

Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 27

June 26, 2020

Update on the Re-opening of Fairhill Manor

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, Fairhill Manor Christian Church joined with most other churches and closed our building to worship and other activities. The last date we met for worship was on March 15. Even then we had a lower attendance as our members made the personal decision to stay at home and stay safe. Through decisions by our church leaders we suspended church activities in the building on March 16. Recently, Narcotics Anonymous groups and the Literacy Council have begun using the building once again. Our Trustees, along with Wray, our custodian, have done a remarkable job in cleaning and preparing our building as a safe place to gather. Our Pastors' Cabinet and our Task Groups have worked exceedingly hard to make the other preparations to re-open the building for small group use and soon for worship. Next week we will be announcing the re-opening protocol and dates. We have taken our time to be certain that we have done all that is possible to make the building safe and secure for those of our members who wish to return. We know that because of vulnerabilities of age and health, some of our members may choose to remain in their homes. We support those decisions. We will continue to provide worship experiences through Zoom and the Manor Minutes for any who choose not to come to the sanctuary. And for the ones who wish to return, we commit to provide a safe environment in these continuing difficult times. Look for the communications next week in the mail and through the Manor Minutes for further information. It has been a genuine blessing to work with such a dedicated and caring group of church leaders in this unusual time of challenge.

God bless you all, Darwin



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

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

Children Worship & Wonder Sunday June 28 @ 11 am

Featuring a brand new story in honor of Eli Graff

Member ID: 735-805-8215

Password: 550943



A Blessing from Shirley Cavanaugh

One of the precious parts of our shared life at Fairhill Manor that was stolen by the Coronavirus is our Sunday School. For the Bethany Class, in particular, it meant not hearing Shirley Cavanaugh so beautifully and succinctly share one of the day's scripture lessons. So, for all the members of the Bethany Class...and indeed, all of us, we print below Shirley's lesson for last Sunday, June 21. Read it, delight in its clarity, and feel close to the 'normal' that we so miss. And, most importantly, thank you, Shirley!

Bethany Class Sunday School

June 21

"This is my Father's World"

Hello Bethany Class!

Remember "Romper Room", the children's television show and the magic mirror? Well as I look in my magic mirror I can see: Rlinda, Elinor, Lois, Linda, Dave, Carol, Doris, Eleanor, Chalres, Patty, Joanne, Chuck, Mary, Alice, Chuck, Von and Lynn, and oh, here comes Pastor Darwin and Rachel! I can see you all sitting there. How I miss you all!

The last time we were together, I requested the next Sunday off (March 15) because my family would be visiting. Little did I know that would be our last Sunday together!

What have we missed? Palm Sunday, Easter, Mother's Day, Remembrance Sunday, Our Spring Banquet, Pentecost Sunday and here we are at Father's Day! We missed being able to properly grieve the loss of our faithful member and friend, Jim Chase!

The scripture I have chose for this morning is Romans 12:12-13

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

During these months of isolation it has been hard to be joyful all the time, but maybe we have learned to appreciate the lttle things that we often took for granted. A handshake, a hug, a meal out with a friend, a smile that isn't covered with a mask, just being with family and friends.

We've had to be patient, hopeful that better times were coming. Heaven is surely suffering from an extreme overload of incoming calls for help. When we look around us we know how truly blessed we are. None of us have had to worry about where ournext meal is coming from, or how we will be able to provide for our families. It was good to be able to share some of our bounty with those who struggle in our neighborhood through the two drive-thru food collections.

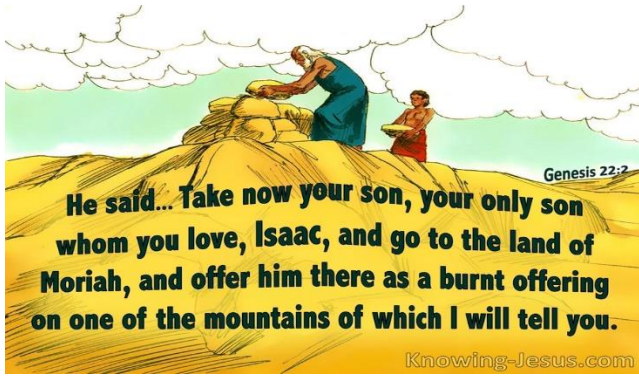
We haven't been able to practice much hospitality, but we sure have done more cooking. The inactivity and boredom may have caused us to pack on a few pounds!

When we were finally allowed out of the house to meet up with a friend, we didn't care that their hair style or color weren't up to par. We were just glad to see each other! Some of us practiced some barber skills, some may have decided to just let it be gray! My son-in-law even let me trim his hair!

Well today is Father's Day. Most of us have wonderful memories of the man we called "Daddy". The one who made us feel safe and provided for as we grew up. For most of us, they have been gone for many years, but in this troubled time, we can be assured that our Heavenly Father will never leave us, that He loves us and will provide for us.

God be with you till we meet again!

Shirley



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 28, 2020

Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

Welcome*

Rev. Collins

Call to Worship*

Von Lacock

Welcome, people of God, as we come before our God with praise. Open us God to the movement of your Spirit of peace and reconciliation in a broken and troubled world.

We seek to be your partners in renewal and hope.

Opening Hymn*

“Rejoice, You Pure in Heart”

organ by Audra Allan

Rejoice, you pure in heart;

lift praises to the sky;

your festive banner wave with joy,

the cross of Christ raise high!

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Praise God who rules all worlds;

the risen Christ adore.

Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire,

one God for evermore!

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

Rev. Collins

In the dry times of life, O God, as well as the fresh summer mornings, your Spirit comes to us to refresh and renew our souls. Our longings for your help grow tired in these harsher and more stress-filled days, and we seek your strength to remind us, again and again, to trust in you, to drink deeply of the life you give, and to keep our hope keenly focused on the future you have promised. Yours is a future of a world made right, of bodies made whole, of relationships healed, of abiding peace and justice. Help us to seek it, to pray for it, to work for it, even as we pray for those troubles close to home and far away which burden our hearts this day.

We pray for those whose lives are endangered by unrest and uncertainty, those who struggle for justice, and those who seek after peace. We pray for the suffering, the imprisoned, and the hungry, homeless poor. We pray for the sick and those who tend to their needs, who bring a cup of cold water to those who are thirsty. Hear our prayers, gracious God, for those we have named this day, and for those we now name in the silence of our hearts.

Be with our church leaders as they plan for a safe re-opening of our sanctuary worship. Guide them to prepare so that this may be a safe haven from the daring spirits who would challenge this Covid 19 virus. And for those of our faith community who choose to remain in the safety of their homes, may they still feel the bond of love that joins us all no matter where we worship you on Sundays.

Guide our Search Committee as they come to a most critical time of preparation to introduce a candidate. May your Spirit of wisdom guide them on this path, and may your discerning presence be with the candidate to make a choice that you bless.

Be near to us, Lord, and refresh our spirits as we gather again at your table. May we carry from this place a sure faith and a confidence in your wellspring of goodness, made known to us in Jesus the Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

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 God of Abraham Praise,” performed by the Birmingham Boys Choir
<https://youtu.be/iacTYcppx2o>

Children’s Message*

Cara Hritz

I'm going to show you a picture and I want to see who might know what it is. Do you know what this is a picture of? Yes, it's a sheep! We have heard a lot about sheep in the Bible. Can you remember any Bible stories about sheep?

Many times in the Old Testament, sheep were used as a sacrifice. Do you remember what it means to sacrifice? We have heard a few stories about these times in Sunday School. A sheep was used as a sacrifice because it was something that was important to people in those days. Many people didn't have extra money for food and clothes, so they used the sheep's wool to make what they would wear. A good sheep could be worth a lot of money for them. Making the choice to sacrifice a sheep, sometimes your very best sheep, was really hard for the people in those times. This meant that they would be giving up a lot of money, and maybe the only money they could get to buy food or to make clothes. But, when God calls us to sacrifice something, we can have the faith and be sure that he will always provide what we need. When we give money for our offering, we are sacrificing some of our money. But, we can be sure that God will provide what we need. When we give up some of our things, like toys and clothes, to people who need it, we are making a sacrifice. But, God will be sure we have what we need. We can trust God to provide for us because he keeps His promises.

Pastor Darwin is going to tell us about a time when Abraham had to trust God. But, Abraham knew that God had always kept His promises and provided what he needed, so he could trust God now too.

Scripture Reading*

Genesis 22:1-14

Amy Caldwell

Sermon*

“Letting Go!”

Rev. Collins

It's texts like this morning's that make a preacher wish we had the same courage as Thomas Jefferson who took a razor and glue to the Bible to cut out all those passages, he thought were unreasonable. This story of God with Abraham and his young son, Isaac, surely offends our sense of decency; it startles our understanding of family love and care.

You know the story...after waiting nearly all of their lives for God to fulfill the promise of making Abraham and Sarah the parents of a great nation (just think of that ancestry.com report), God brings to them a son in what we might call their senile years...Sarah in her 90's and Abraham, a centenarian. And to show their own awareness of how ridiculous this seemed they name the son...this one so longed for...a

most appropriate name...laughter. Almost as if they were writing a skit for Saturday Night Live...they announce to everyone, they get the joke!

But it was a son of serious business...this was the one who would fulfill the call of God to build a great nation...from whom we now know, God built the three great global religions of Judaism, Islamism, and Christianity. And to make this drama even richer, we also remember the frustration that Sarah and Abraham felt in the delayed birth which led to the approved, yet despised affair, that Sarah blessed between her husband and Hagar, their servant. Oh, yes, television soap operas have nothing over these Biblical tales!

All these struggles with God fulfilling the promise of nation building with Abraham and Sarah, however, still doesn't prepare us for this 22nd Chapter. If only we had the luxury of using Jefferson's XActo knife and not having to wrestle with this text. So, let's get down on the mat with this story and consider what truth God is seeking to reveal for us.

There is, of course, the most obvious...God was testing Abraham's faith. That's how the chapter begins, "God tested Abraham." And Abraham, either oblivious to the possibility of God asking this highly improbable request, or deeply obedient to God, says back, "Here I am". So think of this, God, in order to see if Abraham really is committed to his faithfulness, after asking him to leave his home and to wander off without knowing where God is leading...and God asks Abraham to try and save Sodom from its sinful ways only to ignore Abraham's plea for leniency, and after God supports Sarah's request to abandon his son, Ishmael, God still believes Abraham is a bit doubtful...so he now commands him to take this fulfillment of his old-age, his son, Laughter, and offer him as a sacrifice as a test of faith. What about a commitment to Bible reading or raising the pledge to the local synagogue...instead he asks for the most precious, his most beloved son.

I love the old rabbinical story that God didn't send an angel to tell Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, because the angels refused...saying, "if you want to command death, then do it yourself." For Jews, this story of Genesis 22 is called the 'akedah' or binding of Isaac. It's foundational to the faith of all three religions, but especially, Jews. It became a part of the worship and indeed, guided their liturgy of sacrifice in the Temple.

But is this an abusive God? A capricious God, who just directs people to do all sorts of terrible things? It is a most tricky assignment to make sense of the truth of this tale. We love the pressure release that comes as God offers a reprieve at that moment of greatest drama with the knife poised over Isaac, God sends down, the sacrificial ram. And for us as Christians, all this a foreshadowing of the sacrifice of God's beloved son on a cross for us.

A test of faith? I guess it was, as uncomfortable as I am to think of that characteristic of God, it is still present in this text...standing 180 degrees from the dominant character of a loving God who offers Jesus for our redemption. Inconsistent with God who in other parts of the scripture abhors child abuse. I will confess, there is still some discomfort here for me, but I have never been approached by God to murder a child...or indeed, to ever kill. I still take comfort that God's dominant character is reflected in scripture as life-affirming and loving.

So, what truth do I see in this text...is it a God who manipulates and tests? Or more likely a God who recognizing the real challenges of life and seeks to guide us toward growth and affirming life and fulfillment as he sought to guide Abraham and Sarah to the fulfillment of the promise of great nation building? Fulfillment of life does require of us to let go, to release our grip, of some of the things that have been most precious to us in order to bring life and fulfillment. I grant you, this was an extreme example, but all of us face times in our lives that we need to let go of our grip on things that will only

hold us back...whether it's a dream that is no longer possible to fulfill and is disappointing us, leaving home or a place we love to find work or start a family or the failures of achieving something that denies us the joy of our present life...or to let our children go to fulfill their lives rather than our expectations for them. Aging brings its own challenges of letting go, whether physical actions that we once could do...or seeking to cling to maintain an outdated image of ourselves...maybe driving a car, or even keeping old traditions. Our faith is challenged to trust God to lead us in every age, in all circumstances...to recognize God's presence in changing times.

And the greatest challenge of all...are we ready to respond, Here I am!

Call to Offering*

Marsha Sams

Greetings. Fairhill Manor held another Drive-thru Food drive on Saturday June 6. This effort yielded over 600 non-perishable food items, 44 toiletry items and \$1,000. Again the Community Circle Food Pantry and the Salvation Army were the recipients of our efforts and were very grateful. Thank you to everyone who was a part of this.

After reading the scripture in preparation for today, three words kept popping up to me, "Here I am." Now, I know that if I heard God calling me and I said "Here I am" and then was asked to do what Abraham was asked to do, I'm not sure I would be able to follow through with that. Would you able to do that? However, I did hear a call to help take care God's Children and I answered, "Here I am." Over the years I have been led to many opportunities to do just that. My life has been richly blessed and to be able to continue to follow that call with such loving and caring people here at Fairhill Manner is a true blessing. I hope and pray that whenever you hear God calling you, you are able to answer "Here I am."

Your Outreach Team continues to be aware of the needs in our community and then letting you know how you can help your neighbors. If any of you hears of someone in need, please do not hesitate to let us know. We cannot help if we don't know help is needed. We are all God's Children and we need to take care of each other.

As we continue to be the Church outside of these walls please remember that your monetary offerings are still very much needed and appreciated to maintain our Church Budget. God is Good all the time and All the Time God is Good. May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

Invitation to Communion*

Pastor Gena

I wonder how you have been getting ready for worship each week recently. It's different than when we gather together in person, isn't it? You might still get up and put on your "Sunday best." But instead of getting in your car and driving to the church, you are likely rooting through your email inbox for the Zoom numbers and hoping your internet connection is strong enough. Instead of being handed a bulletin on the way into the Sanctuary, you are printing your Manor Minutes ahead of time or pulling them up on your phone to have them ready. Instead of laying your offering envelope in the plate as it's passed, you are affixing it with a stamp and mailing it to the church or you are opening your Givelify app to send your offering electronically.

Instead of handshakes and hugs, we've been greeting each other with Zoom waves and phone calls. Instead of sharing bread and juice from the same trays, prepared by our Deacons for us, passed and held for each other down the pews, we've gathered what we have in our own homes, perhaps even thinking ahead to pick something up at the store, and made it our special and holy Feast of Communion. Maybe we've gotten used to sitting at a special table in our homes – or we've found that we look a little differently at our everyday table after using it weekly for Communion. Maybe we've used a certain plate and cup to hold our "bread" and "juice" or maybe we've used whatever was handy that week.

Soon we will have new ways of getting ready for worship as we gather together again: waiting patiently in line to enter our beloved church building, registering our attendance, sanitizing our hands, picking up our individual communion packets and dropping off our offerings, being guided to our new seats, waving to those seated around us. It will feel strange, but step-by-step we will still be getting ready to be together and worship God.

The people of God have always had ways to “get ready” to be with God and with each other. These rituals and patterns help us make the shift from our own time and pace to God’s time and God’s timing. They help us recognize God as present right where we are gathering to worship. They help us to see everyday things like bread and crackers and cookies, like juice and water and milk, as reminders of how much Jesus loves us. So much that he lived among us to show us how to live and love. So much that he died our death to show that death has no power over life and that there is nothing that can separate us from his love and presence. Thanks be to God for ways to “get ready” to behold such awesome and wonderful gifts – and to realize that these gifts are for us!

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Gene Sheller

Lord God,

You asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. What an awful request! Abraham obeyed, but you provided a substitute sacrifice. You have done that for us by sending your son Jesus to be the sacrifice for our sins.

With this meal we eat and drink, we remember his body and blood that He gave as our sacrifice.

We thank you God. 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, NRSV)

Benediction*

Pastor Gena

*Go now in peace. Go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere
You may go.*

God go with you! Go in peace.

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



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) 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

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



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

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 for Android or iPhone.

"We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have."

- Frederick Keonig

True happiness is... to enjoy the present, without anxious dependence upon the future.

Lacus Annonas Seneca.

