

Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 29

July 10, 2020

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

In keeping with social distancing guidelines in our Sanctuary, only about 50 people will be able to worship in person each week. Those with last names beginning with A-F and G-L are welcome to worship in person on Sunday, July 12th and those with last names beginning with M-R and S-Z are welcome to worship in person on Sunday, July 19th. We will rotate which groups worship in the Sanctuary each week so that within 6 weeks we will be able to worship with everyone else in our congregation. The schedule will appear here in Manor Minutes. In order to allow for increased ventilation in the Sanctuary, we will use a combination of ceiling fans, air conditioning and open windows. To ensure our comfort, we will begin worship at 9:30 am. The doors will open at 9 am. Please arrive together with those who will be sitting with you.

ZOOM - LIVE

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

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

Meeting ID: 932 4557 4206

Password: 026316

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

Text your prayer concerns to Pastor Gena at (724) 263-0033. She will share these during worship. At 9:30 am, mute yourself on Zoom (Not sure how to do that? Login at 9 am and someone will help). Please be aware that we will be Recording Zoom Worship this week with the hope that we can post it to our website for folks to view later.

To make the Zoom square with the Sanctuary worship prominent on your screen:

- On a smartphone or tablet, double-touch the Zoom square you want to see most prominently.
- On a laptop, hover with your mouse over the Zoom square you want to see most prominently. In the upper right-hand corner of the square, click on the three dots (...), then click on "Pin Video."

Thank you for your patience and feedback as we try to worship together in new ways! We will keep trying to get it right - or at least as good as we possibly can.

See you on Zoom on Sunday!

We invite all children to join in Worship via Zoom at 12:30pm. Materials for children to work with during Worship will be attached to the Manor Minutes each week. Look for the beginning of a new CW&W year in August!



Worship Attendance Schedule



July 12: Last names beginning with A-F and G-L
July 19: Last names beginning with M-R and S-Z
July 26: Last names beginning with A-F and M-R
August 2: Last names beginning with G-L and S-Z
August 9: Last names beginning with A-F and S-Z
August 16: Last names beginning with G-L and M-R



Zoom Board Meeting – July 15 7 pm

Zoom Stewardship/Finance Meeting – July 21 5:30 pm

Zoom link, Member ID and Password are sent to participants by email. If you don't receive an e-mail, please contact the office at 724-225-8610.

Meetings can also be found on the Church's website at:
www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



Birthday Correction!!

Colt Allison's birthday was misprinted in the July Newsletter.

His birthday is July 11.

Let's all wish Colt a very happy birthday!

Givelify

Tap. Give. Done.



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

Givelify gives you a beautiful, easy giving experience using your smartphone. There are no frustrating web forms to fill out, and recurring gifts are easy to set up and modify. Even better, it's free to download and use. It's safe and secure and gives you access to your complete giving record.

Want to see how it works? [Watch the demonstration video](#) that shows you all about how to make and track donations.

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



DRIVE-THRU COLLECTION PLUS

We still have neighbors in need so on Saturday, July 11th from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. FMCC/DOC will be hosting another **Drive-Thru Collection**. In addition to collecting non-perishable food items we will be collecting other items for the Community Circle Food Pantry, LeMoyné Community Center and the Salvation Army. Please read what is needed in the lists below.

Non-perishable food items most needed but not limited to: canned soups, meats, Spaghetti O's, Ravioli, vegetables. Pop-top cans are preferred but if not able to find them please consider donating a can opener. Other items - boxed mac 'n' cheese, individual servings as well, pancake mix, syrup, breakfast bars, cereal, oatmeal, individually wrapped crackers, pasta, sauces, rice.



ADDITIONAL ITEMS BEING COLLECTED:

Community Circle Food Pantry is collecting items for the hygiene bags they pass out monthly for their clients. Items needed are deodorant, body-wash, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, combs, female hygiene products, shampoo, and nail clippers.

LeMoyné Community Center is collecting sandwich bags and brown paper bags for their Summer Lunch Program.

Salvation Army is collecting school supplies and is in need of pens, pencils, backpacks, crayons, rulers, scissors, pencil boxes or pouches, markers, binders, erasers, pocket folders, lined paper, ear buds, and flash drives.

Monetary donations will also be accepted.

We are also offering a **Porch Pick-up Service** starting the week of July 6 for those who would like to donate but not able to make the day of the Drive-Thru. Please contact Amy Caldwell either at acaldwell8898@gmail.com or call/text her at 724-207-3945 to set up a pick-up time.

Information on ways you can help others can be found on the Fairhill Manor website:
<http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/how-to-help>

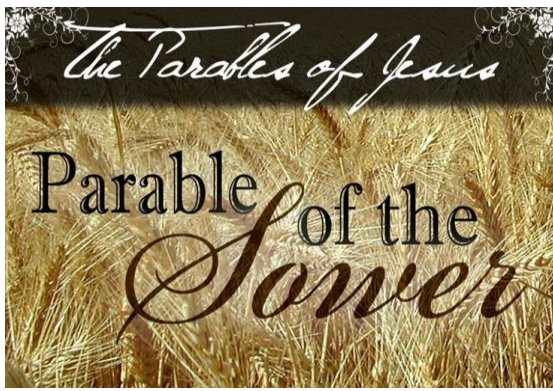
Any questions please contact Marsha Sams at msams822@gmail.com or call/text – 859-421-7227.

Community Naloxone (Narcan) & Deterra (Drug Deactivation Bags) Distribution Drive-Thru*

*Instruction on Naloxone Administration will be provided.

* To be in compliance of CDC guidelines, we ask that you remain in your vehicle.

Who: Washington County Residents
Location: The Church of the Covenant
267 E. Beau Street
Washington, PA 15301
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2020
Time: 2:00 pm-5:00 pm
Cost: Free



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

Rev. Dr. W. Darwin Collins, Interim Pastor
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
July 12, 2020

Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

Welcome*

Rev. Collins

Call to Worship*

J.C. Leasure/Jim Ulery (Audio)

We come as people with ears to hear and eyes to see. Still on some days our vision is clouded, and our hearing is not so sharp. Come, o people of God, to hear the word of God for this day...come with eyes to see and ears to hear!

Opening Hymn*

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

piano by Jody Mullis

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee,
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Rev. Collins

Creator God who plants seeds of hope and grace and justice within our lives, we are so grateful for this community of faith and for all, anywhere, who hunger and thirst for your healing, reconciling word. You know all the things that are on our hearts today and we thank you for gathering us together this day after an extended and painful absence from one another...but not from you. Bring us together with our remaining anxieties and concerns to find anew your love and support.

We ask your healing mercies with those who struggle with illness of every kind, for those feeling lost and marginalized; for those who mourn and for whom the darkness of sorrow enshrouds them. And we ask your growth-producing love for all those who celebrate and rejoice today.

Be with each one of us and all those whom we have named before you...so now hear the other concerns of our hearts that we lift in silence. Help us to reach out to each other in compassion and support. We come before you, O God, torn between the struggles of the pandemic and divisions of our world and the beauty and wonder of this season. Your creation staggers our imagination. Its beauty kindles our excitement. Its mystery defies our understanding. As Jesus spoke to the crowds in Galilee in parables, sometimes you speak to us in parables. Your words are loud and powerful, but their meaning is not always clear.

Yet we sense the heartbeat behind your handiwork. In Jesus you have revealed your face, and we are delighted by what we see. We see power restrained by goodness. We see purpose directed by love. We thank you for the revelation of yourself in Jesus. We pray for you to bless this church and others as we continue on this journey of faith...to protect and support the efforts toward health, but also, provide for the gathering of your faithful. So, whether online, through the mail, on our website or here in this holy place in person, may your name be praised, and your mission be advanced. We offer these our prayers and our hearts desires to you in the name of Jesus, our 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.

Anthem* “The Love of God”, performed by the True Jesus Church Irvine Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXITudMEhEI>

Children’s Message* Pastor Gena

Where I lived in South Sudan, it was so dark at night. Once all the generators shut down for the evening, the only light would come from candles or lanterns or flashlights. It was so dark. My eyes weren’t used to darkness like that. So I definitely had to use a flashlight to make my way to the outhouse late at night if I had to use the bathroom! Have you ever used a flashlight? What did you use it for? How did it help you?

One of our Scriptures for today is Psalm 119. Did you know that Psalm 119 is the longest psalm in the whole books of 150 psalms? It is also the longest chapter in the whole Bible. And this psalm is really cool because it’s an “alphabetic acrostic psalm.” That means that each group of verses begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. That might have helped people remember what this Psalm says. Verse 105 of Psalm 119 compares God’s word to light. Listen. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” What do you think that means?

Let’s think about that. What difference does a flashlight make on a dark night? I wonder how God’s word is like that for us? It might help us see and understand ourselves better. It might help us see and understand each other better. It might help us to see the right way to go in our lives – what decisions to make, what potholes to avoid. What else?

This psalm is like a prayer. When we say it, we are asking God to help us see better how to follow wherever God leads. We can sing this song too. Have you heard the song, “Thy Word?” It sets the words of Psalm 119:105 to music.

Let’s pray together. Holy God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Light up our understanding so we can see better how to live and treat others as you want us to. Amen.

Scripture Reading* **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23** J.C. Leasure/Jim Ulery (audio)

Sermon* **“And What Kind of Gardening Is This?”** Rev. Collins

Oh, we do love Jesus’ parables...and today’s text, familiar though it is, just shocks my sensibilities and experience having grown up on a farm. Now I know there are people who practice all kinds of farming from hydroponic without soil, vertical gardening, raised beds, organic, square foot gardening, compost believers, some swear by worm castings, others mushroom manure. On our farm growing up, my Dad was an organic farmer, primarily because he couldn’t afford chemicals, so it was fertilizer furnished by

God through our cows...I really don't need to spell that out do I? And my Dad always liked to plant big...nearly a full acre for tomatoes, beans squash, tomatoes, corn, peas, okra, you name it we planted it. But before we planted, we always prepared the soil. For you see, whether you planted from seed or small plantings, the success of the garden was always dependent upon the soil.

And that's the key to our parable for this day. It's titled the parable of the sower, but the plot is not focused on the sower as much as the soil he finds to plant the seed. For as the story unfolds, we discover that this gardening technique used by this sower meant that the seed was the same, the sower didn't change...no, the only variable was the soil.

And wow, was there a difference in the soils. Jesus names them...some like all of our soil after the extreme heat and drought of these recent days...was a hard-packed path...the ground pack down, lacking in vegetation from all of the foot traffic...so the seeds deposited there could not penetrate and were left as bird seed.

There was the rocky soil with most of the surface exposed as hard rock unable to receive the roots of the seeds and leaving the plants to dry up in the sun reflected from the rocks.

And then, as any amateur gardener or any man looking at his yard in these drought conditions knows, in some places the only things to prosper in the garden are the weeds. They thrive in the worst conditions. And as they prosper, the good seeded plants wither.

And then Jesus does include that this sower of the good seed does find some good soil that receives the seed and it does sink deep roots and produces good crops.

Now, interestingly, Matthew provides the commentary of Jesus explaining what this all means, but he interrupts the flow with 8 verses talking about why parables are not always so obvious to all people. It has something to do with people who have ears and eyes to hear and see.

But to continue with our text Jesus says these different soils are really about the different people who listen to his teachings...in other words the hard packed soil really are hard-packed people who aren't quite ready to focus on Jesus' teachings and it is just blown away...sometimes the cares of life are so hard that they become obstacles to following God's ways...like rocks in our path...or the worries, fears and cares of life can grow up in our days leaving us unable to fully understand God's presence and direction for our lives.

As a student of human behavior as a pastor of 48 years...and more importantly having lived my life I realize that just as soil can change with the conditions of the weather and cycles of growing seasons, we each can experience these conditions of life as well...in other words, we all experience times when we feel as if we are stepped on and trampled, unable to handle anything more, unable to recognize not just another bad experience, but also often an expression of kindness and goodness. Many times, we have obstacles placed in our path and feel incapable to giving what we would prefer. Other times we through worry or fears can't recognize the good in our lives.

I think this is the lesson of the ears to hear and eyes to see. Often times the condition of life's garden where we find ourselves makes it hard to hear of God's love or see God's presence or acts of kindness around us...that's when I want you to think about the most ridiculous part of this parable...not the seed, not the soil...but the ridiculous nature of the sower. What kind of gardener is this sower? She casts out good seed broadly without condition, without taking into consideration the nature of the soil. Wasteful, irresponsible, and yet that's the nature of this sower. But wait...look around with eyes to see and ears to hear...that's how God plants...flowers that grow from sidewalk cracks, or those day lilies that appear

along highways. How about those beautiful wildflowers growing in far off pastures and woods that we cannot see? Like a plant that grew up in our raised bed this year. Plants we did not intentionally plant. I was ready to pluck it out as a weed, but Rachel saved it and planted it in a separate pot...now it is five feet tall on a trellis blossoming as a squash...stray seed...thankfully Rachel had eyes to see.

An irresponsible sower or an audacious, extravagant God...spreading love and grace in all our days...whether we can recognize that love and grace is up to us? What kind of gardening is this? I dare say, it's God's kind...thanks be to God!

Call to Offering*

J.C. Leasure

The parable that we have heard today is one that stirs our hearts and minds. We contemplate on the Parable of the Sower and use it as a mirror to measure where we are in our relationship with God. Are we rocky ground? Are we among thorns or jaggers? We strive to be good soil. The seed that is planted within us is the vine of Christ. The environment that we are in can determine how the vine grows within us and the outcome of our grain. If we have good soil (which is living biblically, abiding in Christ, loving our neighbors) then we produce good grain: "some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

As we here at Fairhill, let us come together as one church; one body in Christ and present our first fruits that have been cultivated within us.

Dedication of Offering Prayer*

Pastor Gena

Giver of life, we do not want the cares of the world and the lure of wealth to choke your word among us. As the sower casts seeds abundantly, hopefully, so we long to participate in your seeding of the world. Receive these gifts as tokens of our lives. Send your cultivating Spirit to work among us until we yield and grow in peace, for we pray in the name of Jesus, who came out of love for the world. Amen.

Invitation to Communion*

Pastor Gena

All types of soil are welcome here at this Table. The soil that is pressed down, packed hard from years of being walked on – the soil the rain bounces off, the soil that has supported and made a way for so many others for so long that it finds it hard to accept nourishment itself anymore. All types of soil are welcome here. The soil that finds itself between a rock and a hard place, just trying to survive without much to offer. That soil that is just barely hanging on, surrounded by difficulty and pain. That soil is welcome here. So too is the soil that has too much going on, too many things taking its time and energy away. The soil that is always stretched too thin and looking for a quiet day without so many demands. All types of soil are welcome here. Even that soil that is rich in nutrients, balanced in commitments, able to nourish and receive nourishment, thriving and fruitful. All types of soil are welcome here; here at this Table of love where there is a quiet center. Here, where things are brought back into balance. Here, where nutrients and priorities are restored. Here where the sun shines, but not too brightly; here where the rains fall gently to refresh and renew. Come, just as you are. Come, let Jesus lavish his love on you, that you might lavish love richly on all who you meet.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Kevin Puskarich

Dear God, on this warm summer morning, we are grateful to be able to gather in this familiar sanctuary where you prepare a table for us that draws us nearer to you. We eat this bread and drink this wine to celebrate the inspiring life of your son Jesus. We give thanks that his unselfish sacrifice at the cross to atone for our sins give us the chance for eternal life. In return, let us do our best to treat and love each other in a way that unites us, overlooks our differences and is pleasing to you. We thank you, we praise you, and we love you. Amen.

Words of Institution*

Pastor Gena

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, NRSV)

Closing Hymn*

"Seed, Scattered and Sown"

piano by Jody Mullis

Seed, scattered and sown wheat gathered and grown
bread, broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of God.
Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands,
One cup that is shared by all; the Living Cup,
The Living Bread of God
Is not the bread we break a sharing in our Lord?
Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ outpoured?

Seed, scattered and sown wheat gathered and grown
bread, broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of God.
Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands,
One cup that is shared by all; the Living Cup,
The Living Bread of God
As wheat upon the hills was gathered and was grown,
So may the church of God be gathered into one.

Benediction*

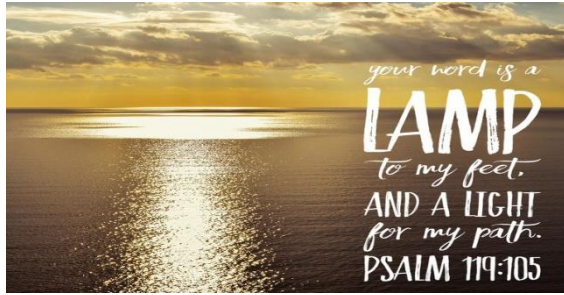
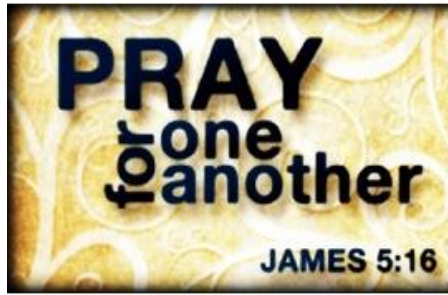
Pastor Gena

Sisters and brothers,
Sow the good news wherever you go –
Not judging the soil on which you stand –
For God brings forth fruit from unexpected places.

May God, whose forgiveness is boundless,
The Christ, whose gift is freedom,
The Spirit, which grants us life and peace,
Keep our minds and hearts in grateful communion as we seek to serve.
Go in peace. Amen.

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





Please keep the Pastoral Search Committee in your prayers:

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

Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Pastor Darwin (412-337-4293) or 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 and only to Pastor Darwin and Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

Prayer List:

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

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

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

Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center

Bill Behrens Rm 437
Rev. Marge Frank

Homebound Members:

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

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

In the Military

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



Puzzle!

Use the code to find out what these biblical people may have taken on a picnic.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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

(Genesis 3:6)

Adam and Eve 6 18 21 9 20

(Genesis 25:28)

Isaac 23 9 12 4 7 1 13 5

(Genesis 25:34)

Esau 19 20 5 23

(Numbers 11:5)

Israelites in Egypt 3 21 3 21 13 2 5 18 19

(Ruth 2:1-4)

Ruth 7 18 1 9 14

(1 Samuel 14:2)

Saul 16 15 13 5 7 18 1 14 1 20 5 19

(1 Samuel 14:29)

Jonathan 8 15 14 5 25

(Daniel 1:12-16)

Daniel and friends 22 5 7 5 20 1 2 12 5 19

(Matthew 3:4)

John the Baptist 12 15 3 21 19 20 19

(Matthew 14:17)

The 5,000 people 2 18 5 1 4 **&** 6 9 19 8

Answer: fruit, wild game, stew, cucumbers, grain, pomegranates, honey, vegetables, locusts, bread & fish