

Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 32

July 31, 2020

Those with last names beginning with G-L 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



August 9: Last names beginning with A-F and S-Z
August 16: Last names beginning with G-L and M-R
August 23: Last names beginning with A-F and G-L
August 30: Last names beginning with M-R and S-Z

FOR SALE - **PINT JARS** - **\$5.00 a dozen** (there are rings for the jars but no lids)
If interested please contact Amy Caldwell at acaldwell8898@gmail.com or
phone/text her at 724-207-3945.





Zoom Elder Meeting – Thursday, August 6, 6:30 pm

Zoom Stewardship/Finance – Tuesday, August 18, 5:30 pm

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

Opportunities to Serve.

Contact the Church Office or Pastor Gena if you are interested.

- We are looking for 2-3 people to volunteer in a rotation with Rick Couch to video the Sanctuary worship service. You will sit in a designated pew near the front of the Sanctuary, connect your own smartphone to Zoom, mount your phone to a provided tripod, and follow the action in the Sanctuary for those connecting via Zoom at home. Training provided.
- We are scheduling folks to lead worship either in person in the Sanctuary or via Zoom. Worship pieces include the Call to Worship (provided), Scripture Reading, and Call to Offering (you write - assistance is available). Would you consider leading one or more pieces of worship? Would you write a reflection about "why I give" that someone else could share as a Call to Offering? Take this opportunity to learn and grow and share!



Pastor Gena will be on vacation August 3 – 16.
Please contact Pastor Darwin or your Shepherd Elder if you have a need or prayer request.

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



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

August 2, 2020

Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

Welcome*

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship*

Donna Stenski

Come, all who are hungry and thirsty. The Lord will provide for our needs.
Come this day, to the table of the Lord. Here we will find welcome and sustenance.
Lord, we come with open hearts and spirits to receive your gracious gift of Love.

Opening Hymn*

"We Call Ourselves Disciples"

organ by Audra Allen

We call ourselves disciples, as pilgrims on the way.
We seek the truth in wisdom, and beauty in each day.
As women, men, and children, we serve, Christ's path to clear.
In joyful expectation we see God's reign draw near.

So now the vision brightens, the light of Christ burns still
in hearts of all disciples to be the church God wills.
From quiet meditation, and joyous hymns of praise,
we go to do God's mission! Christ, lead us all our days!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Pastor Gena

Nourishing God, you meet us in our greatest need, satisfying us with your presence and in the ways you provide for us. Your blessings are limitless. We praise you, God, for feeding us until we are full with baskets left over!

Thank you for looking with compassion on us, for suffering with us, for transforming our losses, for satisfying our longings. Give us the yearning to reach out to all who hunger for what only you can give.

Merciful God, you promise to hear us. So with all the truthfulness we can stand to muster, we call out to you, honestly confessing the ways we have hurt ourselves, others, and you.

Forgive us for spending our time, attention and money on things that do not satisfy.

Forgive us for claiming your good gifts as rightfully and deservedly ours, collecting and hoarding that which is free and abundant, instead of sharing and distributing.

Give us courage to see our world, our society, our neighborhoods for what they actually are – to see with new eyes the systems, the structures, the ways of life that we have assumed normal for so long.

Give us courage to walk a few steps in others' shoes, to listen a little longer than is comfortable, to speak up, speak out, and stand with those who begin life with great disadvantages.

Give us courage to be unsettled, to sit in discomfort, to look with compassion with your eyes, to suffer with our neighbors.

Thank you for the good news of your free, limitless, abundant grace. May we know it so deeply that it overflows in us to bless others.

We pray for the earth and all the creatures who look to you for their food in due season. May we do our part in restoring the balance of your creation and deepen our commitment to follow Jesus in ministries that ensure that all have what they need.

We pray for all the people of the world, for their ethnic groups, nations and leaders, that wars will cease, that disease will abate, that the hungry will be fed, and that refugees will return home in safety and peace.

We pray for all who suffer from physical pain and mental angst, for all those who wrestle with you for personal identity and spiritual peace. May we help them on their way to finding truth and peace.

We pray for those whom we have named aloud and those we hold close to our hearts. Hear our prayers, Loving God....

Now bless us, break us, and move through us to heal and feed those who hunger for you. We pray this in the name of the one who gave all to show us your love, 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*

“Come to the Water,” by John Foley
Trombone solo by Jim Cope accompanied by Audra Allen

Children’s Message*

Pastor Gena

What foods bring you comfort? Have you ever made food for someone else or shared your food? How does it feel when your parents or someone else makes food for you?

Our story today is about Jesus feeding more than 5,000 people! We heard this story told just a few weeks ago in Children Worship & Wonder. What do you remember about the story? (Jesus had just heard that his cousin, John the Baptist, had been killed by powerful people. After that, Jesus left the city to be alone, but the people followed him. Jesus had compassion for them, healing those who were sick. When evening came, the people in the crowd were hungry. The disciples told Jesus that all they had were 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread. They suggested that Jesus should send the people away to get food for themselves. But Jesus didn’t!)

In that time, Rome was the breadbasket of the world – a place that produced lots of food. But it was difficult for people who were poor to get food. Jesus was doing something different than the Roman leaders by miraculously feeding more than 5,000 people with just 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread – and having leftovers! Jesus didn’t ask the people to pay him something before he helped them and fed them.

That’s how God’s love for us is! There is so much of it – even leftovers! And it comes to us even before we do anything for God. We say that God’s love is abundant and unconditional.

Amazing God, thank you for loving us so much. Thank you for guiding us and providing for us in incredible ways. Help us to be this generous in helping others. Amen.

Our text for this morning is one of those examples of Jesus’ earthly ministry that appears in all four Gospels. And unlike so many of the other events in the records of the Gospel writers, all four are remarkably similar. Oh, the story from John has that sweet remembrance of our days in Sunday School with the little boy and his lunch...the barley loaves and fish, while the other three merely mention an inventory of the disciples pantry containing the bread and fish.

These are wondrous remembrances. These recordings of the miraculous catering of the crowds by Jesus...for us they resonate with the experience we still share around the Lord’s Table—another miracle as bread, blessed, broken and shared becomes our link to Jesus and the life-giving power of Christ’s sacrifice for us. All of these miraculous multiplications are pre-cursors of our Eucharistic meal...all giving evidence of God’s approaching reign when the hungry will be fed.

We could spend a wonderful session studying the similarities and differences between these four Gospel passages...and include the slightly later story of another mass picnic as Jesus fed the four thousand...OR

We could spend time reflecting on how this great demonstration of Jesus’ power recalls for the disciples and crowd the previous parable of the mustard seed...that the smallest of gifts can produce overflowing harvest just as the reign of God in our heart can work great deeds through our small faith. These would make for great reflections, but I want to focus on a specific part of this Matthew text that I think speaks to where we live our lives most closely.

Matthew places this story just at the time he wants to pivot from Jesus, the teacher, Sermon on the Mount, parables, and all in the first 13 chapters to now Jesus, the practitioner. From one who speaks to one who does. Living out his beliefs. Just as we are called to do in our lives most days.

I feel for those disciples as they approached Jesus to remind him that the crowds had been gathered for hours and all the restaurants nearby were closed...so what could they do to help them? Easiest solution to them appeared to be to send them home.

Now it would be easy to think ill of these disciples...how inconsiderate. But look again, they were empathetic to the crowd and their plight. They knew they had responsibility to help...but what could they do. Compassion is complex. It’s not always easy to determine the most beneficial way to help with the needs of others...ever been there?

It’s in this recording of Matthew that we learn of the complexity of this scene for Jesus as well. In verse 12 we discover that the reason for Jesus wishing to escape from the crowds, to find some private and quiet time. He had just learned of the horrific death of his cousin, John the Baptist. Matthew makes it plain as he says that John’s disciples went immediately from John’s internment to tell Jesus. This scene that we have as our text today becomes, in effect, the funeral luncheon for Jesus and his disciples. So in the middle of the shock of John’s death, Jesus is faced with a crowd of people crying out to be healed and helped and now to be fed.

Appropriate in this setting is the description many find descriptive for our lives...when it rains, it pours! How is it possible to help meet the needs of so many when we are bombarded by needs...and even our own needs and grief? Being compassionate is complex!

I'm reminded of the news reports during this pandemic of nurses and doctors reporting on the constant demands of more and more patients coming in needing advanced and constant care, all the while speaking of family at home and other responsibilities. Compassion is complex!

In this complex setting of hurting and hungry people, Jesus turns to his uncertain disciples and offers this guidance: "You give them something to eat." He affirms their desire to be compassionate...it is the evidence of God's reign in our world. But he also says about the resources that they have: "Bring them to me." Now, I'm convinced that the disciples had completed the inventory and thought to themselves, "Not enough. Won't even make a dent in the problem." But where they saw scarcity, Jesus saw compassionate abundance. So, Jesus then blessed what they had and sent them out to serve. In a world where we are faced with so much need around us...and in our own lives as well. I believe Jesus still expects us to care and act...but always, asking us to first turn to him to bless what we offer, and it too will be multiplied. From scarcity to abundance.

Call to Offering*

Donna Stenski

When I was growing up here in Washington, my Mom would always be sure that we went to Sunday school and church every week at Christian Missionary Alliance on Walnut. She would give my brothers, my sister and me a nickel or a dime to put in the collection plate. She always impressed on us that it was important to give something to God on Sunday no matter how small. Even as she grew older and was on a meager fixed income, she would be sure to tithe something to give to the church. I have tried to continue to do this as I got older and I hope that each of you will do the same no matter how small your offering is because it all adds up. Thank you for whatever you can give.

Dedication of Offering Prayer*

Rev. Collins

Thank you, God, for the generosity that enables us to share. In gratitude for all that we have received from you, O Lord, we offer our tithes and gifts for the ministry of this church in this world. We dedicate this money as one evidence of our stewardship, loving God. Our silver and gold have no lasting value except as they are invested according to your purposes. Our lives gain value as we give our time and talents in loving service. Use all that we have and give to build the community and world you intend, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Communion*

Rev. Collins

Throughout scripture the breaking of bread is remembered as a communal and sacramental act. Sharing a meal is one of the primary ways to create and strengthen and maintain a community. As a proof of that reality, just consider how much we yearn during this pandemic to gather as a church at a meal in Fellowship Hall or how much you would love to gather your family and friends around a shared table. When we gather as Christians to break bread together, we remember and repeat Jesus' words and actions. And by gathering, even across technology and distancing in this sanctuary we recognize the community formed in the love of Christ that satisfies our deepest hungers and heals our brokenness, binding us as one body to serve God's mission in this world. Blessed, broken, and given...one community in Christ to serve a world in need. This table is never more important than in these troubled times!

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

J.C. Leasure

God,

We thank you for being with us and taking care of us. We may feel alone sometimes, but you bring us to the realization that you are always there with us. You have compassion for us, and this is reflected within your Son. Jesus healed the multitudes and then fed them out of compassion. As we partake in communion with you, let us be reminded of the compassion you have for us. Let this bread and cup that we take reaffirm our commitment to live for you and reflect the compassion that you have shown us. 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*

"Pass It On"

piano by Jody Mullis

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found
on God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know:
the Lord of love, has come to me, I want to pass it on.

Benediction*

Rev. Collins

Oh, beloved of God...the Spirit of our compassionate Christ sends us forth to serve. Go in peace, knowing that God will always be by your side in all that you do. Go in love, offering healing, hope, and strength to others. Go in joy, that others may be lifted and inspired to care. 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) 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
Mark & Susan Britko
Jordon Burk
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Nick Cross
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg

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

Denny Paul
Sadie Reese
Betty Jo Riggle
Chip Rogers and his parents
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

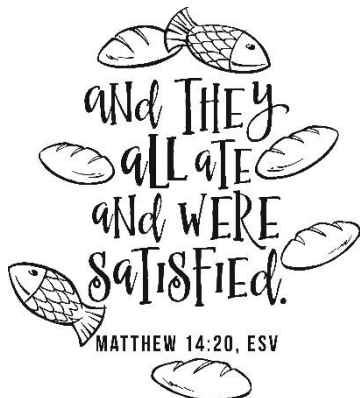
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In the Military

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

