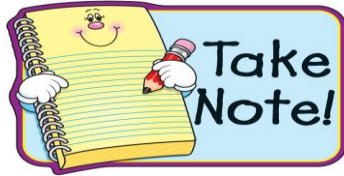


Manor Minutes
Volume 12 Issue 23
June 11, 2021



Food Collection at First Church of the Nazarene – June 19, 10am-11am
Rev. Chris on vacation – June 19 through June 26
Food Distribution at First Church of the Nazarene – June 26, 10am-11am

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

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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 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.

Karen will be on vacation June 14-18. Becca Caldwell will be filling in for Karen while she's on vacation.

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. **Rev. Chris will be on vacation June 19-26.**

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

Summer Fun !!

Plans are being made for a Corn Hole Tournament and for the Church Picnic. More information will be sent out when plans are finalized. Keep these dates in mind:

July 24 – Boss of the Toss Corn Hole Tournament
September 12 – Church Picnic, Washington Park



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

June 13, 2021

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship*

Kathy Moninger-Ford

Come, walk in the light of faith. We will walk humbly with our God. Come, love in the light of faith. We will love everything the light touches. Come, sing in the light of faith. We will sing praise to our God. Come, live in the light of faith. We will live as faithful followers of Christ.

Opening Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Audra Allen, organist

God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Gift of Appreciation

Pastor Gena/Rev. Stillwell

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Rev. Stillwell

God of warmth and God of light we come to you as the world heats up and the days reach their zenith. As we enter the summer months, a time when many of us take vacations and others of us may have a lighter work schedule, we pray that this time may be a period of revitalization and revival.

As we spend time with our families, we pray for openness of communication, for the enjoyment of each other's company, for a fresh appreciation of those who are closest to us, and for a deeper understanding of their needs and dreams.

We pray, also, that as some of us will be traveling we may gain a new appreciation of the world in which we live, that we may come to understand and appreciate other cultures, that we may learn a bit of history, and that we may gaze in awe of God's marvelous handiwork in nature. We pray also for ourselves, that we may use this time to evaluate our direction in life, to catch a new vision of our purpose for being here, to reinvigorate our minds and bodies, and to prepare for the challenges ahead.

As we pray for ourselves we pray for others as well. We pray for those who cannot get time away from work. We pray for those searching for work. We pray for those who cannot leave their homes, beds, or the hospital. We pray for those to whom heat of the summer is a burden. To all in need we pray your mercy.

We pray to that, as the Psalmist writes, they will know your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.

Help us always to walk by faith, O God, not by sight. Be our vision, Holy One, for without vision your people perish. Remind us that you do not see as mortals see, for you do not judge by outward appearances, but look on the heart.

With our eyes of faith enlightened, help us see your kingdom in a tiny mustard seed, and marvel at the growth you offer to all through the power of your Spirit.

When trouble threatens, we look for your shelter and the confidence you offer in the midst of our confusion and doubt. Renew our trust in your resurrection, and revive our hope in new beginnings. As Samuel before us, help us to focus on life, listen to your voice, and follow where you lead. In your holy name. These things we pray as Jesus taught....

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*

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Kevin Puskarich

Special Music

“Create in Me,” by Gayle Schoephf

James Cope

Children’s Message*

J.C. Leasure

Have you ever looked at pictures when you were a baby, or looked at a photo album to see photos of you or your parents growing up? What things changed? Did your hair change? Did your clothes change? We’re some pictures in black and white? Maybe we knew who we would grow up to be, maybe we had no idea. Sometimes we don’t even recognize our younger selves. It would almost seem as though we are completely different people. In our Scripture reading today, we hear about David and how he changed from just a little shepherd to being the person chosen by God to become king of Israel. I bet they didn’t see that coming in David’s family photo album!

When we choose to follow Jesus, we change inside. It is like we are a completely different person.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

What do you think that means? If we accept Jesus in our hearts, we are born again. That doesn’t mean that we become babies again (though that may be nice sometimes). When we are born again, we become new on the inside, in our hearts and spirit. All the sin, and bad that is within us goes away, and we are restored to the way God sees us.

We may not change in appearance when we choose to follow Jesus. We don’t automatically grow long beards, and our hair may not change colors. Our appearance in pictures may not change the day after choosing Jesus, but we are truly a new creation when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Sermon*

New and Improved

Rev. Stillwell

We often think that new is better. Any time something has aged just a little and begun to show some wear we want to replace it with something new. New clothes are exciting, but wear them a few times and they begin to feel old. A new haircut last a few days, and then we often go back to styling it the same old way. Still this tendency for new to fade to old does not dampen our enthusiasm for the new any less.

So many commercials advertise products as being new and improved and we think, maybe we'll try that cleaner, even if it didn't work before. Maybe I'll buy that potato chip even though I hated it the last time I ate it. After all, it is new. I once knew a used car salesman whose slogan was "everyone drives a used car", and that is true, because as soon as you drive it off the lot that new car becomes a used car. Still, it is hard to resist the new car smell.

So, new is a great motivator. Make something new and people will try it, but we all know too well, that new is not always better. Paradoxically the problem with new sometimes is the very thing that makes it appealing. It has no history. Many people would rather have a home with some history and some character rather than a brand new home with cookie cutter architecture. Others would rather have older furniture complete with nicks and scratches that make it unique rather than something out of a catalogue. And some prefer the shoes that are worn to the point of perfect fit rather than a brand new pair that need to be broken in. I clearly remember the day I accompanied my good friend, Mike, to the mall to buy a new pair of tennis shoes. I member this normally mundane event because of the abnormal event that took place after. I remember how we walked back to his car in the parking lot and he had me lay the box behind his car on the pavement so that he could run them over with his truck so that they would feel old and familiar. The truth is, as exciting as new is, we also like the familiar. We like the memories that come with the familiar. We like the past that is evoked by the memories that come with the familiar. There is always a tension, therefore, between the old and the new. We get tired of the old and long for the new, but then we miss the old while getting frustrated at how quickly the new becomes the old. And so it goes.

This tension may be most evident when it comes to our thoughts on Heaven, however. Part of the allure of reaching Heaven is the hope of being reconnected with the familiar. One of the reasons we hope to attain it is because there we will be reunited with our lost loved ones. Our parents and grandparents who loved us, our children who left too soon, our pets whom we have not seen since childhood, and we expect, or at least hope, that when we do see them, they will not appear as they did at the end of their life, but they will look as we remember them. If all dogs really do go to Heaven I expect to see my old friend, Gidget, running and wagging her tail to greet me like she did all her life whenever my mother came home from work or when my dad had a sandwich to eat, and not as she was when she limped and whimpered hobbled by cancer.

Have you ever thought of what Heaven would look like? I bet that it looks something like some place that you spent in your life; some place you remember fondly. I usually think of a beautiful field with wonderful trees and flowers, and I notice that often Heaven to me looks a lot like the campus of Bethany College or the hill of Olgebay Park.

My preaching professor, Joey Jeter, once told a story of a man named Billy who was dying. When his last moments came, Dr. Jeter went to his bedside and Billy told him that he saw heaven last night. Joey asked, "What did it look like?" to which Billy joyfully responded, "Well, I couldn't quite tell about all of it. But there was a building right in the middle that looked like the capitol of Texas. It was marvelous." Joey wandered, why the state Capitol of Texas? But then he remembered that Billy had lived his life on a farm in south Texas and had never left the area except for one trip to Austin where he saw the capitol. It must

have been the most beautiful thing he ever saw, and so, when he saw Heaven, his brain reached back for the most beautiful thing he had ever seen to describe what was in front of him.

So the joy of heaven is seeing the old and familiar. Making sense out of what has passed, yet John's Revelation describes Heaven as being new. He writes, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' So, John's vision of Heaven which has endured to inform our own idea of Heaven by being recorded in the Bible describes a place where everything is new.

This is understandable because, to John's audience, new was undoubtedly better. They were being persecuted. They had no power or money or respectability to hold onto. The world to which they went was better in every way than the one that they left behind so there was no reason for them to hold on to the old.

But in this vision, the final vision recorded in the Bible, John describes Heaven as being new and yet also familiar. It was a new city, but it was a new version of the old familiar city of Jerusalem. The difference was that it had been purified of all that defiled it and made it less than glorious so that it shown like a jewel. It still had its walls as before only now they were made of sapphires, emeralds, and pearls.

In Heaven what is old is not lost or discarded for something new, rather it is restored to the glory it was always meant to have. One ancient doctrine of the church, apokotastasis, argues that all things will remain and be made perfect. The earth, the people, even the devil. So Heaven is a place where the old and familiar things will live in eternity and never decay or age or suffer. It is a place where the old and familiar faces of our lives will receive the freshness and beauty of being new while retaining the charm and comfort of being old.

Just as Jesus Christ is referred to as being the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, all at once, so too is everything in heaven is as new as a newborn baby and as familiar as an old pair of shoes. This is how Paul describes it in 2 Corinthians. We will be new, but not simply looking new. In Christ we will be a new creation. To be a "new creation" is to see others, and even ourselves, with a new sense of what truly matters. It is to see others and yourself in accordance with the truth. How much of our struggle in this life is because we fail to see our friend, our spouse, our child, our boss, or brother or sister in light of the truth, instead of worldly lies about who they should be or who we think we need them to be? How much of your struggle in this life flows from judging yourself according to the flesh and not the love, acceptance, and grace of God; of seeing yourself as He sees you, and not who you think you need to be according to your parents, spouse, friends, or even the media.

Although he does not use the word, the implication is clear. We will be new and improved. "So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" Think of it like the Six Million Dollar Man except we do not have the technology and we do not have the capability to make a new and improved person. Only Christ does, and only Christ has the power to combine the old and new into something better than has ever been known.

You think antiques are nice? You think the newest electronic gadget is great? Just wait. You haven't seen anything yet. For only Christ who is called the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, has the ability to make all things new and yet familiar, new and improved.

Call to Offering*

Kathy Moninger-Ford

One Sunday in January, Reverend Chris talked about great humanitarians in history, Albert Schweitzer, Mother Theresa, who had, metaphorically speaking, given the shirts off their backs to others. When they sacrificed their lives this way, they truly felt the Kingdom of God working within them. A few weeks later I observed two little girls, 4 and 6 years old, making suet cakes to sell to bird lovers. They were making them as part of a fundraiser for St Jude's Children's Hospital. They were laughing and silly, but it was an important job to them. You see, one of their friends was dying of cancer and had been in treatment at St. Jude's for years, raising money for St. Jude's throughout his illness. These two, and others like them, were determined to continue his legacy of giving. Though not famous humanitarians in history, these children and their parents as they worked and played, surely felt the spirit of God's Kingdom working within them. After reflection, I realized that we all need to strive to feel the Kingdom of God working within us when we help others.

Doxology

Dedication of Offering Prayer*

Pastor Gena

Bless, O God, the gifts that we bring this day, that they may be a sign of our commitment to your realm and a pledge of our love for you and your world. Multiply the work done by our time, treasures, and talents, that your presence and compassion may be known in all the earth through them. Amen.

Invitation to Communion*

Pastor Gena

Have you ever gone through an experience in your regular everyday life and thought after it was over, that felt like Communion?

Last summer my mother's family decided it was time to sell the family farm outside of Taylorstown. By the middle of July, the house and the outbuildings were mostly cleared out and the date for the closing was looming near. So, on July 17, Mom, Dad, Isaac and I met at the Kennedy farm for one last walk through the house and barns and around the property.

We meandered through the house first, cleared of everything but memories. Mom naturally started telling stories about what had happened in the different rooms, including the crazy things that she, Uncle Bob and Aunt Cynthia had done. Some stories I had heard before, some were brand new to me. We laughed and reminisced and tried somehow to honor all of those who had lived so much life in that place.

After we had strolled across the yard in the hot sun, pointing out where the garden and that great climbing tree once were, we wandered through the outbuildings. The remaining odds and ends there evoked more memories and stories, this time of things my Dad and Uncle Bob had designed and the technical problems they had solved together over the years.

We decided to head up over the hill next. As we walked, we passed the places where we had scattered my grandfather's ashes years before and where we had scattered Uncle Bob's ashes much more recently. When we neared the top of the hill and turned around, we could see the breadth and scope of the 100-acre farm where our family had spent so much time over so many years. The picturesque pond, the long gravel driveway which almost always got washed out in a heavy rain. So much hard work. So many celebrations and reunions, so much grief and frustration. It had looked different and housed different lives and stories over the years, but it was still the Kennedy family farm – at least for a few more hours...

All of a sudden, just when we were feeling weak from the heat and a little spent from the sadness of saying good-bye, we saw smatterings of black raspberries growing on bushes near our path. We began eating as we went, tasting the fruits of this land one last time. They were so delicious! We didn't have

* You can listen to these pieces of worship at

<https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/worship-audio-files>

Previous Worship services can also be found on the Church website or on YouTube,

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmIH3qzih_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) 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

Mrs Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

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

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

Betty Jo Riggle
Jim and Barb Roupe
John Shadeck
Connie Sheller
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