

Manor Minutes
Volume 13 Issue 9
February 11, 2022

The Story Chapter 17 The Fall of Judah and The Weeping Prophet – February 13

Stewardship/Finance Ministry – February 15, 5:30pm Library

Dartball – February 15, 7pm @ Home

Personnel Committee – February 17, 4pm Library

Choir Practice – February 17, 6:30pm

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



Fred and Eva Lou Engle would like to thank everyone for your prayers and well wishes during Fred's illness. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are truly appreciated.

Fairhill Manor has learned of the passing of Muriel Woodburn on January 29, 2022 in Elizabethtown PA. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers. Online condolences can be sent through www.BuseFuneralHomes.com.



Bethany Class

February 13: Praise God for Past Deliverance - Psalm 107:1-9, 39-43

February 20: Praise God for His Presence – Psalm 84

February 27: Praise God for His Greatness - Psalms 149:1-5; 150

The Bethany Class Zoom will open at 8:30 am.
The class will begin at 9:15 am.

Meeting ID: 883 3055 7258 Passcode: 344061

Daffodil order forms can be found in the Narthex or contact Karen and she can send you a form.

All orders must be prepaid and turned in to the Office by **February 15.**

Rev. Chris is planning an activity for the youth in early April to plant daffodils on the church property. If anyone would like to donate potted daffodils for this purpose, add a note to your order that says “for the youth.”





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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Diane Palfreyman, Bread
Cara Hritz, Cup
February 13, 2022 - 10:15am

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Shyla Rash

Great is the grace and glory of God. We give thanks with hearts of joy.
Great is the strength and mercy of our creator. We give thanks with hearts of hope.
Great is the courage and hope of our Lord. We give thanks with hearts of faith as we worship the one who has given us so much

Opening Hymn

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Audra Allen, organist

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Gena

Eternally Loving God, in the very essence of who you are, you teach us about love, relational love. You are the Lover, the Beloved, and the Love that Flows Between Them, three-in-one and united in love. As those created in your image, empower us today to be people of deeper love, encompassing heart, soul, mind, and strength, both for you and for those around us.

God of Love, teach us to love those nearest and dearest to us, those with whom we are the most vulnerable and the most guarded. Help us to rebuild trust and to be real with each other.

Merciful God, enable us to forgive and to ask for forgiveness, that we may take part in the work of Jesus, the work of bringing back together, reconnecting and restoring relationships. May the impact of hurtful memories wane over time. Free us from ill will toward others and all kinds of resentment, we pray.

Loving God, grant us deeper relationships with those who encourage us to be the best versions of ourselves. Thank you for their presence in our lives in whatever form they take. May these dear ones help us to be accountable for our actions, offer us advice pleasing to you and speak the truth to us in love without judgment. Thank you for these special friends and family members, co-workers and classmates, neighbors and partners who live out your love for us day by day.

We thank you for the wonder of your love for us. Wash us again with your mercy and peace as we remember our baptisms this morning. Assure us of your great love for us and renew our will to walk with you daily on this journey of faith, as we learn to live your ways of love. Bless especially those who receive the sign of your undying, eternal love in the waters of baptism today. Bless Molly and Eli with a great community of love to nurture them as they grow in you throughout their lives.

Compassionate God, sharpen our awareness of those who feel unloved and unlovable. Strengthen our resolve to be agents of hospitality to those who are lonely, agents of comfort for those who are frightened, and agents of mercy for those who are hurting. Show us how to love those who are sick, those who are lost and confused, those who are in pain, those who are facing the end of their lives. We lift these we love to you now, knowing that you hold them close and comfort them with your love... May your love flow through us as together we care for others.

Now, O God, open each of our hearts to a greater sense of your love for ourselves as your children - a love that is tenacious, patient and unconditional. Remove the barriers that we have placed in our spirits that block the free flow of your love in our lives. Work through our doubt, don't be deceived by the masks we wear for others, and heal us of our guilt and shame. For in you we find our truest and best selves, as ones created in your three-in-one, relational image. Thank you for your grace. Thank you for your love. We pray this with one voice in the name of our Savior, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray, 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.

Adapted and expanded from <https://hydeparkumc.org/valentines-day-prayer/>.

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 Kings 25:1-21

Amy Caldwell

Children’s Message

J.C. Leasure

Have you ever gone on vacation, but started to get homesick? It was fun at first to have a different routine, but you wish that you could go back to your regular schedule. The Israelites were forced to go on what might be considered as a permanent vacation before. Judah was not following the rules that God had given them, so he sent them away to the kingdom of Babylon. You may see the glass half full, and think travelling isn't so bad. A new country means different food, new people to meet, new wonders to see and new food. Unfortunately for Judah, their "vacation" lasted 70 years. We may get homesick after one week of being somewhere else, and Judah had to stay in a different country for almost 4,000 weeks! That new food is going to start tasting bland after a while. The Israelites are going to have to find a way to get used to their displacement for the next few generations, but there is still hope for Judah. God won't cast off his chosen people forever. Judah will someday go back home. It may feel like our bad times last 70 years, but God will always lead us back to where we belong, and that is with him.

Second Scripture Reading

Lamentations 1:1-3; 3:19-33

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Lamentation, Salvation, Celebration”

Rev. Stillwell

Prophets are many things. They are the messengers of God. They are people who explain the present situation and point to the future. They are advisers and admonishers. Prophets are many things to be sure, but mostly prophets are strange. They speak to God, and they speak for God, so, even if they are not trying to be strange, they are strange by their very nature. To have the audacity to say, “thus says the

Lord” is to open oneself up to be labeled very odd indeed, and yet some of the biblical prophets go out of their way to be strange.

Hosea was a prophet who married a prostitute and named his children names that meant “not-pitied” and “not my people” as a commentary on the state of the nation of Israel. Ezekiel recreated the siege of Jerusalem by following God’s command to:

Lie down on your left side and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel on it; you shall bear their iniquity for the number of days that you lie on it. ⁵For I have assigned you a number of days corresponding to the years of their iniquity, three hundred and ninety days; thus you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. ⁶When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, but on your right side and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah; I have assigned it to you for forty days, a day for each year. ⁷Then you shall set your face toward the siege of Jerusalem with your arm bared and prophesy against it. ⁸Now behold, I will put ropes on you so that you cannot turn from one side to the other until you have completed the days of your siege. (Ez 4:5-8)

John the Baptist wore a shirt made of camel hair and ate locusts while living down by the Jordan River. Prophets are indeed strange, but even the prophets who do not go in for such histrionics can be strange in that they are so up and down. One minute they are chastising and the next minute they are praising. Today we might call them manic depressive or perhaps moody. Take Jeremiah for instance. One minute he is lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem saying:

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall!
My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

The next minute he is extolling the greatness of God saying:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’

This he writes just after God raised up the Babylonians to judge the southern kingdom, Judah.

The Assyrians had conquered Israel a hundred or more years prior and for more than a century Judah feared they would follow suit. Well, Judah wasn’t conquered by Assyria, which is the good news, but that is because the Babylonians conquered the Assyrians, and it was they who destroyed Jerusalem and Judah in 586 B.C. taking the prisoners into exile. The fall of the northern kingdom and southern kingdom are hard stories but they teach us valuable lessons of faith, which is that in the midst of judgment God always offers a promise of hope. This is seen in history as the people would eventually be restored to the promise land after a time of exile, and it is also seen through the words of the prophets who bounce back and forth from consolation and judgement like a tennis ball at Wimbledon.

The primary prophet at this time is Jeremiah whom God calls to be the “weeping prophet” over Judah and its fall. Jeremiah does have some hard words to explain why this fate had befallen them, but mostly Jeremiah’s task was to call people back, but he will fail, both weeping over Judah’s destruction and offering hope for the future.

Jeremiah laments over the fall of Jerusalem because it is something that should be lamented so much so that it cannot be contained in the book of Jeremiah but a separate book of lamentations is required to fit them in and, since it contains nothing else but lamentations, it is called simply, Lamentations. So it is appropriate to mourn, but the good news is that there is always good news. Much like a funeral, which is

where I read this scripture the most, not only is their hope when things are at their darkest, that is when the light of hope shines brightest.

Jeremiah laments over the loss of Judah and the destruction of the temple while simultaneously celebrating in the hope of restoration and salvation. It must have seemed rather strange for someone to see the ruins of the holy city and say:

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

These words may seem strange to us, but this is the human experience. Nothing is ever completely good or bad. Our lives are a mix of good and bad, they provide us continuously with a reason to cry and a reason to smile. Sometimes we pray tears of sorrow and tears of joy from the same eye and our faith should never deny either of these feelings. It strikes me as prophetic that Jeremiah laments over Jerusalem even while celebrating God's mercy as that mercy will come to fruition 50 years later when the Israelites return to Israel, and the lamentations will return 500 years later when the people again do not live as God wants them to live. This time it is not Jeremiah doing the lamenting, but Jesus Christ.

Just after he triumphantly entered the city of Jerusalem as a king enters into his kingdom, Jesus gives a speech to indicate that he will be rejected that is often referred to as the lament over Jerusalem where he says:

³⁷“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸See, your house is left to you, desolate. ³⁹For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’” (Mt 23:37-39)

Jerusalem was the greatest of all cities in Jesus' time. It was the center of the Israelite kingdom, the heart of the Promised Land, the place where King David strode the streets and the center of the worship. As the city that held the temple it was the most holy of cities and the place where it was believed that God resided.

But God is a god of justice and compassion and neither of these qualities were being shared in an abundance in Jerusalem. The justice that Christ brings in which the sick are healed, the lame cured, the last first the first last, and all are invited in to a great banquet is nowhere to be seen in a city in which the poor line the street, the temple is a place for commerce, and the people are more concerned with acting holy than being compassionate.

When Jesus laments, “How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!” You can hear the passion and disappointment in his voice. Perhaps you can also see similarities to the way that we are like Jerusalem today.

This lament outside the gates of Jerusalem is a foreshadowing of things to come, but it is also a chance and an opportunity. By lamenting now, Jesus tells us that there is still time for each of us to repent so that we will not have to be lamented over later.

Jeremiah's lamentation is often read at funerals, but it is also appropriate to read them at a baptism, Baptisms are universally a happy occasion. They are all celebration and no lamentation, but they are based on the premise that we should lament, we should express contrition, we should repent. In baptism we acknowledge our failings and faults, and see how humans, left to themselves will be imperfect at best, but the reason baptisms are so happy is because we not only celebrate God's salvation being able to

overcome any human infraction, we celebrate that people have come to this realization without having to go through what the Israelites had to go through.

The story of the Bible is the story of God going after us, in order to bring us home, but it is also the story of us, as humanity, running away and getting lost. We see the struggle of Israel throughout its history with judges and kings and prophets and priests as being one of hard learned lessons, and we see the coming of Christ as being the teacher who can show us the way to God without us having to suffer as the people before us did, and knowing that still we often do not listen.

Like Jeremiah we lament our shortcomings and our failures. We see the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile as examples writ large of our inability to love one another and to love God as God loves us, but the tears we cry on this day are tears of joy for God's salvation overcomes all lamentation. Today two souls say, "The Lord is my portion, therefore I will hope in him." Today two have come to be gathered under Jesus' wings like a hen gathers her brood. Today let there be no lamentation, for God's salvation has come bringing with it only celebration.

Anthem "Like a River in My Soul," By Forrest Choir

Reaffirming Our Faith read together, led by Pastor Gena

As members of the Christian Church,
We confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.

In Christ's name and by his grace we accept our mission of witness and service to all people.

We rejoice in God maker of heaven and earth, and in the covenant of love which binds us to God and one another.

Through baptism into Christ we enter into newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God.

In the communion of the Holy Spirit we are joined together in discipleship and in obedience to Christ.

At the table of the Lord we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ.

Within the universal church we receive the gift of ministry and the light of scripture.

In bonds of Christian faith we yield ourselves to God that we may serve the One whose kingdom has no end.

Blessing, glory and honor be to God forever. Amen

Baptism Eli Douglas Graff and Molly Ann Johnson

Baptism Hymn *"We Call Ourselves Disciples"*

We call ourselves disciples, as pilgrims on the way.

We see the truth in wisdom, and beauty in each day.

As women, men, and children, we serve, Christ's path to clear.

In joyful expectation we see God's reign draw near.

Call to Offering Owen Stillwell

We give this morning because we love—we love you, our God; we love Jesus Christ, your Son; and we love and care about others, even those we will never meet. Affirming our unity with our brothers and sisters around the world and in this place, we share ourselves through this 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

Loving God, Deliverer of compassion, you call us to share our treasures and talents and the work of our hands. With hearts filled with hope, we praise you for our bounty. Forever shall we sing of your generous ways, Holy One. Accept these offerings as devotion to you and your Kingdom. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

Jeremiah's lamentation was read this week at my aunt's funeral. It was good for us to hear:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'

Because, as her minister reminded us, she placed her hope in the Lord, and it got her through a number of challenges during her long life. It was also appropriate because a funeral is full of lamenting as we expressed our grief on her passing, but it was also a comfort because we believe that she was now at peace with her mother, father, and daughter who had gone before her, and we believed that she was with the Lord and waited for us, because lamentation leads to salvation which leads to celebration.

This is a truth that we remember every time we come to this table. If a person believes they have nothing for which to be forgiven then they have no need of the grace that Christ offers in this meal. Those are the people who are truly lost. None of us are perfect. We all need to be redeemed, yet none of us are beyond the redemption found in Christ Jesus. All that is needed for our salvation has been done for us by God through Christ and the Holy Spirit except one thing.

The only thing left for us to do is simply to accept it. The only thing we need to do is realize that we need it. The only thing for us to do is to lament our sin, receive God's forgiveness which leads to salvation, and celebrate this wonderful gift freely given to us by a God who loves us more than we can possibly understand.

Let us be like the exiles who returned to the Promised Land, like the prodigal son who returned to his father in tears of sorrow that became tears of joy, like the disciples who returned to the sea of Galilee to be gathered unto Christ like a hen gathers her brood, like children returning to their home that has been prepared for them since the creation of the world.

Communion Hymn*"One Bread, One Body"*

Audra Allen, organist

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.
Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Diane Palfreyman

God of love and life, we thank you that it is our privilege to gather here once again to praise your name and to give thanks. This bread that we partake and the cup that we drink, we remember not only the life and ministry of Jesus, but also his promised presence as we come to His table.

Grant us the renewal that comes to us and urges us to keep trying to do your will through the days ahead. We ask this in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Words of Institution

Rev. Stillwell

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is

for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Sharing Holy Communion

You will receive the bread and cup together. Please hold them; we will take each together as one body. Disciples of Christ believe in an Open Table. All who profess Christ and follow Him are welcome to share His meal.

Call to Discipleship

If you have come to know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and you would like to profess that you intend to begin a life of faith, learning to walk in his way of Love, you are welcome to contact one of the Pastors to take this step. If you would like to join this part of the Body of Christ at Fairhill Manor Christian Church, to covenant to journey together in this life of faith, please reach out to one of the Pastors to learn more. We all take these moments to rededicate our lives to following Jesus.

Rev. Stillwell

Closing Hymn

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

Jody Mullis, pianist

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, up hold you
with a shepherd’s care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet (till we meet) till we meet (till we meet), till we meet at Jesus’ feet;
till we meet (till we meet) till we meet (till we meet), God be with you till we meet again.

Benediction

Having been forgiven, go forth and forgive others.
Having been loved, go forth and love others.
Having been blessed, go forth and bless others.

Rev. Stillwell

Recorded worship services can be found on the Church website or on YouTube,
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih_fzHCC2X0Jhc_sfniJ7C1O3X

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.

Church Office hours:

Karen is working from home on Monday, Tuesday and Friday,
9 am – 2 pm. She will be in the Church Office on Wednesday &
Thursday, 9 am – 2 pm. The Church phone is forwarded to Karen’s
cell phone and can be reached anytime.

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

Rev. Chris is off on Tuesday during the school year.

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



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!

Homebound Members:

Phyllis Cimino
317 Wellness Way
Strabane Trails #325
Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokeley
900 N. Cass Lake Road, Apartment 324
Waterford, MI 48328

Ed Alexy
Avery Allen
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Jim Banish
Tom Barnhart
Abby Blanchard
Susan Britko
Mabel Brooks
Denise Charles
Wanda Chicone
John Collar
Emily Cope Robinson
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Jett Fuller
Derek Gardiner
Lois Gayman
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg

Linda Hainer
Kyle Hallam
Connie Hanning
Judy Hanning
Aryn Hess
Ed Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Family of Pam Kloss
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &
Ty James Lacock
Bob Lanning
Libby LeDuff
Lee & Betsy Martin
Dave McConnell
Don Melvin
Michaela Nixon
Ruth Mikuta
Georgette Murray
Deborah Patterson
Bo & Patty Pryor
Kayda Richards
Cathy Rentgen
Betty Jo Riggle
Dave Ross
Jim and Barb Roupe

John Shadeck
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Cathy Stewart
John Stewart
Bernard and Jane Teagarden
Beth Teagarden
Nadine Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Sarah Wittenberg
Marcie Yocum

In the Military

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

Check list for Thomas Campbell Welcome Home Boxes:

2 bath towels	2 hand towels
2 washcloths	4 bars of soap
2 microfiber cleaning cloths	1 roll of toilet paper
1 roll of paper towel	1 toothbrush
1 large tube of toothpaste	

The Dollar Store has storage cubes and laundry baskets that make a great way to put your items in.

FMCC has a goal of 20 boxes. All items need to be returned to the church by February 27.

If you would like to order daffodils, please fill out an order form and return with payment by February 15 to Karen in the Office or place in her mailbox. Rev. Chris is planning an activity for the youth in early April to plant daffodils on the church property. **If anyone would like to donate potted daffodils for this purpose, add a note to your order that says "for the youth."**



DAFFODIL DAYS 2022

GIVE DAFFODILS. GIVE HOPE.

Washington County PA - 2022 Selections:

- Bunch of Daffodils: \$10
- Bunch of Tulips (assorted colors): \$15
- Mini-Potted Daffodils: \$15
- Milk Chocolate Daffodil Lollipop \$1
- White Chocolate (Yellow) Daffodil Lollipop \$1

Gift of Hope: \$25 *(Flowers delivered to local cancer center/hospital/nursing home facilities in the community)*

Flowers will be available for pick-up/delivery the week of March 21, 2022. More information will be provided closer to the date. Questions: please email nancy.verderber@cancer.org

Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.



**Please make
all checks
payable to:
American Cancer
Society**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Bunch of Daffodils:	_____ x \$10	_____
Bunch of Tulips:	_____ x \$15	_____
Mini-Potted Daffodils:	_____ x \$15	_____
Gift of Hope:	_____ x \$25	_____
Milk Chocolate Daffodil Lollipop	_____ x \$1	_____
White Chocolate Daffodil Lollipop	_____ x \$1	_____

Total _____