

Manor Minutes
Volume 13 Issue 33
July 29, 2022



Book Club – August 1, 7pm via Zoom
Chapter 3 of "Seven Women: And the Secret of Their Greatness" by Eric Metaxas, published by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Personnel Committee – August 3, 4pm Library

Movie on the Lawn – August 3, 9pm (approximate)

Pastor Gena will be on vacation August 5 – August 12

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

Save These Dates:

- August 21 – Children Worship & Wonder begins again
- September 11 –
Sunday School begins again 9am
Church Picnic **1:03pm** at Washington Park
- December 10 & 11 – Drive-Thru Nativity

**FMCC Night at Washington
Wild Things**

Friday, Sept 2, 7pm

Fireworks Night

**Please turn in cash or
check (payable to
FMCC) to the office
by July 31.**



TESTING 1...2....3....

We would like to begin having outdoor movie nights. But first, we need to test the projector, lighting, seating.... and so many other moving parts.

Our test run movie night will be Wednesday, August 3, weather permitting. Bring a blanket or chair and.....

Movie will start around 9ish or when it is dark enough to see the movie on the screen.



School is just around the corner (I know the kids don't want to hear this but it's that time again). FMCC will be collecting school supplies to make **CWS school kits** soon. If you are out and about and see school supplies on sale, pick some up. More information to follow soon.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Rita Puskarich, Bread
Kevin Puskarich, Cup
July 31, 2022 - 10:15am

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Barbara Bailey

Leader: We gather to hear what the Holy One will speak.

People: God will speak peace to the faithful, those who turn to love in their hearts.

Leader: Surely wholeness is at hand for those who stand in awe.

People: Show us your steadfast love, Holy One, and grant us your wholeness and peace.

Opening Hymn

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Audra Allen, organist

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou has bought us, thine we are;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Gena and Isaac Mayen

The Lord is my Shepherd... O God, thank you for being our Shepherd, the One who leads our lives. Stand on the hillsides where we can see you clearly; don’t let us miss you. We want to look to you, listen for your voice, and following your leading.

I shall not want... Thank you, Lord, that we have everything that we need right now. We are so grateful for your goodness, your love, and your mercy. When we are tempted to look for more, long for more, strive for more, remind us that you have given us all that we need for today.

He makes me lie down in green pastures... Thank you, Shepherd God, for only choosing the best pastures for us, the best spots for fresh and tender nourishment. When you lead us to come away and rest, enable us to sink beneath the noise of the world into your calm, still presence.

He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul... Thank you, Lord, for nourishing us with fresh, quiet waters. In you we are refreshed, renewed, and restored. Give us peace to stay beside these still waters until you lead us on again.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake... Lord, like a shepherd, lead us. Show us the way to go. We want to go in the ways that honor you most. As we make choices in our lives, would you let us hear your voice clearly, guiding us? Speak in ways we won’t be able to miss.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... Good Shepherd, there are many storms, difficulties and crazy things going on around us. Even as we are walking right now, would you be near us?

I will fear no evil... Sometimes we go into panic mode, O God, as the news and events around us seem so consuming and overwhelming. Free us from all fear of evil. Ensure us that your love is stronger than anything we face.

For you are with me... Lord, you never leave or forsake us. We praise you that there is no place we can go where we will not be in your presence. Thank you for being with us by night and by day.

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me... Come and fend off any dangers that don't need to reach us, we pray. Hem us in behind and before, for we long to feel safe and to rest peacefully in your care.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Thank you, Shepherd God, for preparing us a meal, right here in the middle of our crazy world. As we spend time here with you, would you bring healing and peace to all of our relationships? Would you bless our enemies and those who have hurt us? Please deeply meet the needs of their hearts and heal their broken places. We surrender all to you.

You anoint my head with oil. Thank you for pouring the fresh oil of hope over our heads at just the right times. Thank you for knowing just when we need a good word, a kind gesture, a phone call, or other encouragement in our lives. Come and anoint those who need your care and your hope today: all of those in need of rest and healing, those who are mourning, those who are lost in anger and pain, those who are lonely. Anoint these and all who we name now to you with your love...

My cup runs over... You fill us up, O God, until our cups run over. As your love overflows in us, may your goodness spill over to others. Use our lives to encourage, inspire and uplift others.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life... Shepherd God, we praise you for your goodness and mercy that chase after us all the days of our lives. Where would we be without your love, forgiveness and grace? We are blessed by your relentless love for us!

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever... Thank you for welcoming us home to you, O Lord, right now and in the life to come. Like a child in a loving home, may we settle into the warmth and predictability of your presence, that we may live out of the center of who you are creating us to be.

We pray this in the name of our Good Shepherd, Jesus the Christ, who is teaching us to pray together this way...

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.

The Pastoral Prayer was adapted from <https://melanieredd.com/turning-psalm-23-into-a-personal-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

Psalm 23

Gene Sheller

Special Music

Audra Allen

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

I have a very nice collection of stuffed toys. They come in all shapes and sizes. Animals are my favorites. Today I brought some of them to show to you. (Rev. Chris shows the children the stuffed toys)

Oh, my! I seem to have lost one of my stuffed toys. I know I had it when I got here this morning. Would you help me look for it? (Rev. Chris leads the children in a search for the lost toy. When it is found, continue the lesson.) Thank you so much for helping me find the lost toy. Even though I have a very large collection, every one of them is very important to me and I would be very upset if one of them was lost.

That reminds me of a lesson that Jesus taught to a group of religious leaders one day. The religious leaders were very upset that Jesus was often seen associating with sinners. He was even sometimes seen eating with them. The religious leaders didn't like that at all and were very critical of Jesus. Jesus told them a story to help them to understand.

"Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and you lost one of them," Jesus said. "Wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine who were safe, and go and search for the lost sheep? And when you found the lost sheep, wouldn't you joyfully put it on your shoulders and carry it back home? Wouldn't you be so happy that you would tell all of your friends about finding the lost sheep?" I imagine that all of the religious leaders had to agree that they would do just as Jesus had suggested. Then Jesus said to them, "In the same way, there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

The Bible teaches us that we are like sheep and sometimes stray away from God. That makes God very sad, but God never gives up on us. He keeps searching for us and calling to us. He wants to draw us back into his arms. He even sent Jesus, his Son, to save those who are lost. That is why he is sometimes called the Good Shepherd.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 15:4-7

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Everybody is Somebody”

Rev. Stillwell

Jesus Christ has been referred to as many things. Lord, Savior, and Messiah, are his highest titles. He also has been called familiar things like friend and teacher. Sometimes he calls himself things like in the gospel of John where he refers to himself as the true branch, the way, and the light of the world. Another term he used to describe himself was the good shepherd. That also was from a passage in John's gospel, but he gives us a parable in the gospel of Luke that illustrates the point.

This is a lasting image even if shepherding isn't so common anymore and few of us can relate to a shepherd's duties. Here he is a shepherd who is not satisfied with protecting and keeping 99% of his sheep, but searches to find the lost and when he does, rejoices along with his neighbors. This is more than most shepherds would do. They would likely search for the lost sheep, but there would be little rejoicing and no party when it was found.

When I worked on a dairy farm I had to round up the cows to bring them into the barn to be milked and often a cow came up missing. It should be noted that in the image of Jesus as the good shepherd we think of him as kindly, leading and guiding his sheep with the crook of his staff and the gentle sound of his voice. I wasn't like that. I would run behind the cows to speed them up, slap them on the back and yell if they were going too slow. I would mutter under my breath or sometimes over my breath if they went the wrong way, and I would throw a few rocks at the ones who had gone down over the hill. If I had to go out looking for a lost cow, I would be in a foul mood when I returned and all I could think of was how behind schedule I was. You can be sure that, although this is one of the most well-known passages in the Bible, I rarely thought of it in those days.

This parable is not only a well-known passage but it also evokes another well-known biblical passage. It refers to the image that the prophet Ezekiel uses in which God speaks of shepherding the people back to Israel after the exile. After eight decades exiled from the land that God had promised them, Ezekiel

announces that God will shepherd them back home like a shepherd guiding his sheep back to their home pasture.

Here God is literally guiding the people from place to place, but Jesus takes that passage with which he knows his audience will be quite familiar and invokes the image of the shepherd again, only this time he is not talking about being physically lost. Now he is speaking to them individually. Whereas Ezekiel spoke to the concerns of a nation which was physically lost, Jesus is now speaking to Israelites living in Israel five hundred years after the exile and the time of Ezekiel and yet he has been claiming that they are still lost.

So he tells them a story about going after the lost. This time there is only one lost sheep, but that doesn't mean that Jesus is here to find only one person. Rather it makes the story more personable inviting his listeners, each one, to place themselves in the wool of that lost and lonely sheep.

For some of us this is a very easy thing to do since we relate to this story very personally. Some of us have known the feeling of amazing grace because we who were once lost now have been found. We once strayed from the oath that God has laid out for us, and we can remember a clear moment when the shepherd found us and guided us back.

Many people who have been through this are proud to tell their story but sometimes doesn't it seem like people revel in their past sinfulness as a sign of their redemption? Once I was at a conference where people told their faith stories, and it seemed like one person after the other was trying to outdo the last speaker when it came to describing how sinful they had been. Each one mentioned a litany of sins that described how amazing it was that they had repented, but it almost had the effect that it made me think that I hadn't sinned enough. It is important to remember that in this story it doesn't matter if the sheep was a little lost or very lost, what matters is that the shepherd searched and he searched until the sheep was found.

You see the parable of the Lost Sheep is less about that sheep, and more about the Shepherd. If a cow was missing I would search until I got tired, then I'd call the farmer and let him deal with it. After all, it was his cow. If you get the feeling that I didn't love the cows, you're right. I liked them well enough, but they could be stubborn and frustrating, and I took care of them because it was my job. Now my boss cared about them more, but that was because he had more of a vested interest in them. He didn't even love them like he loved his pets, and he certainly didn't love them like he loved his children, but the Shepherd does, and his search will not end, until, the sheep is found.

Some of us know what it is like to be lost and so we identify with this parable. There are sins we have committed that we feel keep us from God's favor, or maybe we have simply lived a life outside of his grace. Others may have kept close to the Shepherd for a while but have since wandered away and feel spiritually lost. Anyone who fits these descriptions may easily identify with this parable, but we should all identify with this parable.

It is easy for those of us who have been raised in the church all our life to identify with the 99 sheep to count ourselves among the found, but always, each of us are like the one sheep in that none of us can get through the gatefold without the help of the Shepherd.

If a cow was missing I wouldn't leave the others until they were safely penned up in the barn. Otherwise I would look for one and come back to find three or four more gone.

Jesus doesn't tell us that if the other sheep were tied up in the wilderness, but they were safe because they would wait for the shepherd. In effect they represent those who are no in need of repentance and, therefore, not lost. If any of us have no need of repentance than we can count ourselves among the 99, but

if any of us believe that we have no need of repentance then we should repent of our pride and self-righteousness.

We are all lost. Some more than others, but we must not hear this parable as a story for other, more sinful people. It is a parable for everybody. Perhaps you've heard that old song "You're nobody 'til Somebody Loves You." Christianity believes that this is literally true, but this poses a problem. For if all of us remain nobodies 'til somebody loves us, how then can there ever be a somebody in the first place?

Christianity proclaims the real good news of how a real Someone from the outside has broken into this vicious circle of nobodies, has loved all these nobodies, and hence has created some real somebodies. Peter said it best in his first letter when he said, "Once we were no people now we are God's people." But we only remain somebodies so long as we are in relation with Jesus the Christ, Jesus the Shepherd, Jesus the Somebody.

The renowned philosopher Soren Kierkegard was certainly thought to be a Somebody in his time and yet he knew the truth saying:

I have only one word to say, but if the power given to me to say that one single word, that single phrase in such a fashion that it would remain fixed and unforgettable - my choice is made. I know what I would say: Our Lord Jesus Christ was nothing, oh, remember this, Christendom.

Jesus Christ became nothing as far as the world was concerned; a child in a manger, a shepherd, a leader of a ragtag group of trouble makers, a criminal, and a number of other names that we think of as nothing in this world, so that we can be somebody. Let us remember that as well.

If you are lost because of sin, if you have wandered because of grief, if you do not know where to go because of anger, remember that Jesus became a nobody and died in order to find you, and that makes you more than just another sheep in the fold. It makes you a child of God and that is truly somebody.

Call to Offering

Barbara Bailey

Paul tells us to "be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58) Therefore, we give in confidence, believing your promise that whatever we do for you is never in vain.

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

Generous Giver, having received so much from you, we offer our tithes and offerings into your hands, that they may bring hope and gladness to a hurting world.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

If you are planning on going on a trip or maybe camping somewhere this summer, you know that the hardest part of any trip can be the packing that takes place beforehand. It is hard to decide what to take and what you will need and what you cannot leave behind. I once took a flight home for Christmas and was threatened with a fifty dollar fine by the airline because, between my clothes and personal items, my books and CDs, and the Christmas presents I was bringing, I had too much to fit on the plane. It took some creative stuffing to get through.

It can be so hard to decide what to take and what to leave behind, what is important and what is unnecessary. We all like to be prepared for whatever our journey brings us, but then we find ourselves dragging bags and luggage around so much that we are hindered. The same thing happens in life, for as we go along our journey we carry so much baggage with us. There is the worry about where we will go next, the fear that we will get left behind, the apprehension that it will end sooner than we expect. Add to that the regret we often feel over a wrong turn somewhere, or the grudge that we bear for someone who got in our way, and life changes from a journey to a struggle as we carry our baggage from place to place.

Fortunately, Jesus Christ says to us, “Come to me you who are weary and I shall bring you rest.” He invites us to lift our burdens off of our shoulders and let him carry them awhile, but we must be the ones to relinquish them. Sometimes you think that you have given something over to him only to realize that you still carry it around with you. Take this time as you meet him at the table to lift your baggage to Christ, but you must decide what it is you are ready to give up. It may be harder than deciding which shirts or which pair of shoes to take, but I promise you will never find yourself wishing that you had brought any of that old baggage with you.

Communion Hymn

“My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”

Audra Allen, organist

My Shepherd, you supply my need; most holy is your name;
in pastures fresh you make me feed, beside the living stream.
You bring my wand’ring spirit back, when I forsake your ways;
you lead me, for your mercy’s sake, in paths of truth and grace.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Rita Puskarich

Holy God,

In the stillness of our hearts fill us with your Holy Spirit. The Lord is here. Let us be conscious of His presence and listen to His voice. Quiet our minds of all else. Let us think of Jesus. We gratefully take the bread and the cup of His life for us, as we imagine His outstretched arms welcoming us to Him. 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

Rev. Stillwell

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.

Closing Hymn

"Blessed Assurance"

Audra Allen, organist

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Forgiven, loved, and filled with the Holy Spirit, let us go in peace to love and serve the world. Amen.

Recorded worship services can be found on the Church website or on YouTube,
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmIH3qzih_fzHCC2X0Jhc_sfniJ7C1O3X

Zoom Worship will continue to be live at 10:15am each Sunday
"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45am using the following 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 (412) 956-6590.



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

Chuck and Mary Wiseman
880 S Main St, Apt 214
Washington PA 15301

Bernard and Jane Teagarden
441 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317

Ed Alexy
Avery Allen
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Jim Banish
Mabel Brooks
Carol Brown
Sandra Carman
Clayton Chalfant
Denise Charles
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Benjamin Dube
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Jett Fuller
Lois Gayman
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg
Nancy Gregg

Kyle Hallam
Aryn Hess
Dallas Jacobovitz
Kenger Family
Bob Lanning
Libby LeDuff
John Lewis
Rick Lewis
Lee & Betsy Martin
Dave McConnell
Ruth Mikuta
Paul Myers
Joe Neckerman
Homer Nixon
Michaela Nixon
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
PA Lions Beacon Camp for
the blind
Deborah Patterson
Bo & Patty Pryor
Kathie Putorti
Cathy Rentgen
Kayda Richards
Betty Jo Riggle

Dave Ross
Jim Roupe
John Shadeck
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Cathy Stewart
John Stewart
Bernard and Jane Teagarden
Beth Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Sarah Wittenberg

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	Morgan Sweeney

*With
Sympathy*

Fairhill Manor extends its sympathy to the family of Samuel Sorice who passed away on July 21. He was the nephew of Doris Sorice. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Fairhill Manor extends its sympathy to the family of Nadine Teagarden who passed away on Sunday, July 24. Please keep Beth Teagarden, Reita Melvin and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Our sympathy is also extended to Reita Melvin on the passing of her father-in-law on Sunday, July 24.

David Gayman, Linda Reese's brother-in-law, passed away on Sunday, July 24. Our sympathy is extended to Linda and to the Gayman family.

Puzzle!

Look up each verse in an NIV Bible and find a word that fits in that row. Then write the word from the bold vertical column in the blank below to complete Proverbs 24:3-4.

1 Corinthians 8:1		N						
Philippians 1:9							H	
2 Peter 1:5								S
			A					2 Timothy 3:7
Matthew 24:32						S		
John 7:15					R			
							I	Isaiah 33:6
2 Peter 3:18							E	
		W						Proverbs 24:5

By wisdom a house is built, and ...
 through _____ its rooms are filled with
 rare and beautiful treasures.

PROVERBS 24:3-4, NIV

Answer: know, insight, goodness, always, lesson, learning, foundation, grace, power, knowledge



Jerry was checking the sound quality during worship service last Sunday. The new video and audio equipment has been installed. Now for the fun part, learning the system. While the sound booth and zoom recorders are learning all of the ins and outs of the new system, please be patient. Also let someone know if there are issues with the sound or audio.

Thank you to everyone who is working on the new video/audio equipment. Your time and talent is appreciated.