

# Manor Minutes

Volume 12 Issue 29

July 23, 2021



“In the Garden” Sermon Series discussion – July 28, 1-2pm via Zoom

“Safe Conduct” orientation – August 1 following Worship

Stewardship/Finance Ministry – August 10, 6pm via Zoom

Elders – August 11, 6pm Shepherds Room

Wild Things Game – August 13, 7pm

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

**Zoom Worship** will continue to be live at 10:15 am each Sunday.

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45am using the meeting ID and password.

Meeting ID: 932 4557 4206 Password: 026316

Fellowship with other "Zoomers" from 9:45 – 10:15am.

Text your prayer concerns to be shared during worship to Rev. Chris at (412) 956-6590.

## Church Picnic

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

## REMINDER

The orientation to “**Safe Conduct**” for children and parents required under Fairhill Manor’s Safe Conduct Policy will be held following worship this Sunday, July 25. Reservations were needed to provide accurate count for lunch.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Candy Wasalasky [mcdonaldcandy@comcast.net](mailto:mcdonaldcandy@comcast.net) (724) 554-5421

Jerry Puskarich [jerrypuskarich@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrypuskarich@yahoo.com) (724) 503-5658

Thank you for responding to this important matter.

The Trustees would like to thank **Kevin Puskarich** for all of the work he has done trimming the bushes and hedges around the church. Your work is much appreciated!



## ABC123... It's time to make School Kits!

Join your Outreach Ministry in making School Kits which will be donated to children in need through Church World Service. Our goal this year is to make **123** School Kits.

More information is on the last page of the Manor Minutes and also the bulletin board in the Narthex!



## Fairhill Manor Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)*

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

July 25, 2021

### **Prelude**

Audra Allen, organist

### **Welcome**

Pastor Gena

### **Call to Worship**

Von Lacock

Why have you come to this place? We are tired in body and spirit.

Why have you come today? We have come to follow Jesus.

Come and eat your fill. But there are only five barley loaves and two fish.

There is plenty for all. Jesus gathers the fragments of our lives, that nothing may be lost.

Come! Let us worship.

### **Opening Hymn**

*“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”*

Audra Allen, organist

All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing out your faith with cheerful voice;  
delight in God whose praise you tell,  
whose presence calls you to rejoice.

Know that there is one God, indeed,  
who fashions us without our aid,  
who claims us, gives us all we need,  
whose tender care will never fade.

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

Pastor Gena

Loving God, we long to be in the garden with you again. Oh, to walk with you in the coolness of the morning when the dew is still wet on the grass and the flowers begin to turn to the light of your sun, when the air is fresh and life is full of promise. Oh, to walk with you in the quietness of evenings as light bends, painting the sky with glorious variety and brilliance, when walking and talking comes easily as we look back over our days with your loving gaze.

Oh, to start afresh when we are near you, walking with you, content in your presence, having everything we need. Give us eyes to see glimpses of your garden, of your presence in our lives today. Times when goodness flourishes, when we care for each other as you care for us, when we walk side by side, giving each other our full attention. Thank you for these moments of grace. Help us to savor them.

Forgive us when we spend more time making excuses and giving longer explanations for our own behavior than we spend in trying to understand and in lifting others up. Forgive us for fighting about the small things when your children are crying for food, for clean water, for meaningful work and for the right to be honored as your wondrous creations.

Thank you for the opportunity to start again, to head in a new direction. Just as the sun rises on a new day, your mercy and grace is always new, waiting for us every morning, in each moment. And just as the sun sinks below the horizon, taking with it the cares of the day, so you offer to take our mistakes and our self-centered ways and leave us in peace, knowing that you are more loving than we can even imagine.

God of Creation, God of Wonder, we thank you for the wonders all around us. For grains of sand and stars in the sky, for the smell of rain falling on dry ground, for the wonder of our breath and the beating of our hearts, for the shifting of the seasons and the sound of laughter. We thank you, God, for one another – for the joys and struggles of relationships that nurture us and help us to grow. May we not forget the simple joys of being together, of seeing one another’s faces, of spending time in each other’s company.

Even as we give you thanks, we lift up the concerns that burden us this day. We ask your peace and blessing on all those we have named in this place today and all those whose names and circumstances remain in the safe sanctuary of your Spirit’s care.

We pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit and for all who provide care for the needs of others. We pray for those who are lonely and those who are despairing...for those who struggle with addiction...for those who feel trapped in situations of abuse...for those making difficult decisions in life...

God, we pray for your church and its mission in the world. Bless all of your children, Parent God, and pour your Spirit upon us, bringing healing, comfort and strength wherever it is needed. All this we ask in the name of the One who calls us forward in faith, Jesus our Lord, who teaches 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.*

**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**

**Genesis 2:4-15**

Kathy Moninger-Ford

**Special Music**

“Beach Spring,” trombone solo

Jim Cope

**Children’s Message**

Cara Hritz

Good morning!

Have you ever helped make new recipe for dinner? What did you make? Do you remember what some of the ingredients were? Well, I was thinking about making something new. I brought this recipe card so you could help me figure out what to do. If I wanted to make a person, what do you think I would need? When do you think we should add the dirt? Oh, we shouldn't add dirt to make a person? Well, in our scripture today, we find out that God is so powerful He can make a person from dirt. When God made Adam he took dirt and breathed into it to give it life. Now we can't make a person from dirt, if fact, none of us can come up with a recipe for a person at all. Only God can do that. But, God has so much power that He can create amazing things from nothing at all. Let's pray and thank God for using His power to make things that we need.

**Second Scripture Reading**

**Matthew 15:1-13**

Rev. Stillwell

**Sermon**

**“Weeds are Us”**

Rev. Stillwell

As we have been spending the last month looking at the many things we can learn about God while we work in our garden, today we go back to the second creation account found in the book of Genesis where God placed human beings into a garden paradise, and yet God gave them a job to do. After the creation of

the garden Genesis reads, “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it.”

I always thought it fascinating that this paradise that existed still needed to be maintained. It still needed to be kept. In effect it needed to be gardened so that gardening, itself, could be said is actually the world’s oldest profession.

But if humans were put into the garden to till it and keep it, what does that mean? Conservationists struggle with this question all the time. Should we preserve nature exactly as it is? That seems simple enough, but then how do we do that and still accommodate human beings? After all, we need to eat and work, and we need cities and airports and hospitals and roads, amusement parks and such. When animals live in nature, they live in it. Forests and deer go hand in hand or branch in hoof as the case may be, but when human beings establish their dwellings, we usually knock the forests down to make room for our houses.

So if humans are to till the garden, can we still have cities, technology, and anything that Adam and Eve didn’t have in the first garden? Moreover, we have to consider the question that, since human beings are a part of nature isn’t it the case therefore that all we do is a part of nature’s processes? I had a friend who didn’t get too concerned about protecting endangered species. After all, he concluded, species compete against one another all the time and sometimes one species wins out against the other. That’s just natural selection he concluded.

Let’s just say that my friend did not consider himself a conservationist, but supposing you are, how do you best go about conserving the nature we have? Suppose you want to preserve a forest. Is it enough to simply leave it alone and make sure no development takes place in its borders and no pollution harms it? Our national parks were created for just such a purpose; to preserve this portion of God’s creation so that future generations might enjoy them, and for a while that meant simply leaving them alone and letting nature take its course. But what if nature brings along a forest fire, and all of the dead trees have not been removed and the park burns and burns? Because of this our national forests service often organizes controlled burns in order to prevent larger forest fires from happening in the future.

Given this it is right for us to ask ourselves, how much of nature should we garden and tend? How much should we till and keep? How much should we leave alone?

How we answer this question depends on how we answer a few other questions. One is, do you see nature as something to conquer or something to be a part of? Another is, are we trying to keep nature exactly as it is or was, or are we simply trying to make sure that it can be enjoyed by future generations? A final and most important question is what is a weed?

The reason this last question is so important is because few if any of us will ever be charged with making natural resource policy decisions for state or national parks, but we all must decide what to do with the weeds we find in our own gardens that we till and keep.

There are two basic definitions of a weed. The first is that a weed is a plant that is in the wrong place. In this definition we only call something a weed if it grows where we do not want it. Therefore, there really is no such thing as a weed in and of itself. It is a human construction and no less august a conservationist than Ralph Waldo Emerson championed this idea by saying that “a weed is simply a plant whose virtues we haven’t discovered yet.” I think there is something to be said for this idea, but, then again, if tomato plants started growing in my front lawn or in the cracks of my pavement, I would still want to remove them.

I think it is true that sometimes one person's weed is another person's flower, but I do think that there are plants for which the only word is weed. In fact, Emerson's student and friend, Henry David Thoreau, refused to make such distinctions among plants but said, "as soon as I determined to make the earth say beans instead of grass' he found that he had made enemies in nature. These enemies took the form of worms, woodchucks, and weeds, against which he waged constant battle. Every day he waged war 'not with cranes, "he said but, "with weeds, those Trojans who had sun and rain and dew on their side. Daily the beans saw me come to their rescue armed with a hoe, and thin the ranks of their enemies, filling up trenches with the weedy dead."

And so this leads us to the second definition of a weed, which is a specific type of plant that competes for resources with another. In this belief we weed not to make things look better, but to save the plants we want to grow, and isn't that the way of life? The apostle Paul asks God, "why do I do the things I do? For I do not do the things I want to do and the things I hate I do." I look at my garden and ask why do I grow the things I grow. For the things I want to grow I do not and the things I hate I grow.

When you try to figure out how you would define a weed let me offer this suggestion. Weeds are human beings. Weeds are us. That may sound alarming and pessimistic but consider; what are human beings? Are we better than animals because we can think and we were created in the image of God, and it is we who were chosen to keep and till the earth, and because we have free will or are we worse than animals because we alone pollute and damage the earth? Mother Nature will be just fine without us, but it might be destroyed by us.

This to me is evidence of the dual aspect of human nature. On the one hand, there is much good in us and we are thinking spirits making us closer to God than any other animal. God did not send Jesus to save the dolphins and the dogs, but human beings. On the other hand, God did not need to, because only human beings sin. Human beings are a mix of good and bad, of divine and sinful nature. In effect, we are weeds. Consider the two definitions I have just proposed. On the one hand we are creatures living in the wrong place. Throughout the history of the church we have used this metaphor to describe people who were made by God and whose origin and destination is a paradise, but whose current location is a fallen and imperfect world. At our best we are pilgrims, wayfaring strangers, and we have a mansion on the hill, prepared for us by Christ. We all are walking down God's highway, and one day we will land on the celestial shore. We are in the world, but not of the world and that is why often times are experience in this world is uncomfortable.

On the other hand, while we do live in this world we compete for resources against nature and ourselves. If left to our own devices human beings would deplete the world of water, food, and other natural resources quickly. In the past we have polluted great rivers and lakes, destroyed entire forests, and wiped out countless species, and, it turns out, we fill the world with weeds.

This last fact I learned from a great book by the author Michael Pollan entitled "Second Nature" in which he discovered that in trying to define weeds for himself, he noticed that many of the plants we call weeds all grow in the same places such as, roadsides, open fields, waste places, sidewalks, railways, cultivated ground, lawns and gardens.

He writes, 'what this suggests is that weeds are not super plants, they don't grow everywhere which explains why they haven't covered the globe entirely. Weeds are particularly adept to man-made places. They don't grow in the wild. They grow where we live and hardly anywhere else.'

Think of that the next time you go to weed in your garden. Curse the weeds that threaten to choke your tomatoes, but know that you have no one but yourself to blame, for the weeds wouldn't be there if the land hadn't been disturbed by humans.

In fact, so many of our native plants, plants that we would never call weeds, were actually weeds brought here from Europe and other places that did not flourish until settlers cleared the forests causing Pollan to conclude, “weeds are not the other. Weeds are us.”

Now weeds are not all that we are. We are also creatures capable of bearing wonderful fruit and that will be the focus of next week’s sermons, but for now I want to leave you with this simple truth and that is “we are at once the problem and the only possible solution.”

Human beings have so completely immersed themselves in this world that we have no choice but to garden it, to tend it, to till it, if we want to keep it. Our fate and the garden’s fate are bound up together, and I believe that is how God wants it. We can neither ignore the cries of nature any more than the cries of our own children, nor can we ignore our own responsibility to the garden we created or the garden created by God.

When we pull the weeds from our gardens we do so in order that our garden can bear much fruit, and I hope that in doing so we will learn the lesson of needing to weed our heart, for the dividing line between good and evil lies in every human heart and if we don’t continuously, daily, remove the weeds of sin we will be consumed until like a weed we will exist merely to consume resources and choke the life out of others who are trying to bear fruit.

Let us therefore, acknowledge our sinfulness, our fallen nature, but know that this is not all we are, and with the help of Jesus Christ, we can remove the weeds from our gardens so that we can be part of the solution not the problem, part of the garden not the weeds.

### **Call to Offering**

Von Lacock

Christ left us an example, first by feeding the hungry and then by ordering that all the leftovers be gathered up so nothing would be wasted. Let us follow Christ’s example by feeding the hungry of the world and by conserving the resources of our planet. As we give, let us remember that we are investing in the lives of our neighbors, our children, and brothers and sisters around the world

### **Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below! Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### **Dedication of Offering Prayer**

Rev. Stillwell

As Jesus gathered the outcasts to your heavenly banquet, gather our fellowship into your host of saints. Bless the gifts we have gathered in your name, that nothing may be lost, and that everything may be gained. Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Rev. Stillwell

I am obsessed with pulling weeds out of the bricks in our walkway. I will have them mostly under control and then I will relax for few days, and they will spring up again. I even have my kids joining in. Many is the time that Jessi will be in a hurry to get somewhere, but she has to stop and wait for Charlotte to pull a weed out from between the bricks.

Weeds are persistent and hard to remove, and if we are not wary they come right back, and that is why they are such a perfect metaphor for sin. For all that we are weeds grow in our heart and we must be meticulous about removing them or, before we know it, they will choke the joy out of our life.

Jesus told his disciples, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted," and here he was referring to the Pharisees who choked the joy out of the religious life of ancient Israel. As we work to free our gardens from weeds we want to free our world from them as well, and here the best way is to make sure that we are not one, our self. We want to make sure that we are not filling the world with hate or envy, strife, or jealousy, but filling it with love, mercy, grace.

We can only do this if we weed the garden of our heart and we can only do that with the help of Christ. Let us share in this meal this morning and ask Christ's help in making us flowers rather than weeds.

### Communion Hymn

*"The Voice of Jesus Calls His People"*

Audra Allen, organist

The voice of Jesus calls his people, "Come to my table and be fed!" For those who come to him believing, he is the Wine, he is the Bread. All who are lost, or bear great burdens, all who need comfort or release, come where the presence of Christ Jesus will nourish us with rest and peace.	Children and elders, men and women, whatever color, race or tongue, in Jesus find themselves united, in him a home where they belong. We hear your loving voice, O Jesus, we long, we hunger to be fed; in joy we gather at the table where you are Wine, and you are Bread.
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### Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Diane Palfreyman

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, your Son, O Living God. And we want him to be both our Lord and Savior. And so, we draw near to this table this morning to break this bread and drink this cup in remembrance of him and his sacrificial death.

As we take, bless, break and eat this bread and drink from this cup may our participation be a proclamation of what we truly believe. For by sharing this bread and drinking from this cup we are proclaiming Christ's death until he comes again in glory.

### Words of Institution

Rev. Stillwell

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

### Sharing in Communion

### Closing Hymn

*"My Hope is Built"*

Audra Allen, organist

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.	When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]
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[Refrain:] On Christ the solid Rock I stand,  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

## Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

May the joy of the Lord warm your hearts, may the peace of the Lord calm your spirits, and may the word of the Lord direct your ways.

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Worship services can also be found on the Church website or on YouTube,  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih\\_fzHCC2X0Jhc\\_sfniJ7C1O3X](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih_fzHCC2X0Jhc_sfniJ7C1O3X)

## PRAYER REQUEST

**Do you have a prayer request or need help?** Please feel free to contact Rev. Chris (412-956-6590) and Pastor Gena (724) 263-0033 directly and confidentially. Or scroll down on the opening page of our website ([www.fairhillmanorchurch.org](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org)) to "Requests for Prayer or Help." There you can send an email which will go directly to Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

### Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center

Bill Behrens Rm 437  
835 S Main Street  
Washington PA 15301

### Homebound Members:

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

Alice Cokeley  
149 Meadows View Rd  
Washington PA 15301

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

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

Betty Jo Riggle  
Jim and Barb Roupe  
John Shadeck  
Theresa Shape  
Hannah Simpson  
Doug and Tracy Smith  
Cathy Stewart  
John Stewart  
Beth Teagarden  
Nadine Teagarden  
Gary Weaver  
Nikki Wells  
Tom Williams  
Chuck & Mary Wiseman  
Sarah Wittenberg  
Marcie Yocum  
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash

### 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



# ABC123... It's time to make School Kits!

Join your Outreach Ministry in making School Kits which will be donated to children in need through Church World Service. Our goal this year is to make **123** School Kits.

How you can help:

1. Purchase one or more items for the School Kits that we will assemble together. Choose one or more sticky notes in the Narthex. Sign your name and phone number next to the number(s) of your sticky note(s) on the record sheet. Purchase the items and return them to the boxes in the Narthex by **Sunday, August 8**.
2. Contribute money to purchase items for the School Kits or to help ship the School Kits. Give on Givelify or put money (marked "CWS Kits") in the Offering Plate.
3. Make one or more complete School Kits. Find full instructions at <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/school-kits/> or in the Narthex.
4. Help assemble our 123+ School Kits on **Sunday, August 15** right after worship.

## Here's what you'll need

- One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only)
- Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter / 12" ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener removed from the package
- One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (please remove pencils from the package)
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- One 12"x14" to 14"x17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with handles (solid color or kid-friendly fabric, no logos, reusable shopping bags or backpacks)

Optional: Loose school kit items may be placed in a large Ziploc type bag to keep them together. Remove the air, seal the bag and place inside of the cotton/canvas bag.

**Value: \$15.00 Processing fee: \$2.00 per kit**

**Watch for more about making Church World Service Hygiene Kits in September!**

### Church Office hours:

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

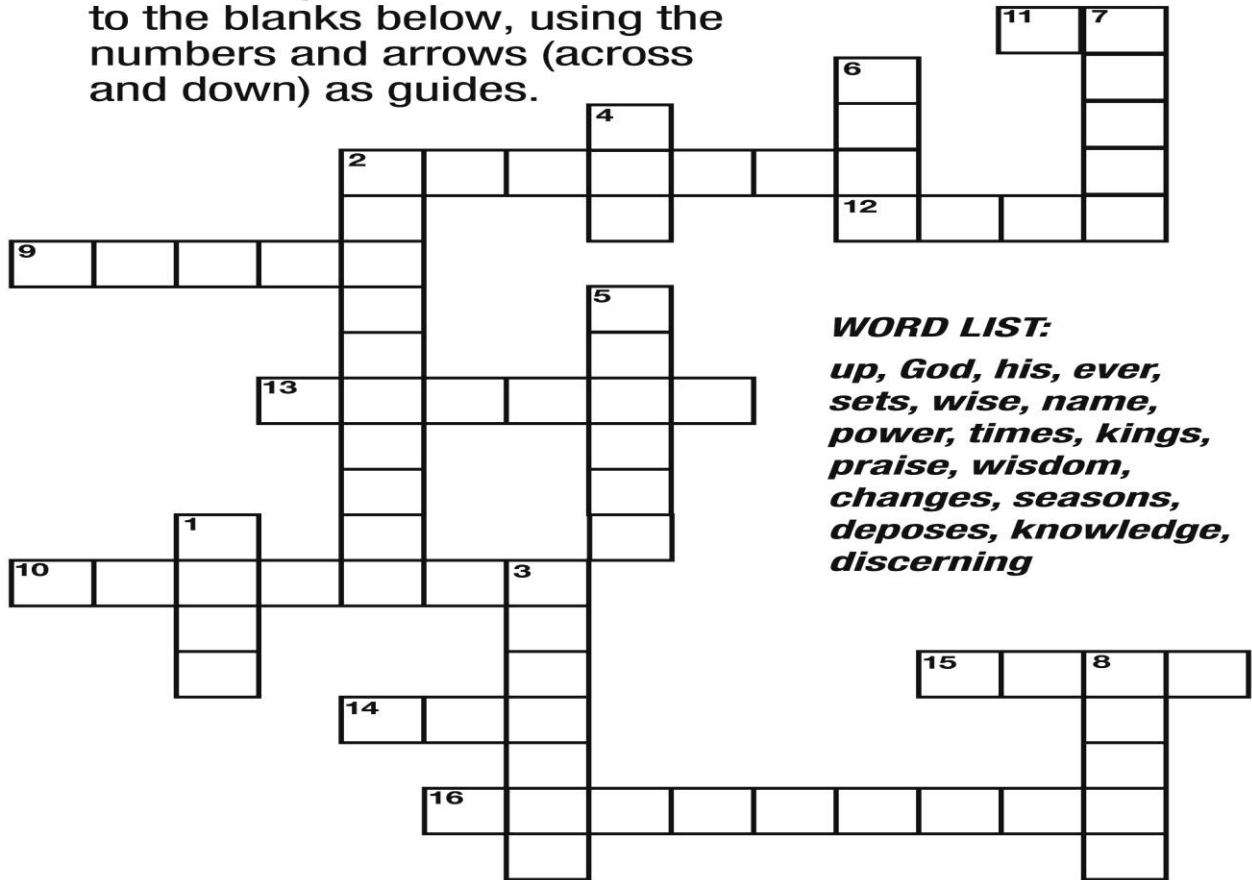
Pastor Gena is off on Friday. Pastor Gena is working from home and comes in to the church as needed. Feel free to text, call, email or set up a time to meet with Pastor Gena.

Rev. Chris is off on Friday.

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

# Puzzle!

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



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

“ \_\_\_\_\_<sup>13→</sup> be to the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1↓</sup> of \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4↓</sup> for \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12→</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12→</sup> ;  
 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5↓</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7↓</sup> are \_\_\_\_\_<sup>14→</sup> . He \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10→</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8↓</sup>  
 and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3↓</sup> ; he \_\_\_\_\_<sup>15→</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11→</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9→</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2→</sup>  
 them. He gives \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5↓</sup> to the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6↓</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>16→</sup> to  
 the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2↓</sup> .” DANIEL 2:20-21

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