

# Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 30

July 17, 2020

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

## ZOOM - LIVE

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

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

Meeting ID: 932 4557 4206

Password: 026316

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

Text your prayer concerns to 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.

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



### Worship Attendance Schedule



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



FOR SALE - PINT JARS - \$5.00 a dozen (there are rings for the jars but no lids) If interested please contact Marsha Sams at either [msams822@gmail.com](mailto:msams822@gmail.com) or phone/text her at 859-421-7227.



Zoom Personnel Committee Meeting – July 20 10 am  
 Zoom Stewardship/Finance Meeting – July 21 5:30 pm  
 Zoom Elders Meeting - July 23 6:30 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](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar)

Faith in Action is looking for a couple of volunteers to help Rose Gorby with transportation (she has macular degeneration) while also providing her with respite care by sitting with Russell for a few hours while she is out. Faith in Action is currently overwhelmed with such requests. Please contact Robin Matthews at 724-223-5115 to help the Gorbys or others if you are able.



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.

**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 19, 2020

Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

**Welcome\***

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship\***

Marsha Sams/Becca Caldwell (audio)

Give thanks to God and call on God's name. God has done wonderful works for us.  
God's promises are sure. Sing to God, sing praises to God! Praise our God!

**Opening Hymn\***

*"Blessed be the Tie that Binds"*

piano by Jody Mullis

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above

When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

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

Pastor Gena

Mother-Father God,

You who are not constrained by our vision of what is possible, by the structures we build, by the ways we've come to understand you.

We cannot predict where or how you will act, yet you have given us your story, your family, your work to do.

Meet us here as we worship.

Give us eyes to see and ears to hear you, moving among us, comforting us, challenging us, teaching and encouraging us, loving us as a parent.

It is good, merciful God, for us to pause and confess our sin in your presence,

Reminding ourselves that we are not you, but that we belong to you.

So with the freedom of children who know how deeply we are loved, we acknowledge the times when we have turned away from your children's cries, your creation's groans, drowning them out with our noise and busyness. We have a lot of excuses for why we can't – we are young, we are old, we are tired, we are busy. But mostly it is hard to imagine how we might make a difference.

Life-giving God, wash us clean.

Restore our imaginations and our hearts.

Let your courage and compassion flow within us until we love with abandon and you reach out through our hands with blessing for all of creation.

Thank you for so clearly claiming us as your own through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We celebrate that we are yours! We celebrate that we are forgiven! We celebrate that you call us to be about your work in this world!

Thank you for this community of faith where we belong, where we find a home, where we learn and grow in your ways, from which we serve. Give us the courage to invite others into a relationship with you, that they might find the belonging and love for which they are looking.

Gracious Creator, giver of life, you know the complicated histories that have carried us to this moment. You know, for you have been there in each story of falling away and turning home, in our long years of wandering, and in the shining moments when we recognize your presence and find the grace to worship you.

All-knowing God, we hear creation groaning, waiting in eager longing to be set free from everything that holds it in bondage.

As your beloved children, we share with you the care of our hearts, knowing that you hear us.

We pray for all who flee from pasts by which they are haunted.

We lift up all who feel abandoned by a future for which they had hoped.

We plead for all who do not know that they are loved and chosen.

We intercede for our own divided souls.

Help us to trust that you are at work in every heart, in every conflicted community.

We pray for earth's people, its nations and leaders, that all may come to know the ways that lead to peace.

We pray for those who are ill and for those who are facing death and for those who tend to them.

We pray for those we know and love, that they may see the bond between them and you and that they may know that, wherever they go, you are with them.

Continue to shape us for service in your world.

And may we live in freedom and joy as your beloved children.

We pray these things in the name of our brother and Savior, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray...

*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\***

"I Am a Child of God"

performed by the Young Men and Women's Choir of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riD6sNy4HsI>

#### **Children's Message\***

Pastor Gena

Who do you know the best in the whole world? I wonder what it means to know someone really well.

Who knows you really well? I wonder how it feels when someone does something that shows that they know you really well.

Usually we feel more comfortable around people who know us really well, don't we? Knowing about someone else – what they like, how they do things, what they are not so good at, stories about what has happened in their lives (funny stories, scary stories, sad stories) – all of that is an important part of being close to that person.

Listen to this poem:

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. (Psalm 139:1-5)

This is someone describing how completely and totally God knows them. God knows everything about them. Later in the poem that we know as Psalm 139, the writer says that God knew them even before they were born, as they were being “knit together in their mother’s womb.” God knew them even before their own parents knew them.

Did you know that God knows you that completely too? That might be scary if there are some parts of you that you aren’t so proud of, maybe even some parts that no one else knows about. But it’s a good thing to be completely known by God because God loves us. It’s not as scary for God to know everything about us because we already know God’s reaction to everything we are and everything we’ve done! God already knows and God always has and always will love us completely! Wow.

When we know that we are completely known and loved, we have a little more courage to talk with God about those things that we are ashamed about. We might even become curious about why we make the choices we make. You see, since God knows us completely and loves every single part of us, we can be ok getting to know ourselves more completely and loving every single part of ourselves too. We might even be a little more confident in getting to know and love others more completely.

I hope you will color our Coloring Page this week. It says, “Oh God, you have searched me and known me.” I hope it will remind you that God loves every single part of you and there is nothing that you can’t talk with God about - God already knows and wants what’s best for you.

God, thank you for loving us even before we were born. Thank you for knowing us so well and always being with us. Please help us to know you better and please lead us in good ways. Amen.

**Scripture Reading\***

**Romans 8:12-25**

Marsha Sams/  
Becca Caldwell (audio)

**Sermon\***

**“Family Ties”**

Rev. Collins

I kinda’ have a feeling that each of us have shared some of the same experiences of family life...but here goes. Ever stood before a mirror when you were younger, looking hard at your face, your hair color, your eyes and wondered...could I really have come from my mother and father? Or was I adopted from another family far different than my own?

Or did you ever reach the point where you felt you could not stay in your family home one more day...feeling confined, not listened to, not getting what you wanted? And so, you threatened to run away? Leave this group that was called your family wanting to find your own way? I remember a day when our younger daughter was around 8 years old...she was angry at Rachel and me and so she packed up her little school backpack and came down to the kitchen to announce she was running away...not sure where, but she knew she had to leave. I think she was startled when Rachel asked if perhaps, she could help her pack up a few things she had forgotten...and then she started up the street. Not quite getting to the end of our front yard, and much like the Prodigal Son, she came to herself and decided to return. What was it that brought her back? Family ties?

In our text for this morning the Apostle Paul once again speaking in his clearest and most persuasive way seeks to help these early Roman Christians to understand the amazing saving acts of Christ for us. He explains that even as Roman citizens, in the most powerful and greatest country of the world, didn’t offer them the freedom that they now received through their faith and belief in Christ. Being led by the Spirit of

freedom that has become a part of us...we are freed from the fears and worries of this human existence. When Paul talks about not being debtors to the flesh, he's not really talking about our human frailties of passions and addictions. He's referring to the power that is in our lives that are the darker side...those that would deny our goodness, separate us from one another, lead us to selfish ambitions and most dark of all, lead us to believe we are not a part of God's creation, dependent upon God. Living according to the flesh means that we don't consider others in the family...only ourselves...we already have cut ourselves off. And just as those doubts of how strong our own family ties are...so we continue in our life in the Spirit to have doubts...that's why we continue to have to struggle against those deeds of the flesh. But even then, our family tie is sure, for God has no doubt about who we really are.

For in the Spirit, we have a freedom of knowing exactly our identity...children of God. And our hope is through the sacrifice of Christ to for of a better tomorrow...a future that affirms God's whole creation. We discover that truth so many times in life as we seek for a partner in life, as we search for a career, as we look for hobbies...we know when it isn't right...and we can feel whole and fulfilled when we find the one that fits. It's who we are.

Paul says in a more cosmic way that creation suffers in decay until it obtains the freedom to become children of God...its true identity. In this 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Romans, surely one of my favorites in the whole of scripture, Paul sets out the benefits of our faith in Christ...of living in the Spirit. And perhaps, among the greatest is the ability to call upon God as Abba, Father, Parent...to recognize that even while wrestling with these darker elements of creation, we have a family tie...whether we wonder if we really belong, or feel at times that we want to wonder off...there is a family tie that is greater than our fears and doubts. As Paul says, we are children of God.

I love that this is one place in the scripture where we don't have to worry about the use of male pronouns or descriptions, Paul doesn't leave out women here, but assures us that whether male or female we all belong. We may not be natural children of God, but that does not matter. We receive the gift of adoption as a gift of divine grace...as we walk with God's Spirit. Yes, adopted, but none the less than full members of the family. The ties of God's family are sure and strong—more on that next Sunday.

Adoption in our human context can diminish the tie or the benefits of family life, but in the context of Paul he writes of the Greek or Roman adoption rules in which an adopted child has the same rights and privileges as a natural child. He then advances our ties within God's family even further when he says we are more than just children of God we are joint heirs...though we have no right to claim any of Christ's honor or gifts, though we have no dignity in ourselves, God has bestowed this remarkable honor on each of us. Who are we? What is our place in this world or in God's creation? We are children of God! Now how about that?

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

Marsha Sams

Well, Fairhill Manor Folks you have out done yourselves this time!!!! In the last 3 months you have collected and donated over 7,000 items which included non-perishable foods, school supplies, hygiene products, lunch supplies and \$3,000 to help our neighbors. The items have been delivered to Community Circle Food Pantry, The Salvation Army and LeMoyné Community Center. The Salvation Army and Community Circle Food Pantry have each received \$1,500. The final count for the supplemental food bags that several of us were involved in packing for the Salvation Army was over 18,000. Well done, good and faithful servants!!!

My heart is so full to be a part of a community of Disciples that have become the hands of God and are touching lives thru Jesus the Christ. Your Outreach Team will continue to be aware of the needs in our

community and letting you know how you can help our neighbors. As always if any of you hears of anyone in need, please do not hesitate to let us know. We cannot help if we don't know help is needed. We are all God's Children and we need to take care of each other.

As we begin to get back to our new normal please remember that your monetary offerings are still very much needed and appreciated to maintain our Church Budget. God is Good all the time and All the Time God is Good. May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

### **Dedication of Offering Prayer\***

Rev. Collins

Accept, O Lord, the offering we seek to make, of ourselves and our money; and grant that we may ever work and pray to build a world of peace and joy and freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion\***

Rev. Collins

Family life can was often depicted as so idyllic and pleasant, whether in Norman Rockwell paintings or on television sitcoms, we were given to believe that every problem would be resolved, every person made to feel satisfied. Somehow, reality just didn't seem to measure up. So, what was wrong with us? At this table we see a vastly different family, one created not by bloodline, but by love and mercy, but forgiveness and sacrifice. Through the sacrifice of Christ, we have the freedom and the great honor to become children of God. Adopted with all the rights of a full child of the family. Not always happy or satisfied, perhaps not always pleased with our God, but through our faith in Christ, we are family. A tie that can never be broken. This is our family table—yours and mine. And that it will always be! Come family, it is time to dine together!

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

Rita Puskarich

Holy God,

You are awesome and continue to love us! Even though it has been months for some of us, we feel so welcomed to literally approach this table. Some of us have been gathering around your table in our homes, on our porches, from our recliners and our couches. You have still welcomed us no matter what form your table has taken. It is always a welcome table. Our world has changed, is changing and will continue to change, but we know that your love of us, your forgiveness and your grace through your son, Jesus Christ, will not change. Thank you for loving us this much. We now, in this sanctuary and in our homes, take the bread and cup of salvation. Amen

### **Words of Institution\***

Rev. Collins

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

### **Closing Hymn\***

"Amazing Grace"

piano by Jody Mullis

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

**Benediction\***

Rev. Collins

Oh, brothers and sisters, let us as God’s family go into the world with confidence and hope. God’s presence is with us in all that we do. Let us be the family of faith to share God’s comfort and hope. AMEN.

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



Thank you to the Pastoral Search Committee for their hard work and dedication. J.C. Leasure (Chairperson), Becca Caldwell, Jackie Nelson, Diane Palfreyman, Rolinda Sprowls and Mike Sweeney

**Do you have a prayer request or need help?** Please feel free to contact Pastor Darwin (412-337-4293) or 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 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  
Deborah Patterson

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  
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**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