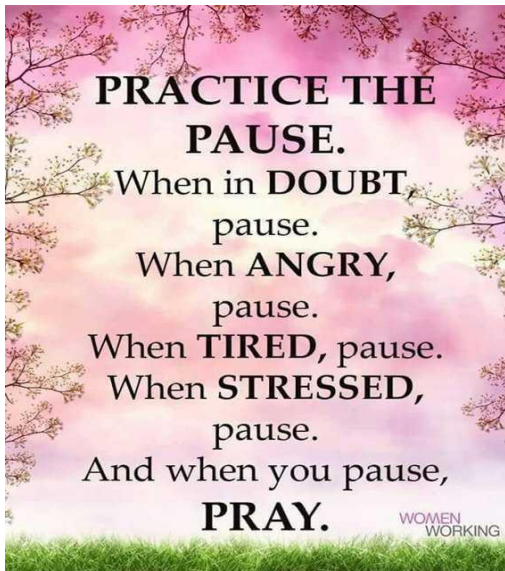


# Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 26

June 19, 2020



The results for the reopening of the Church building survey can be found using this link <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/manor-minutes%2Fnewsletter#96e84b24-e8a2-4c84-91e3-28bb8fa5b4b3>. The link can also be found on the home page of the Church website, [www.fairhillmanorchurch.org](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org). To find on the website, scroll down the home page to the heading Covid-19: Caring for each other. Please take a minute to review. Thank you.



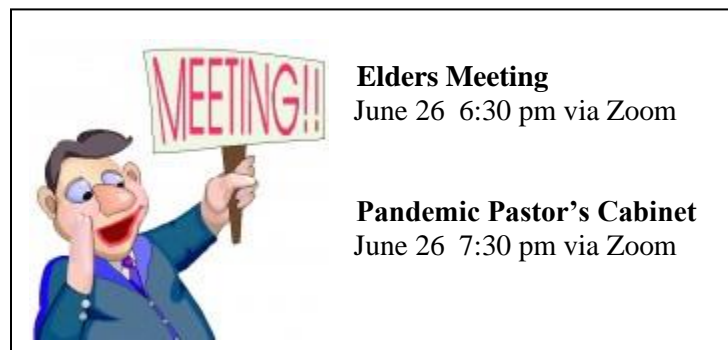
Zoom Worship  
Meeting ID: 932-4557-4206  
Password: 026316

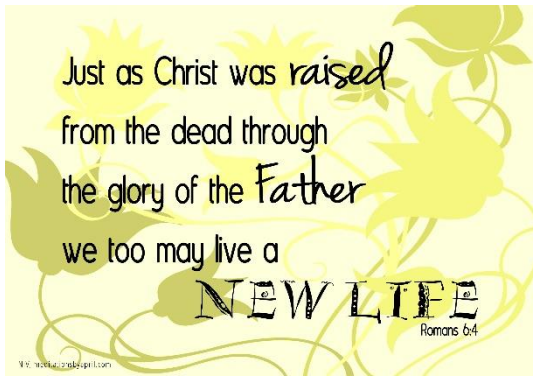
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93245574206?pwd=cHdQMmlPWURmWkdqQUZmRXlMeGdudz09>

We invite all children to join in Worship via Zoom at 12:30 pm. Materials for children to work with during Worship will be attached to the Manor Minutes each week. We will gather on Zoom for two special summer Children Worship & Wonder sessions on June 28 and July 19 at 11 am. Mark your calendars!!



During this time of health restrictions there will only be one classroom available for small group (no more than 10) gatherings. It will be the **Shepherds Room** and availability will begin on Monday, June 22. If you are interested in reserving use of that room, please contact Karen at the Church 724-225-8610, at least one week prior to your selected date. If your group is over 10, special requests may be made to our Trustees by contacting Karen.





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  
June 21, 2020

## Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

**Welcome\***

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship\***

Nyka Rash/Isaac Mayen (audio)

We gather to celebrate our Risen Christ. A mystery that baffles us and confounds our understanding that from death can come new life. Still in baptism we have made the claim that we are united in Christ's death and resurrection.  
Thanks be to God!

**Opening Hymn\***

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

organ by Audra Allan

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and see  
holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty;  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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

Pastor Gena

Loving and Merciful God,

Your power is beyond our scope; your wisdom is beyond our understanding.

We turn to you in faith, assured that you know our every emotion and are aware of our every need.  
Today we celebrate and remember our fathers.

For fathers who have increased the joy in our lives, we give you thanks.

For fathers whose presence is greatly missed, we pause to gratefully remember all they have given to us, providing for us in our growing.

For those who have recently lost or who are facing the imminent loss of their fathers, may they find comfort in their grief, hope in their despair, and courage in the love that their fathers have given them.

We give thanks, God, for the good men who sustain and support us in our living, who love us no matter what! What a blessing they are to all who know them!

We give thanks to you, O God, for all those whose gift for fatherhood is so strong that they have allowed their caring to spill over into the lives of others, providing guidance and stability, nurture and love.

How distressing it is for us to consider that not all fathers have been good fathers. We pray, compassionate God, for those whose fathers have been a source of hurt and pain. May their wounds be healed. May they find in you, in us, in others, the nurturing, sustaining love that is needed for their growth and well-being.

We recall with sadness fathers who are separated from their children through life choices made by them or others. Give them the insight and wisdom, the courage and perseverance to parent in whatever creative and life-giving ways are open to them. Give them the courage to make the decisions which allow their children to thrive.

We remember before you single fathers who struggle to be both parents for their children --to provide all the emotional, physical and spiritual needs without the constant support of a spouse. May they find the strength, the courage and the wisdom for their task.

We pray for those fathers whose relationships with their children have been difficult or disappointing.

We pray for those who have been denied a chance to be fathers, and for those whose years of parenting have been cut short by the loss of a child. We turn to you, most holy God, knowing, trusting that you can console where consolation seems impossible. May they receive comfort for their soul and peace and hope for living, that their gifts may be shared with others.

Finally, O God, we rejoice with you, at the many fine men, who have taken their place as fathers with open hearts, with willingness and joy. And we join all fathers, grandfathers, uncles and friends everywhere in praying that the children they love may be well and happy, a source of joy for years to come.

Hear our prayers this day, O God, for all those we have mentioned aloud and those we name now in our hearts. Give us such assurance of your love that your love may spill from us into the lives of others.

We pray now in the name of Jesus, who found the qualities of a loving father in you. We pray together as he 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.*

Anthem\*      “The Church's One Foundation,” performed by Choir of Trinity College Cambridge  
<https://youtu.be/96k3lbT-N-Y>

### **Children's Message\***

Pastor Gena

Today, you get to ask the first questions. First choose someone here with us today. Since it's Father's Day, it might be your dad or your grandfather. Or it might be someone else who cares for you and guides you like a father does. Next, ask that person, “What was one thing you liked doing with your dad or grandfather in the past?” And then listen carefully for their answer.

People who love us do lots of fun things with us, don't they? But they are also with us and love us when things aren't so great. I wonder who comforts you when things aren't quite right? That person might be your dad or grandfather; that person might be a teacher or coach or someone you know at church. Have you ever felt sad or mad but you couldn't quite figure out why? Or maybe it was hard to find words to describe how you were feeling? How do other people help you in those times?

One of today's scriptures is a psalm of lament from the book of Psalms in the Bible. Lament means naming what's hard and sad in our lives. The Psalms are all songs of prayer to God, but they aren't all happy prayers. Some of them are sad, or even angry, because the people who wrote the Psalms knew that God welcomes whatever we are feeling. Even when we don't have words, God knows what's in our hearts. When we can't name what feels wrong, it can feel even harder because we're not sure what the source of our pain is. When we do find a way to name it, that can open a path to doing something about the problem and beginning to feel better again.

Sometimes other people, like our dads or grandfathers, can help us figure out what we're feeling and why. Sometimes talking with God in prayer can help us do that. Whenever you are having a hard time, please know that there are lots of people who care for you – maybe in your family, maybe in your church family. And you can always go to God in prayer. God will understand, even if you don't know the right words to say. That's what our coloring page reminds us about today. I hope you will work on coloring it to hang in your room or somewhere special to remind you that God always listens.

Let's pray together. Thank you, God, for the people who listen to us and help us figure out what we are feeling. Thank you, God, for caring about us and listening to our prayers. Thank you for understanding whatever we are struggling with, even when we don't have words. Help us find comfort in you. Amen.

**Scripture Reading\***

**Romans 6:1-11**

Gene Sheller

**Sermon\***

**“So What?”**

Rev. Collins

The Apostle Paul had a quite varied life: devout Pharisaical Jew, skilled tent-maker, traveler, founder of a number of Christian churches and prolific letter writer, but in the book of Romans...this letter to a congregation that he did not know, but would be a most influential group located in the capital of the Empire...he becomes a debater. He lays out in logical and reasoned arguments his best case for people to become followers of Jesus.

And central to his message are these chapters near the center of the letter...chapters 5-7 as he makes his central case that we are justified and saved by God's grace not obedience to the law. Now to help us understand how radically different this argument, this case is for that ancient group of believers...it would be somewhat akin to a judge pronouncing the sentence to a convicted burglar saying...no, you are not going to serve a sentence, you are freed. Someone else has served the sentence for you...and don't worry if you break the law again...here's a get out of jail card. He admits that in that original man, Adam, the pattern was set that we, on our own, would always make mistakes, fail to live up to the plan of God...and then the law, like a mirror before us or a measuring rod just makes our sinful nature even more obvious...but now in Jesus, God's grace has come to us all, and we are justified before God because of God's act. Not our own. This free and underserved gift wipes away our shortcomings, our failures, the disappointments of our actions and thoughts.

And, although, under the law we should be sentenced to punishment and even death...grace offers justification leading to, not just life, but eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Powerful case from Paul. Very attractive argument...and although a bit foreign to the way we understand justice and fairness under the law...this is Paul's case for Christianity to those new Christians in that most important city.

And then comes our text for today...the sixth Chapter and how does the debate continue. In an old debating technique, he anticipates the argument of his opponents...namely well, if this is the case, then... And for Paul it was that if grace erases our sins and shortcomings, then why not just keep on sinning so

more grace can be dispensed. Sound like a sound rebuttal to Paul...right? Kind of like the Prodigal son deciding that if he returned once and got a party, why not just repeat his disobedience so that he can have more parties...that's the ticket.

As he anticipated those who might use this argument to refute this gift of grace, I think the better translation of that first part of verse 1 as merely...So What? Ok we have received justification through Christ, erasing our sins, but what real difference does it make?

And in response to that question Paul raises an argument we all can understand...namely our baptism. I, as a devoted Disciple, love that Paul talks of baptism as more than just a sprinkling of water over your head...a momentary moistening of the skin...no, he speaks of it as an experience of life and death. A whole-body transformation from one view of life to another. Of dying to the old life that is beholding to sin, on our own, trying our best to fulfill the law...and failing...and living through Christ in a new life with grace. Baptism for Paul, you see, is not just a memory of your early adolescence, but an everyday reminder of our eternal life through grace.

It's the transition from one realm to another...from the dominion of sin and death to the dominion of our risen Christ.

And this is where Paul's real argument begins...a call for all followers of Christ to reclaim, to fully recognize their identity. For in baptism God claims us in that new dominion...we can slip back and fall victim once again to our shortcomings and failures, our sins, but that's not who we are any longer...in baptism we died to that life...and received new life, eternal life in Christ. We have a new identity. Paul says we just need to be reminded of who we really are to live more fully in Christ. Who and whose we are...claimed by God, we become sons and daughters of God.

One of the more powerful reminders of this important concept of our true identity comes from the gospel of Disney. In the Book of Lion King, near the end is found the experience of Simba, the lost and confused son of the great king Mufasa, who feeling a failure, and deceived by his evil uncle doubts his ability to be a part of the kingdom until the trusty prophet Rafiki helps him look deeply into the water to discover that within him lies his true identity of the lion king...his father. Despite his failures and insecurities lies his true self...for his father lives within him.

Paul more appropriately to our faith explains it: "The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives for God. So, you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Remember who and whose you are! So what? That's up to you!

**Call to Offering\***

Jim Ulery

*Who has not found heaven below  
Will fail of it above.  
God's residence is next to mine,  
His furniture is love.  
--Emily Dickinson--*

When asked to make an offertory statement in the past, it's been my standard procedure to read the associated scripture and try to integrate its theme into my message. When I read this week's scripture, then read it again, then once again, I came to this conclusion: I'd best wait for Pastor Darwin's interpretation. My next thought was to search Psalms, or perhaps one of the other Old Testament books I view as rather poetic for that elusive spark of inspiration. As I started to peruse these books, for some

reason this poem of Emily Dickinson's became fixated in mind. It has long been one of my favorite poems, from one of my favorite poets.

These four simple lines really touch my heart and often give me comfort when I am troubled by all the distress and injustice in the world around me. These days that troubled feeling seems exponentially magnified. Emily's words remind me that our earthly abode is indeed God's physical manifestation of his residence in heaven, which he lovingly furnishes with the beauty of nature and our fellow humanity for the entirety of our mortal lives.

I look around me and realize how my life is indeed furnished with God's love, and I hope your life is too. As a Church, it's our mission to help bring the Gospel of Jesus to everyone, so their lives too may be furnished with God's abundant love. And here's where I'll make my layman's attempt to bring this back to today's scripture: When I was baptized and reborn in Jesus' name, from that day forward I am he and he is me. My offering here today is, in a literal way, doing the work of Jesus: feeding the masses, healing the sick, comforting the widows and children, and much more; indeed it's furnishing the lives of those in need through God's love. Please consider this as you make your offering today.

### **Invitation to Communion\***

Rev. Collins

Even in this pandemic, I trust you will find a way to gather at a table today, or this weekend, to remember the Dads in our lives. As a matter of fact, for some Dad, may be standing over the burnt offerings of a grill. For whatever reason it is the assumption that men are more comfortable over an outdoor grill to cook than a stove...even though it remains that most professional chefs are male. Well, my Dad, as great a man as he was, wasn't comfortable over any fire. Cooking for him was going camping and opening a can of baked beans to warm. Yet, when I think of our family table...he may not have cooked the food, but he was truly the one who provided for the food to be on the table. Not that Moms or women aren't providers, surely they are, but for my family it was the role fulfilled by Dad. Always showing his love by providing. As we gather at this Eucharist once again. We know that elements before us of bread and wine were provided in God's love for the sustaining of our lives. So whether at a kitchen table, a picnic table or your coffee table of this Father's Day...let us give thanks for those who provide to sustain our lives, especially this table of grace!

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

Tammie Wallace

As we partake in this bread and cup let it remind us that we are dead to sin by the gift of Jesus giving his life for those sins. 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 in my blood 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.

### **Benediction\***

Rev. Collins

Go, beloved people of God, into this new week. Remembering your baptism, claim your true identity as children of God. Freed from the burden of sin may you walk confidently in the grace that is ours in Christ Jesus. Go in peace and joy!

\* You can listen to these pieces of worship at <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/worship-audio-files>.

\*\*Pastoral Prayer adapted from <http://dentalmethodist.blogspot.com/2013/06/pastoral-prayer-for-fathers-day.html>

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# PRAYER REQUEST

Please keep the Pastoral Search Committee in your prayers:

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](http://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  
Kassidy Brightwell  
Mark & Susan Britko  
Diane Cope  
Emily Cope Robinson  
Nick Cross  
Fred Engle  
Joe Greene  
Bonnie Gregg

Judy Hanning  
Aryn Hess  
Ed & Harriet Jackman  
Dallas Jacobovitz  
Tom Lane  
Cheryl Leach  
Lee & Betsy Martin  
Ruth Mikuta  
Dick Moninger  
Jody Mullis  
Georgette Murray  
Ed Palfreyman  
Joe Palfreyman  
Denny Paul  
Betty Jo Riggle  
Barb Roupe

Beth Teagarden  
Melissa Teagarden  
Shirley Teagarden  
Gary Weaver  
Nikki Wells  
Tom Williams  
Chuck & Mary Wiseman  
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash

## **Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center**

Bill Behrens Rm 437  
Rev. Marge Frank

## **Homebound Members:**

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

Mrs. Mary McDonough  
949 Bruce Street  
Washington PA 15301

## **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



**PRAYERS**  
**FOR OUR MILITARY**  
And Their Families



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 for Android or iPhone.



# A NEW CREATION



The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.



*Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*

T H I E R O E F Q O R X E I D F A M N Y A O N  
 S E I L S I T N C V H R K I S D T T B H E W N E  
 Q W C D R E Y A T M I O C N H F A S W C O R  
 M E G T H W E O F L D X H A S S G Z O N L  
 E T J H E W N E Q W I D S H R E R O E

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\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV