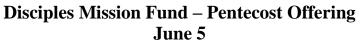
# Manor Minutes Volume 13 Issue 25 June 3, 2022



Prayer Shawl – June 6, 11am Parlor Book Club – June 6, 7pm via Zoom Personnel Committee – June 8, 4pm Library Elders Meeting – June 8, 6pm Shepherds Room Choir Practice – June 9, 6:30pm Choir Room Stay up to date, check <u>www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar</u>

Day and Date correction Bethany Class Luncheon Tuesday, June 28, 1pm Eat'n Park on Oak Springs Road



Each year, half of this offering goes to our own region to support local new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders across the United States and Canada through programs such as coaching, New Church Hacks, and Water the Plants. Planning, nurturing, and sustaining new places of worship is part of the Disciples' vision – participation in this Special Day Offering helps this vision come to life. Please consider giving generously. To access additional Pentecost Offering resources, including images, videos, and stories to share, you can visit: <u>http://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/pentecost</u>

Sunday – June 5<sup>th</sup>

No Sunday School Graduate Sunday Sunday School Pentecost Picnic following Worship

Rev. Chris will be on vacation June 9 – 13. Please Contact Pastor Gena, your Elder Shepherd or the Church Office if you have any needs during his time away.



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

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

Judy Mullis will be singing the National Anthem

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

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

Fairhill Manor Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 351 Montgomery Ave. 724-225-8610 Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor Elders: Kevin Puskarich, Bread Rita Puskarich, Cup

June 5, 2022 - 10:15am

Jody Mullis, piano

Pastor Gena

Isaac Mayen

Leader: The Holy One calls our sons and our daughters to prophesy. People: We come, ready to hear the word of God. Leader: The Holy One calls our young people to see visions. People: We come, ready to see new visions. Leader: The Holy One calls our elders to dream dreams. People: We come, ready to dream new dreams. Leader: The Spirit of the Holy One is poured upon all flesh. People: We come, ready to be filled with God's Spirit.

**Opening Hymn** 

"This Is the Day" This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

# **Litany for Graduates**

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

Come, Holy Spirit, come again. As long ago you inspired, astonished, and confused your people on the day of Pentecost, so come to us now. Fill our ears with the sound of your breath. Fill our eyes with the brilliance of your presence in each other. Fill our hearts with your good Word.

Holy and Merciful God, we know too well our constant failures to listen as you guide us, our refusal to use your gifts to serve and lift up each other. Forgive us for the divisions we nurture. May your mercy give us peace with you, peace with ourselves, and peace with one another.

We give thanks for all those who have softened our hearts that we might be ready to receive your Spirit in your time. We thank you for those who continue to proclaim the gospel with words and in service. Thank you for those who are dreaming new dreams of how we might continue to be your church in powerful ways into the future. Thank you for those who dare to cross divides and create understanding between people who look and sound different from each other. Thank you for those who stand up and speak your truth and those who in less obvious ways set things right slowly and patiently. Thank you for your Spirit who creates understanding between us, who helps us to find a way where we thought there was no way, who weaves together our skills and experiences and ways of being into something more



# Welcome

Prelude

**Call to Worship** 

Insert

Pastor Gena

Jody Mullis, piano

beautiful than we could have imagined. Thank you for the ways we are able to be together once again. Keep us ever thankful for all the things we missed while we were apart. And bless those of us who remain at a distance. Continue to guide us, we beg you. As you have guided us so clearly in the past, come and show us the next steps forward as your church.

Please be with those who feel misunderstood because of their differences. Give us courage to embrace each person as your child.

We pray for those who are mourning this day. Come and bring your mercy where suffering and loss are beyond our comprehension, beyond any words of comfort we can come up with.

Please be with those whose lives are being turned upside down by violence and the uncertainty and chaos it brings. We cry for peace, for fairness and understanding. Show us a new way to live together.

We pray for your wisdom. Keep us centered in you, comforted that you are our firm foundation.

Please be with those who are lonely, those facing difficult surgeries and treatments, those beginning long recoveries. Give them the strength of your constant company.

We pray now for all of those whose names we have spoken aloud. We pray for those whose names are well-known to you.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Breathe new life in us that we might share the good news of your never-ending love far and wide. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, who has promised to be with us always, and who teaches us to pray, saying...

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;<br/>Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

First Scripture Reading	F	Proverbs 8:1-11	Owen Stillwell
Anthem	"Hymn Medley"	Choir accompanied b	by Pastor Gena on piano

## **Children's Message**

Welcome, everyone, did you know when you came to church today that you were coming to a birthday party? Now, there might be someone here today whose birthday is close, but that is not why we are celebrating. Today is the day that we celebrate the birthday of the Church. The day that the Church really got its start. We call it the day of Pentecost and it's when we remember the day when God sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples just as Jesus had promised would happen.

These birthday party items are going to help us to remember what happened in the Church on the day of Pentecost. They will also remind us that the Holy Spirit is still at work in the Church today.

Rev. Stillwell

First we always have balloons at a party. Balloons can add a lot to any celebration, but, as you can see, these balloons are flat and lifeless. They need to be filled. They need someone to breathe some life into them. (Blow up the balloons.)

On the day of Pentecost, the followers of Jesus were all together in one place when suddenly they heard a sound from heaven like a mighty rushing wind and it filled the whole house. Maybe it sounded like this (Rev. Chris lets the air out of one balloon so kids can hear the rushing sound.) We are like these balloons waiting for God to breathe Holy Spirit into us here today.

Like any good birthday we have candles. On a birthday we put the candles on the cake and light them because it is fun and festive, but for the birthday of the church flames have another meaning as well. This is because, on the day of Pentecost tongues of fire came and rested upon each of the people in that place and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

What is a birthday celebration without gifts? (Show the gifts.) On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit gave the early church the gifts of forgiveness and new life. The Holy Spirit offers those same gifts today. As we celebrate the birth of the Church, let's give thanks to God for such a wonderful gift.

Let us pray, Dear God, we thank You for sending the Holy Spirit. Help us to remember that the Holy Spirit still fills us with power today, just as on the day of Pentecost, many years ago. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

# Second Scripture ReadingRomans 8:22-27Rev. Stillwell

#### Sermon

"Divided Tongues and a Uniting Spirit" Rev. Stillwell

What do you think of when you hear the word Christian? To me the word Christian means a person who is so awed by the love and grace of God in Christ that they live life to the fullest, and they are so inspired that God did so much to come down to their level in the form of Jesus Christ to teach them of this love and grace that they are willing to try, as best as they can, to teach others of it as well.

For me, when I think of the word Christian, I think of my friend, April. April was my best friend for many years. I met her when I was 18, and, though I thought I knew it all about what it meant to be a Christian, she showed me much more. It was she who introduced me to a number of Christian writers and musicians I had not known. It was she who got me involved in volunteer organizations like, Habitat for Humanity and Hosanna Industries. It was she I noticed who knew the names of all the people who worked in the cafeteria and the cleaning staff, and spoke to them each day. It was she who seemed to know the ailment every person had and checked up to see how everyone was doing. And it was she, who on a long trip to visit her family for Thanksgiving stopped alongside a busy interstate, even though she had hundreds of miles to go, to help a person who had broken down so that they could get home to be with their family as well.

It was also she who initially suggested that I be a minister and repeated that thought so often that her prophecy became a reality.

I owe a lot to this a person who sadly, today, no longer calls herself a Christian. She still believes as she did and she still acts with love and grace, but she tired of the judgement and hypocrisy she found in others who took the name, Christian, and today she who once dreamed of being a minister in the Christian church no longer calls herself a Christian or attends a church. For her, the word Christian, brings up bad memories of people who told her that she shouldn't share her opinion in church because she was a

woman. When she thought of the word Christian she thought of a neighbor who used it to imply that he was godlike and she, an ungodly heathen.

She and I also both try to follow Christ as best as we can, but when we talk of the word, Christian, the same word spoken in English by the two different people, it is like we are speaking a different language. She is not alone as the fastest growing religious group according to the US census are the not religious but spiritual. I feel like many of these people would identify themselves as Christian if we could agree on what that word means. We could use a Pentecost experience.

We could use a Pentecost experience like the one that the disciples had that day in Jerusalem, for, as the scriptures proclaim, the disciples were "all together" that day. What would take place, however, would bring thousands of people who had been divided, "All together". As the story is told, "<sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." (Acts 2:3-4) It is very appropriate that the tongues that appeared that day should be described as "divided" for that was truly the case. In that city, gathered for the festival of the fifty weeks, were "devout Jews from every nation under heaven."

Each nation spoke its own language and various regional dialects. The streets, therefore, were filled with the cacophony of a multilingual Babel.

But in the midst of this Peter stood up and spoke in a language that every person could understand. Here at this very point in history was the undoing of events at the Tower of Babel. Before, God had confounded and confused people by giving them many languages because, together, they strove for arrogance, power, and hubris. But on the day of Pentecost, the day that has traditionally been known as the birthday of the church, the barriers of language were torn down when Peter spoke a language that was inspired by God's Holy Spirit.

However, today, on the anniversary of this incredible coming together of God's children many people still do not get it. For many people actually use this moment of coming together as a mandate for division. Many equate receiving the Holy Spirit as being what Jesus meant when he spoke of being "Born again" and they use that as their basis for judgement. Not only does this divide Christians with non-Christians it divides the church itself. A commentator on Pittsburgh Christian radio recently got into hot water when he declared that the Pope would not go to Heaven because he was not born again. Now that's a divisive tongue. Many even go so far as to say that God wants division. A minister in North Carolina recently kicked out nine members of his church because they disagreed with him, claiming it was God's will. The banished members were described as "ungodly". If Jesus didn't allow, the "ungodly" to associate with him, who would be left to worship him? Still this is the basis for church division which has happened so many times that I do not think anyone has an accurate account of how many divisions of the church there are today.

Before God's gift of the Holy Spirit division was the point of religion. It helped to define who was out so that people would know who was in and the most trouble Jesus got into is when he crossed those lines and welcomed the stranger, the divorced woman, the sinner, the gentile, the Samaritan. This changed on the day of Pentecost for that day the biggest dividing line in our world, the language barrier, was overcome by the Spirit but that was just the beginning.

Later both Paul and Peter would separately come to the conclusion that Gentiles were to be preached to as well as the Jewish people. Peter went so far as to eat with them, which was forbidden as it made him unclean according to the old Mosaic Law. When asked why he did this by his fellow Christians in

Jerusalem he told them of a dream he had in which God said to him, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane."

Immediately he was called to see a Gentile in Caeserea. Upon arriving Peter said: "as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.' (Acts 11:15-18)

Paul also welcomed gentiles into the church and this he also justified because of God's gift of the Holy Spirit when she said to the church in Rome:

But now we are discharged from the law, dead to that which held us captive, so that we are slaves not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit. (Romans 7:6)

This new life in the Spirit broke down the barriers that divided people so that those who were once deemed outside of God's love were now welcomed in.

As evidenced by the story of Pentecost and the actions of the apostles the Holy Spirit exists to bind us together. It is the glue that holds the church together. Anything that divides us is not of the Spirit As followers of Jesus Christ have split into thousands of different groups with their own beliefs and practices it is the Holy Spirit that unites us in a shared apostolic succession that began on that day in Jerusalem whether we are always willing to admit to it or not.

The world seeks to remind us through our media, whether traditional or social, of all the ways that we are different and tries to keep us divided. God's Spirit unites us by reminding us of what we have in common. It does this by giving us a language that we can use to speak to one another though our differences be many. For it is a language that speaks in love, compassion, and mercy. These are the hallmarks of a language that is both rooted in the Christ who loved us so much that he bestowed compassion and mercy upon a stubborn people and one that will win the hearts and minds of those still uncertain about what it means to be Christian.

The reason that this language is effective because it is more than just a language of words. Only so much of the greatness of God and the kindness of Christ can be put into actual words, and the language of Pentecost is better and more effective than all of our clumsy words and awkward syllables put together.

Baptist preacher, Gordon Atkinson, in his book of essays entitled, "Real Live Preacher" describes the problem this way

I believe that many Christians have created a sub-culture with its own language, customs, and myths. Ministers even have their own dialect and hairdos. Weird. The problem with a religious sub-culture is no one else "gets it", and you are isolated from the world you are called to SERVE.

When that it happens it is because we try to stick our words into God's language, and that is why a uniting Spirit like that received on the day of Pentecost cannot be shared as much in words as in actions. The language that everyone understands is rarely expressed in words, but in smiles, hugs, and handshakes. When you want to comfort a friend who has lost a loved one a comforting spirit is manifested better in a comforting presence and acts of generosity than in even the most eloquent of words. A Pentecost

language can be summed up by a saying often attributed to St. Francis, "Preach the gospel. If necessary use words."

Or take again the word of the apostle Paul who said "the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." (Romans 8:26)

Going through life I find that I sigh a lot. My kids say I am being grumpy, but I think I am just praying, because I have a lot on my mind and often I just cannot find the words, so I love that the Holy Spirit is a language that is more than just words. It is actions, it is presence, and sometimes it is just sighs. As we celebrate Pentecost and worry over a world that it still so divided and a society that has trouble agreeing on the meaning of the same word, let us embrace the Holy Spirit and allow it to heal our divided tongues.

How do we do this? The only way to over divided tongues is with a uniting spirit and that involves listening to each other. I used to work in talk radio and I tell you it was the worst experience of my life. People with no expertise or knowledge going on and on about things in an attempt to get people riled up so that they will keep tuning in. It was the longest two years of my life, and I couldn't help shake the feeling that the point was to sow division for profit. That was more than 20 years ago and it has only gotten worse.

My prayer as your minister isn't that you will always agree with me, because I know that I can be wrong. My prayer isn't that we will always be in agreement on everything because I don't think that is realistic. My prayer is that we will be always listen to each other and not allow the division of the world to overcome our unity in Christ. May the Holy Spirit fall upon this community who claim the name Christian and may it give us the wisdom and the inspiration to speak in a language that the whole world can understand. If necessary use words.

# **Call to Offering**

Donna Stemski Lift up your hearts. Let us give our thanks to the Holy One for it is a right, good, and a joyful thing always and everywhere to give our thanks to God, who poured out tongues of fire on the disciples at Pentecost. Therefore let our offering that we give today be a sign of our thankfulness towards the one who has given us so much.

## 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**

Sender of dreams, Spirit of truth, Giver of visions, accept these gifts and offerings, as evidence of the holy fire burning in our hearts. Amen.

# **Invitation to Communion**

I love to read science fiction as it opens my eyes to all sorts of possibilities I never could have imagined. Through it we can visit strange new worlds or travel to a galaxy far, far away, but one of the problems science fiction writers have to solve is how to ensure that everyone understands one another's languages. In truth most writers just ignore this problem, but the best have inventive ways to address it. In Star Trek each person has a universal translator, but the most interesting solution that I have read is a book called, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy", in which the characters insert a small fish into their ear that translates speech into the person's own language. This fish is called a "Babel fish", but perhaps it would

Rev. Stillwell

Rev. Stillwell

have been better to call it a Pentecost fish for the Pentecost that we celebrate was the undoing of the Tower of Babel story in which God brought all people together through a common language.

The early disciples had no such Babel fish, but they needed one just as much for Jerusalem was a cosmopolitan city on the day of Pentecost when Jews from all of the Middle East came for the festival. They did not receive from God fish in ears, but rather tongues of flames on shoulders. This was the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised would come to them, and it allowed them to speak in their own language but be heard in the language of their audience.

What an incredible gift! Here, today, we have neither babel fish nor tongues of flame, but we do still have the Holy Spirit, and while I do not think that I could speak in Spanish or French and be understood by you, the spirit does still translate for us.

You see there is a whole different language that is spoken here at the table; the language of God and Godly things. We lowly humans come to it, with no reason to understand any of it, but what we find is that, although our understanding is incomplete, still the point of the message comes through in the translation.

Here I am a sinner, talking to a bunch of sinners, about Godly words like salvation, mercy, and love, and I do so with the knowledge that I don't fully know what those words mean, but still I know that these words do not fall on deaf ears, because I know that God's Holy Spirit has fallen on our hearts.

May the cup and bread you receive this morning touch your heart and open your ears, so that you can understand what God is trying to say to you, no matter what language you speak.

#### **Communion Hymn**

"I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table" Jody Mullis, piano I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Allelu.

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Allelu.

## Prayer for the Bread & Cup

## **Words of Institution**

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**

Rev. Stillwell 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.

Kevin Puskarich

#### Rev. Stillwell

#### **Closing Hymn**

*"We Are Walking"* Jody Mullis, pianist We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God. We are walking, walking, we are walking, walking, We are walking in the light of God.

#### Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Let the Spirit of God blow you from this place, so that you will be able to speak bold truths, see vibrant visions and speak the glorious good news of the salvation of God.

Recorded worship services can be found on the Church website or on YouTube, https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih\_fzHCC2X0Jhc\_sfniJ7C1O3X



**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!

#### **Homebound Members:**

Phyllis Cimino 317 Wellness Way Strabane Trails #325 Washington PA 15301 Mrs. Mary McDonough 949 Bruce Street Washington PA 15301 Alice Cokeley 900 N. Cass Lake Road, Apartment 324 Waterford, MI 48328

Bernard and Jane Teagarden 441 Valley Brook Road McMurray, PA 15317 Nadine Teagarden 826 Old National Pike Claysville PA 15323 Ed Alexy Avery Allen Terry Bailey Donna Bakaitis Jim Banish Abby Blanchard Susan Britko Mabel Brooks Sandra Carman 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 & Tv James Lacock Von Lacock **Bob Lanning** Libby LeDuff Lee & Betsy Martin Dave McConnell Don Melvin 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 Gary Weaver Nikki Wells Tom Williams Chuck & Mary Wiseman Sarah Wittenberg

#### In the Military

Lance Dague An Terrell McClain Zac Brandon Lipscomb Sar Daniel Robinson Tra Shawn Dallatore Em Dylan Demain

Andrew Gregg Zachary Keene Sarah Lipscomb Travis Ringer Emily Chase ain

## **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.

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 Tuesday.

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

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 at (412) 956-6590.