—suggests to me that believing in God means openness to God reigning inside our lives. That's the willingness of hopeful faith.

And it was precisely these features, willingness and hopefulness that Mary exudes when she is told that she will bear the long awaited Messiah. After seeing an angel and hearing this unbelievable news, and hearing that her cousin is pregnant despite her age, she responds not as others did such as Moses saying choose someone else, but by saying: <sup>38</sup>'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' I think it is not necessarily her goodness or her understanding that gets her chosen but her obedience. God wills and Mary says, "Let it be."

Is that what we would say? God speaks to us and we say, "No, God, not that." God speaks and we say, "Maybe tomorrow God, but not today." We say, "Not me, Lord, send someone else." We say, "I'm not good enough."

We want God to shake the world, level the mountains, and raise up the valleys in order to solve all of the world's problems. We want this just as much as Isaiah wanted it, just as much as the Jews of Jesus' time wanted this to happen, just as much as Mary. But God sent a child. One single solitary child, and even when he grew to be a man, he did not set the world to right. Instead, he touched some hearts, who touched some hearts, who touched a few more hearts, and we find ourselves in the middle of God's Kingdom coming into this world, all in God's time.

I think that's what it means to believe in Christmas. Each of us willing to make a difference and a different world. And each of us hopeful that God will always do more, mysteriously more, than even our best efforts can do. I believe in a Christmas world. I hope you do, too.

### **Call to Offering\***

Gene Sheller

I am so thankful to be a member of this part of the Body of Christ. I am inspired by what other members say who volunteer to be worship leaders. That is just one of the talents that some of our members have. There is also a myriad of other talents that our members so freely give.

Most of you know that I was a teacher for 39 years, spending 33 years at Washington High School. I also taught at McGuffey High School from 1965 to 1968. 1968 was the year I married "My Bride", Consuello. I referred to her just now as "My Bride" because while I was at McGuffey I was the assistant basketball coach and the head coach always referred to his wife as "My Bride." That always impressed me and showed me how much he was in love with and cared for his wife.

In the bible, the church Jesus created is referred to as a bride. There is some disagreement as to whether the church is the bride of Jesus or of God. Some say the "Bride of Christ" describes God's relationship with his beloved bride, the church. Portrayed as the bridegroom in this relationship, God reveals Himself to be faithful, loving, and committed to a covenant union with his church, comprised of all who believe in Jesus Christ and have accepted His atoning grace and gift of salvation. So, we can consider ourselves as being part of a bride.

We are loyal to and help God as God also helps us. The way we help the other members of the universal church is by using our talents and possessions to help all the children of God. As I always ask you when I give the call to offering, please consider and pray about what talent or resource you will give here at Fairhill Manor Christian Church. Sometimes that might mean stepping out of your

comfort zone. “I” am only able to do the things I do in public because I stepped out of my comfort zone to become a teacher and I received good practice by spending so many years in front of difficult groups – **teenagers** – in my profession.

May God bless you as you gave for **this offering**, and as you give of your time, talents and possessions in the future?

**Dedication of Offering Prayer\***

Rev. Stillwell

Lord, you give us everything that is good—our food, our clothing, our homes, our families, and our very lives. It’s only right that we express our thanks in a concrete way by sharing with others.

**Invitation to Communion\***

Rev. Stillwell

Glorifying God begins with humility on our part. For Mary to receive the gift and challenge of bearing the Christ child, she first listened to God’s message with confusion and doubt. But even in the midst of confusion and doubt, Mary asks, “How can this be” (v. 34)? With faith, she accepted the prophetic promise and answered God’s call saying, “Here am I . . . let it be” (v. 38). As Christmas nears, we are challenged to receive God’s gifts with careful thought, with humility, and with faith. We are given a great opportunity as the body of Christ to continue bearing Christ for the world. In doing so, we assist the inbreaking of God’s realm and glorify God with our love.

Let us remember not only Mary’s example but our Lord’s as well, who humbled himself to be with us, and even washed the feet of his disciples who would betray and abandon him. He was humbled in order to show God’s love, let be humbled in order to receive it.

**Prayer for the Bread & Cup\***

Connie Sheller

Most Holy Father, thank you for sending to us, the greatest gift of love that we could ever receive, the gift of Jesus the Christ, your only son, Emmanuel, the Messiah! Through his life here on earth, he taught us and showed us, Unconditional love-to love everyone as God loves us. And through Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross of Calvary, he taught us and showed us, how to forgive. As we take this bread that represents to us, Jesus’ broken body, and this cup representing to us his shed blood, empower us with the strength and courage to love everyone unconditionally. Knowing that we believe in you, and strive to live like you, we will share a life of eternal love. 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

**Closing Hymn**

*“People Look East”*

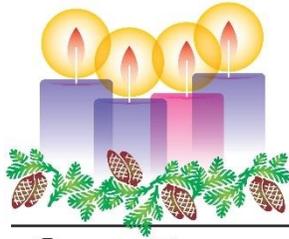
Audra Allen, organist

**Benediction\***

Rev. Stillwell

The spirit of the Lord is upon each of us. God is sending us to bring good news to the world. The light of the Lord shines upon each of us. God is sending us to bring light to the world.

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*Prayer Requests*

**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 Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

**Prayer List:**

Avery Allen  
Donna Bakaitis  
Bill Behrens  
Bristol Allan Berry  
Abby Blanchard  
Mark & Susan Britko  
Jordon Burk  
Wanda Chicone  
Joanne Coburn  
Emily Cope Robinson  
Rick & Dawn Couch  
Irma Davis  
Jessica Duke  
Libby Eberhard  
Fred Engle  
Jay Freudenberg  
Joe Greene  
Bonnie Gregg

Sloan Amelia Hagy  
Judy Hanning  
Aryn Hess  
James Hritz  
Ed & Harriet Jackman  
Dallas Jacobovitz  
Bob Lanning  
Cheryl Leach  
Rick Lewis  
Lee & Betsy Martin  
Don Melvin  
Ruth Mikuta  
Dick Moninger  
Jody Mullis  
Georgette Murray  
Elinor Newman  
Carmen Oliverio  
Peggy Oliverio  
Deborah Patterson  
Denny Paul

Sadie Reese  
Betty & Charles Riecks  
Betty Jo Riggle  
Chip Rogers and his parents  
Jim and Barb Roupe  
Theresa Shape  
Maria Sheller  
Colby Simkovic  
Doug and Tracy Smith  
Tiffany Shetler  
Matt Shetler  
Cathy Stewart  
John Stewart  
Beth Teagarden  
Melissa Teagarden  
Frannie Venan  
Gary Weaver  
Nikki Wells  
Tom Williams  
Chuck & Mary Wiseman

**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



**Church Office hours:**  
Karen is working from home on Monday through Friday, 9 am – 2 pm. The Church phone is forwarded to Karen’s cell phone.  
  
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.



## *In Memory of...*

Norman P McDonough, Sr  
Our Parents  
Robert (Whitey) Withrow  
Thomas Ellis  
Earl Doria  
Amy Doria  
Tom, Sr and Grace Ulery  
Jim Boyles  
Ed & Della Faber

Linda Barnhart

Betty Drach  
Diana Pierson  
Helen Crunick  
Kenny Britten  
Harry L "Magoo" McKee  
Charles and MaryAnn Devenney  
Harry Thomas

By the family of Norman P McDonough, Sr  
By Dave and Carol Davis  
By Garnet Withrow  
By Elinor Newman  
By Phyllis Doria  
By Phyllis Doria  
By Tom and Pam Ulery  
By Eleanor Boyles  
By Darla and Rick Lewis  
    Jeanne and Perry Riffle  
By Darla and Rick Lewis  
    Jeanne and Perry Riffle  
By Literacy Council of Southwestern PA  
By Karen and Ed Thomas  
By Karen and Ed Thomas

## *In Honor of...*

Owen and Charlotte Stillwell

By Rev Chris and Jessie Stillwell





It's been a rough year. Everyone is missing the Christmas gatherings. Let's gather on zoom to socialize with other church members.  
Monday, December 21, at 2 pm and  
Tuesday, December 22, at 7 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85051148686?pwd=ZytSSXQ4amowWEpKdjRBdlpRYzBsZz09>

Meeting ID: 850 5114 8686

Passcode: 432292

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.



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



Glory to God  
*in the highest.*  
and on earth peace,  
good will toward men.

Luke 2:14, KJV

# Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10 23 13      17 14      6 18 21 21

11 14      12 10 21 21 14 13

6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21

12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1 ,

22 18 16 17 3 8      16 24 13 ,

14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16

15 10 3 17 14 1 ,      25 1 18 23 12 14

24 15      25 14 10 12 14 .

I S A I A H    9 : 6 ,    N I V

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6, NIV