

**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 13 Issue 30**  
**July 8, 2022**



Prayer Shawl – July 11, 11am Parlor

Book Club – July 11, 7pm via Zoom

Elders Meeting – July 13, 6pm Shepherds Room

July Board Meeting – July 14, 7pm Small Fellowship Hall

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

### **Bless Their Soles**

To begin our **shoe library** we are going to need women's and men's shoes. We will need 2 pair of sneakers in each size and 1 pair of dress shoes. The sizes we will need are women's sizes 6 through 11 and a half, including half sizes. Men's sizes needed are 7 through 12 and a half, also including half sizes. There will be cards on our shoe racks, in the narthex, with sizes needed. It's like our Angel Tree. Take a card or two, buy the shoes, bring the shoes and the card back and put them on their shelf. We will reuse the cards in the future when we need more shoes.

Thanks for all of your help. If you have any questions please call Amy at 724-207-3945.



**BOOK  
CLUB**

We will conclude "Everything Belongs" with Chapter 6 on July 11 at 7 pm on Zoom.

Our next two books will be:

- "Seven Women: And the Secret of Their Greatness" by Eric Metaxas, published by Thomas Nelson, Inc. on October 25, 2016.
- "Christianity and World Religions" Revised Edition by Adam Hamilton, published by Abingdon Press on September 18, 2018.

We will begin "Seven Women" on July 18. We will continue to rotate facilitation among ourselves, meeting via Zoom on Monday evenings at 7 pm. All are welcome. If you need help ordering and/or paying for a book, please contact Pastor Gena.

**FMCC Night at  
Washington Wild Things  
Friday, Sept 2, 7pm  
Fireworks Night**

**Tickets - \$10/person  
Parking Pass - \$2/car**

**Jody Mullis will be singing  
the National Anthem**

**There is a sign-up sheet in  
the Narthex for tickets and  
parking passes.**

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

Thank you **Linda Reese** for weeding and sprucing up the Memorial Garden. Your hard work does not go unnoticed and is appreciated.





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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister  
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor  
Elders: Connie Sheller, Bread  
Cara Hritz, Cup  
July 10, 2022 - 10:15am

**Prelude**

Audra Allen, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship**

Gene Sheller

Leader: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all of your mind.

**People: We will worship God, the one we love.**

Leader: Love your neighbor as yourself.

**People: We will open our hearts to all God's children.**

**Opening Hymn**

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

Audra Allen, organist

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

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

Rev. Stillwell

We pray today not only for those who are gathered here, but also for those who are gathered in your name throughout the world. They may be of a different culture, a different language, a different tradition, and even some different convictions, but we worship one God and have one Savior. May your Spirit fall upon each of us, whoever we are and wherever we live.

May your Holy Spirit fall upon each of us wherever we are in life. We come today from different places, with differing needs, with different baggage, as well as with varying strengths and goodnesses. We confess that on the inside we are not always the same people that we seem to be on the outside. On the outside we are smiling, but on the inside we are struggling. On the outside we act friendly, but on the inside we harbor grudges. On the outside we are faithful, but on the inside we waver. On the outside we say the right words, but on the inside we think the wrong thoughts.

But whoever we are and wherever we are in terms of spiritual maturity, we come in faith—open to your Spirit, willing to be fed, willing to grow, and anticipating a new experience of your presence. Pardon us, we pray, in the name of Jesus, and cleanse us both on the outside and the inside by the power of your Holy Spirit.

Hear us, almighty God, as we receive your pardon.

Even though we may not understand, we accept your guidance.

Even though we do not deserve, we accept your love.

Even though we know we are far from perfect, we accept your pardon.

Even though we are inadequate and often weak, we accept your challenge.

Even though we have repeated our faults, we know that you walk with us.

Even though we have stumbled, we pledge to move forward in faith and confidence.

Help increase the faith and confidence of others as well. Give us words where they are needed, give us actions that will be welcomed, give us wisdom to see how we may represent you to others. Grant this, Lord, as we pray in the way your Son has taught us...

*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**

**Matthew 13:33-34**

Gary Ford

**Special Music**

Jody Mullis

**Children’s Message**

“Jesus Feeds Five Thousand People,” in honor of Eli Graff  
from *“Following Jesus: More about Young Children and Worship,”* by Sonja M. Stewart

Pastor Gena

**Second Scripture Reading**

**Luke 14:1-24**

Rev. Stillwell

**Sermon**

**“Gospitality”**

Rev. Stillwell

It should not be surprising that so many of Jesus’ teachings and parables involve food, because they do give us a great deal to digest. In the story that we have heard from the gospel of Luke, Jesus has been invited to a dinner. At this particular dinner are lawyers and Pharisees, the most powerful people in Israel, the movers and shakers, the ones who determine who is in and who is out, and Jesus, at least for one evening, is in.

The modern equivalent would be an upscale cocktail party on the upper east side of Manhattan where anyone who is anyone is invited. All the power brokers are there and Jesus, a new curiosity, has also been invited. Jesus is the newest star in town, and he has been invited to this grand soiree where some of the people gathered are there to put him in his place by teaching him who the real important people are, others are there to meet him because they think he is the real thing, while others are just interested in seeing what the excitement is about.

At any rate, Jesus goes to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, and he is greeted by many who watch him closely. Either he will prove himself to be great or condemn himself to be a fake.

As soon as he arrives he is tested when a man who suffers from dropsy (retention of water) asks to be healed. Well, Jesus had already gotten in trouble with the Pharisees for healing on the Sabbath, and he asks those in attendance what they would do. All are silent. Jesus heals the man then points out that if any of their oxen fell down a well they would save it, Sabbath or not. They are silent again. This dinner has already gotten off to a rousing start.

Next the guests all sit down to eat, and now Jesus is watching them. He notices that many place themselves in the seats of honor and he admonishes them saying:

When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; <sup>9</sup>and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place," and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup>For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Jesus was invited by his hosts so that he could be judged, but now he was judging his hosts. Jesus saves his best moment for last when he tells the guests the parable of the Great Dinner. A man once gave a great dinner, when it was ready the guest he had invited could not come. So others were invited but there was more room. So the man sent his servants into the street to invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.

It is no small coincidence or matter of irony that Jesus goes to a meal, tells a parable of a dinner, and, in the process, gives his guests and us much to chew over and much to digest. It is amazing how much he is able to tell us in only a few words. Of all the morsels there are to learn from what we have heard there are a few that stand out. Perhaps these were the points that inspired the after-dinner conversation, or maybe everyone in the room just stayed quiet at a loss for what to say.

We do not know what his fellow dinner guests learned from his words but here is what we can learn. First, the kingdom will be like a great dinner. We know that the kingdom, like a seed, must be planted and cared for before it will grow, and now we know that once those seeds bear fruit God will invite us to share in the fruits of God's labor.

Therefore, rejoice, for the kingdom will be a place where all are fed, none will ever hunger or go without. It will be like a picnic, family reunion, and Thanksgiving dinner all rolled into one. In other words, the kingdom will be a place where everyone has all that they want and need and the joy will never end.

Second, the kingdom will overturn the values of this world. This world values things that are exclusive, things that are in high demand but in short supply. Jesus should have felt honored to have been invited to a dinner with such high company, but he spoke to them like they were no better than the common person. Right before telling his parable he said to the guests, "all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

So many people spend so much time trying to climb that ladder, but Jesus tells us to look at the bottom of the ladder, those are the ones who will taste God's dinner.

Finally, we learn from this parable that those who were invited will not necessarily taste God's dinner. It is not enough just to be invited. There can be no doubt that many in the audience were insulted and outraged at Jesus' comments. First Jesus says that the lowly will be exalted, and then he insinuates that the keepers of God's law, were invited to feast with God but now will not for they were too busy being righteous to be holy.

It is not enough to merely be invited. In the parable all those who were invited did not come and each had a legitimate excuse. One had bought new land, another new oxen, and another had newly been married. These are all pressing matters that would get anyone excused from any dinner. The point Jesus is making is that those who did come, didn't come because they had nothing else to do. They came because, in comparison to all else that was offered to them, the great dinner was the most appealing.

When we have digested all that Jesus teaches us in this parable we will know that just being invited to eat at God's table will not guarantee that we will. We must accept the invitation, and come to the table of our own free will not out of any sense of obligation. God invites us to take our seat at the Great Dinner, but it is up to us to decide if we will accept the invitation. We must come to the dinner because we want to and not because we feel we have to.

Our regional Minister Thad Alan has a word that he likes to use. He likes to use the word "Gospitality" anytime he describes people being the welcoming people of God because they are following the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is what we're talking about here that Jesus offers to the dinner guests, that the gospel is this thing, this teaching, this lesson, that the kingdom is this place that is open to all in which all who come aren't just guests but they are honored guests, each and every one, in which the host is there not to celebrate himself but to welcome those in.

If we accept the invitation, it then puts upon us an obligation. Those of us who expect to be eating in the kingdom of heaven, then must live the life Jesus calls us to live, but not keeping it to ourselves, because we want it to be exclusive and therefore better, but understanding that it is inclusive and that is what makes it priceless.

This means also not just sharing the gospel in words but inviting those in to know that Gospitality is generosity beyond any meal that we've ever had, because in the end, what we're talking about here is not food. We are talking about love, forgiveness, acceptance and salvation. These are things that are better than anything this world has to offer and are not valued less because they are offered free to all but makes the Gospitality of our Savior that much more amazing. I hope that you will accept the invitation but also that you will pass the invitation on to others to come to taste and to see that God is good and the Gospitality our God offers is wonderful.

### **Call to Offering**

Barbara Bailey

Bountiful God, your love bears the fruit of hope and grace; your ways lead to fullness of life. May today's offering bear fruit in our world, that your love may cause old hatreds to cease, old wounds heal, and old divisions mend. Amen.

### **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**

Pastor Gena

O God, bless these offerings of our time, our energy and our money. Multiply them in ministry, that your ways of love might spread throughout our world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Pastor Gena

I like that we have two kinds of bread on our table each week. The small pieces that are shared in the trays are broken from a large tray of unleavened bread. The larger loaf that the Elders bring forward is, of course, leavened with yeast.

The pieces of unleavened bread remind us of the dangerous, rushed origins of our feast around this Table. When Jesus sat down to the Last Supper with his disciples, they were celebrating the Passover, a particular day within the Festival of Unleavened Bread. Many hundreds of years before that Last Supper, their faith ancestors were enslaved in Egypt. When the night came for the enslaved Israelites to escape, time was short. Their bread had not yet been leavened when the Egyptian people began begging them to leave, fearful of more disastrous plagues. There wasn't time, there wasn't space to carry big fluffy bread. Instead, when they reached the desert wilderness, they baked the dough as it was, into unleavened loaves.

So our unleavened bread reminds us of God's great saving acts, of God's presence always leading us out of slavery and oppression into wholeness and well-being. Our unleavened bread reminds us of Jesus, eating this feast with his disciples the evening before he was crucified. Again, it was a dangerous time, and those that would arrest and crucify him were closing in.

At the same time, our loaf of leavened bread reminds us of the kingdom of God about which Jesus was teaching us. The loaf reminds us how quickly a little bit of leavening - a little bit of love and good news - can spread, affecting the whole batch. The loaf also reminds us how the bread, broken and blessed by Jesus, fed all who feasted on it that day. So may this meal nourish us, that we will be yeast in the hands of a mighty God, agents of love and mercy and grace, ready to raise others up, giving them light and love and space to grow in God. And may the love we find in this meal be spread far and wide as we leaven our world.

### **Communion Hymn**

*"Come, Risen Lord"*

Audra Allen, organist

Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest; no, let us your guest be--with you we dine.  
Yourself at your own board be manifest in this your sacrament of bread and wine.

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

Connie Sheller

Father, help us to meet your callings for each of us to serve you. May we accept this responsibility with reverence, humility, and self-sacrifice. We know that your Son, Jesus, sacrificed his body on the cross for everyone. Taking this bread and cup--symbols of his broken body and shed blood, help us to recommit ourselves to serving you more. Amen

### **Words of Institution**

Pastor Gena

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

### **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**

Pastor Gena

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**

*"Here I Am, Lord"*

Jody Mullis, pianist

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send? Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Recorded worship services can 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)

# 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		<b>N</b>					
Philippians 1:9						<b>H</b>	
2 Peter 1:5							<b>S</b>
			<b>A</b>				2 Timothy 3:7
Matthew 24:32					<b>S</b>		
John 7:15				<b>R</b>			
						<b>I</b>	Isaiah 33:6
2 Peter 3:18						<b>E</b>	
		<b>W</b>					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



**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!

**Homebound Members:**

Phyllis Cimino  
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Strabane Trails #325  
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Mrs. Mary McDonough  
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Nadine Teagarden  
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Ed Alexy  
Avery Allen  
Terry Bailey  
Donna Bakaitis  
Jim Banish  
Abby Blanchard  
Susan Britko  
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  
Derek Gardiner  
David & Lois Gayman  
Doug Graff  
Joe Greene  
Bonnie Gregg  
Nancy Gregg

Linda Hainer  
Kyle Hallam  
Judy Hanning  
Aryn Hess  
Ed Jackman  
Dallas Jacobovitz  
Kenger Family  
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &  
Ty James Lacock  
Von Lacock  
Bob Lanning  
Libby LeDuff  
John Lewis  
Lee & Betsy Martin  
Dave McConnell  
Don Melvin  
Paul Myers  
Joe Neckerman  
Homer Nixon  
Michaela Nixon  
Carmen Oliverio  
Ruth Mikuta  
Deborah Patterson  
Bo & Patty Pryor  
Kayda Richards  
Cathy Rentgen  
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  
Nadine Teagarden  
Gary Weaver  
Nikki Wells  
Tom Williams  
Chuck & Mary Wiseman  
Sarah Wittenberg

**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

**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.