

Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 24

June 5, 2020

A Prayer for Our Nation

Our country has experienced dark periods in our history when internal strife, economic decline, partisan divisions and racial hatred have stressed our national resolve to be a 'more perfect union' and a people who hold to a commitment that 'all men (and women) are created equal.' We surely are living through another of those times. In the face of these present-day challenges, I offer a prayer for our nation for your consideration:

To you, O Creator God, we come. In the contrast of this season of renewal and new life we sense your creative power. In this holy season of Pentecost, we feel your Spirit's presence. Still in the world around us we recognize, as well, the powers of destruction, death, inhumanity, and injustice. The spread of the Coronavirus has separated us from the ones we most love and denied us the basic human need to touch and embrace. Too many lives have been taken. A disproportionate number of our elders, poor and people of color who lack many of the dignities of life that we cherish. A heavier weight has been placed upon a smaller number of people during this time, those who work in health-related professions and our service workers who meet our basic needs. Keep them safe, bestow your beloved comfort on those who are visited by this virus. Frustrated as we can become with restrictions, keep us ever vigilant to take the precautions that not only keep us safe, but can protect others. Our national sin of more than 400 years, racism, has once again captured the national attention. By the horrendous death of George Floyd, we are again awakened to the injustice in our nation that still values people by skin color, rather than the basic humanity of us all. You demand justice, O God. Help us to speak out for justice for all, not merely a few. Forgive us our complacency when others of your beloved children suffer. Stir us to speak out against injustice and hatred. Encourage us to more obvious acts of compassion and love for the needy and oppressed. We give thanks for the indignation evidenced by those who speak out and peacefully protest. May we listen and respectfully engage with our thoughts and actions, not hate-filled words. We pray for an end to the violence and destruction of people and property. May the fires and destruction not diminish the truth that needs to be shared in these troubled times. We feel the pain and dis-ease within our divided country as partisan interests take precedence over truth, where rhetoric and symbolic acts are used to divide and further confuse our search for truth. Lower the heat of our conversations, remind us of the basic dignity that we all deserve and help bring a healing to our national life. For all of those who claim a position of leadership remind them of the greater good to which you call them...and us. May your "justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." And may we do our part in your justice and righteousness for our nation. Amen.

God bless and forgive us all,
Darwin



The **Communications Task Group** would like everyone to take the following **survey** by Monday, June 8, to help with the reopening of the Church Building. If you have any questions or need help with the survey, please reach out to your Elder Shepherd or the Church Office at (724) 225-8610. Please click on the link below to begin the survey. All answers are confidential.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3GMBY3R>



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

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



A **DRIVE-THRU FOOD COLLECTION** will be held this Saturday, June 6th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the front drive at FMCC. We will be collecting non-perishable foods. Monetary donations will also be accepted. We will have a crew at the front steps to collect your items. There will be no need for you to get out of your car. Our crew will be social distancing, wearing face masks, and gloves. Please enter the drive-way off of Montgomery. This food drive is not limited to only Church folks so please let your neighbors and anyone else know that this is happening. Hope ALL is staying safe and healthy.... blessings to all.



We concluded our second full season of Children Worship & Wonder on Pentecost Sunday! Thank you to all of our children, our Greeters and our Storytellers for your dedication and flexibility this year. Beginning this Sunday, 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!!!

Congratulations to the recipients of the **2020 Reese Scholarship** award of \$500 for students from area schools:

Averie Haines (McGuffey) - Attending West Virginia University, majoring in Mechanical Engineering
Lexi Livingood (Trinity) - Attending Penn State, majoring in Chemical Engineering
McKenzie Molinaro (Wash High) - Attending Centerbranch School of Ministry, majoring in Theology



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.

NEW KEYS!!!

The trustees have changed the exterior door locks, except the Parking Lot Entrance and Kitchen to control access to the church to enhance our sanitation of the building due to the COVID-19 virus. If you need a key for an event or meeting, please contact the Church office to sign-out one.





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 7, 2020

Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

Welcome*

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship*

Peggy Oliverio

Great Spirit, open our eyes that we may see the needs of others; open our ears that we may hear their cries; open our hearts so that they need not be without caring; Let us not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong, nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich. Show us where fear and prejudice blind us. O Spirit of the Living God, make us creators of justice in this world.

Opening Hymn*

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

organ by Audra Allan

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Prayer for Our Graduates*

Pastor Gena

Loving God, we pause to celebrate the milestone of graduation. We recognize and honor the hours of work and dedication that have brought these graduates to this moment. Thank you for the many people who have guided their lives and given them examples to follow, who have taught them to recognize the goodness of their creation, who have helped them to grow in relationship with you. Give these graduates courage and excitement as they leave the safety of family and venture into your world. Give us peace as we say good-bye to those who prepare to leave our midst. We entrust them to your care, knowing that you walk with them always. We celebrate the new freedoms that these graduates will experience. Give them the courage to ask for guidance in their decisions. Give them friends and companions who will help them grow in your love. Give them discernment as they use the gifts you have given them for the good of others. Send these graduates forth to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth, serving you and accompanied by the Spirit.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Creating and Recreating God,
O how we long to be recreated!

Sometimes it seems like it would be easier to scrap this whole project of yours and start all over again with things in order; with a clean, fresh earth; with a creation united in its beautiful and abundant variety; with creatures who marvel at the splendor of each other, who can and want to live together in harmony, who live not in fear and scarcity but in peace where all have enough – even more than enough.

But you have promised never to destroy us in order to start over again. You declare that all of the works of your hands are *good*, even if that goodness seems hard to find or has long since been buried with the weight of our mistreatment.

O how we long to be recreated!

You call us to be about the work of recreating, of bringing wholeness, of lifting up and bringing down, of standing up and standing alongside, just as you did in Jesus. But it's so complicated! We have accumulated layers upon layers of filters that distort our vision. We can't see things clearly. We are afraid – to be fully who we are as your children, knowing that not everyone is as fair and as gracious as you are. We are afraid – to risk what we have for something perhaps more loving and more just but yet unknown. We are afraid – to do the wrong thing or say the wrong thing or be taken as foolish as we try to help.

O how we long to be recreated!

We have made a mess that we can't seem to figure out on our own. And so we cry out to you. Give us your heart – a heart longing for wholeness and justice for all of your children. Help us to see what we cannot see clearly – in ourselves and in others. Give us your assurance that you are with us always – even in our mistakes and missteps – and especially as we act in love. Give us the courage to follow, knowing that you are leading us, that you are going ahead to prepare a place and work for us. Give us a longing to be co-workers with you in your re-creating work.

There are so many in need of your healing today. Be with those who are sick and those who are dying. Be with those who are mourning. Be with those who are angry. Be with those working to bring healing and right relationships. Be with those who are traumatized by violence and those who know no way but violence. Be with those we have named aloud and those we name in our hearts in the silences of these moments...

We need you. Oh, we need you. Every hour we need you.

Together as one, we pray in your name, our Creator, our Re-creator, and the one who is with us always, even to the end of the age....

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 Navy Hymn,” performed by The Naval Academy Mens Glee Club
<https://youtu.be/4lu8y2pvuRg>

Children's Message*

Pastor Gena

I went to church camp up at Camp Laurelvew every summer when I was growing up. Camp began on Sunday and went all week until Saturday. It took me awhile to get used to new situations and people, so usually by Thursday I was getting settled - and then it was almost time to go home! But every time I was at camp, I could count on getting a letter from my Aunt Jane, and that made me feel less awkward and alone. And this wasn't your typical camp letter. She would write the entire thing backwards! I could feel her with me as I puzzled through reading her letter - and if I really got stuck, I could go hold it up to a mirror and read it. I felt like she was right there with me as I read those letters. It was a different way of being together, but it was a great source of comfort for me.

What are some ways that we are usually with each other? I wonder if you have found some different or unexpected ways to be with other people during this time we've been apart. What do you think is the most important part of being with each other?

Today is Trinity Sunday, and one of our scriptures is from the book of Matthew. It doesn't specifically talk about the Trinity, but it does show Jesus saying he will be with us always. The Trinity helps us understand all the different ways God is always present with us. There was a time when people felt God as a steady, guiding, and comforting presence as they wandered the desert, built their kingdoms, and were forced from their homeland. There was a time people knew God's presence through Jesus as he lived on Earth and taught and ministered to people. After he ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit came and was God's presence with people. Even though each of these are different ways of experiencing God, the promise is the same: "I am with you always." Our coloring page for today helps us to know that promise. Why don't you get that ready after our prayer so that you can work on it as we listen to Pastor Darwin talk about our Scripture for today?

Holy God, you are our Creator, you are Jesus, and you are the Holy Spirit. Thank you for all these ways you are always present with us. Help us remember that even when we struggle to understand the Trinity, you are with us always, no matter what. Amen.

Scripture Reading*

Genesis 1: 1-2:4a
Matthew 28: 16-20

Sandy Todaro

Sermon*

"Passing the Baton of Creation"

Rev. Collins

It was just one of those times, when I was shocked into reality. After years of expectations and painting the picture of what I thought I would see was shattered by the reality of the real thing. Our family spent a week in Rome before renting a car and wandering around the Italian countryside...a trip of many detours (because you see, I never get lost) and prayers as the roads got more narrow and the drivers more aggressive. But on our last day in Rome, we finally got to the part I most wanted to see...the Sistine Chapel.

Oh, I had the picture in my mind of what I thought I would see...that famous painting of God stretching out to touch Adam at creation...the spark of life. I expected a vast space, but what I discovered as we walked into the room...was a somewhat smaller room than I held in my mind...but then my mind went into overdrive. Instead of that great painting of God and Adam, I found a ceiling that was so colorful and busy that I was momentarily frozen in shock. Instead of one painting, there were seemingly hundreds...nine relating to the Creation story alone. There was that depiction of Adam and the reclining figure of God...but it was just one small part of the ceiling. Before us appeared the fresco of the Last Judgement that could have occupied our time for a week searching out all the figures and scenes.

I was a singular experience that I still cherish...but even Michelangelo with his remarkable skill could not do justice to the painting offered in that creation story of Genesis. Consider the movement...wind sweeping over the face of the waters...the sights...darkness covering the face of the deep. Then the brilliance of light bursting forth in contrast to the darkness. Then the dome of the sky, dry land rising from the water's depth, vegetables and plants sprouting from the ground. Like a fast-forward video of a garden growing...as weeks are compressed into seconds...that was Genesis view of God's creative power. Then comes that picture of what we merely glimpse from the Hubble telescope as the sky is illuminated with stars and planets...then comes the frame of animals of all varieties burst forth followed by our domestic varieties...a visit to God's zoo and farm all in one paragraph. Day after day the creating power of God continued. Then God comes to the pinnacle of creation with the unfolding of humans...for unlike the other parts of God's beautiful creation...humans were created in God's image...the most like God...the qualities of God.

To read this rendition of the creation of the universe in Genesis as if it has to be literally understood is like me trying to paint in my mind what the Sistine Chapel ought to be like...we will never do it justice. As sweeping and glorious as this text is, it can never encompass the reality of the universe...of God's creative power. Just as even with Michelangelo's brilliance he could not fully express it all. To restrict God to mere words or timelines is to try and restrict God into our image and our limitations of time and methods. God creates...at first, out of nothing from a void comes earth...soil, water, fire, the elements of life. Then God creates from these basic elements something vastly different...animals, plants and us. How can we describe it...in extremely limited fashion...like Michelangelo took those brushes and paints to create something so remarkably different...and the reality is that God does the same each and every day. The sight from my window each morning looks familiar...and yet creation goes on and brings something new. Flowers bloom, birds sing a slightly different song, trees grow...and so do the weeds...all similar from the day before, and yet new.

And that same wind, spirit that blew over the waters and dry land creating the universe...brought about a new creation as Jesus empowered and directed his disciples to be part of that ongoing creation that can bring about reform and renewal in each day. Recalling the language of Genesis Jesus informs his disciples that he has all that authority that brought about the original creation...and with it he sends them out to bring about a new creation...no longer upon a passive people brought to life and wandering on their own...no in this new creation through Christ...God doesn't create and sit back to watch what unfolds...God is very much involved as the Spirit remains to work with us and strengthen us...Genesis paints an awe-inspiring picture of creation...but now we are empowered to work with God on this daily task of creating a new and better world by sharing God's message of love and grace.

Genesis described God's great creating power, Michelangelo, and many other artists painted it...but we get to live it...every day! So whataya' think about that?

Call to Offering*

Linda Reese

Just as the disciples were given the Great Commission to go out and proclaim the grace and salvation of our Lord, so too have we been commissioned to go out and proclaim the grace and salvation of our Lord.

When we collect food to feed the hungry, make dresses and shorts to clothe children in Haiti and Belize, collect coins in the noisy cans for those suffering from a disaster, and give our offering to support the ministries of Fairhill Manor Christian Church, we are continuing to show the love and grace given to all by Jesus.

Give as you can to continue our work on the Great Commission.

Invitation to Communion*

Rev. Collins

As the Spirit moved upon the face of the waters, God created the world and called it good. God breathed life into humans, each made in God's image, and called them good as well. God so loved us, in fact, that when we failed to stay in relationship with God, the Son was sent into the world, so that all of us might be reunited and find life abundant. As we give thanks today for the gift of life, and for God's sustaining presence in it, we have the opportunity to offer up ourselves to God afresh, and open our lives to the movement of God's Spirit among us, so that we may be re-created to be what God has seen in us all along – truly good, and signs of God's love for the whole world.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Cara Hritz

Unchanging God,

Through all of the uncertainty, you remain constant. Though we are in many places, your table reaches each one of us. We meet here today to remember your sacrifice and all that you give. Taking this bread and cup, we realize you gave all to save us. We remember your ultimate sacrifice and we give thanks. As we go into the world this week, let your love be our guide. Let us share some of your sacrifice with the world around us. 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 forth empowered with the joy of Christ's Spirit to work for peace with justice.
Go forth as good partners in the re-creation of the earth and its people.
Go forth in the authority of God's Spirit. AMEN.

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



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
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
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, 835 S Main Street, Washington PA 15301

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





Kendall Nicole Rantovich, granddaughter of Paul and Sandy Harton, graduated from Peters Township High School. She will be attending the University of Alabama.



Hannah Furshman, daughter of Hobie And Maureen (Davis) Furshman and granddaughter of Dave and Carol Davis, graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale Florida. She will be attending the University of Central Florida.



Stephanie Keelon, granddaughter of Steve and Louie Skariot, graduated from Canon-McMillan High School. She will be attending Slippery Rock to study Elementary Education.

Kolton Barnhart graduated from Bentworth High School. He is the grandson of Doris Haniford.



Eliza Lee Barlow graduated Cum Laude from California University of PA in December with a BS in Business and Event Planning. She is employed as the Assistant Event Coordinator at the George Washington Hotel in Washington PA. She is the daughter of Jodi (Riggle) and Steve Barlow and the granddaughter of Chuck and Betty Jo Riggle.

Brooke Renee Barlow graduated from Bethany College with a BA in Interdisciplinary Psychology and Education. She is employed at Bradley Center in Pittsburgh as a Child Development Specialist. She is the daughter of Jodi (Riggle) and Steve Barlow and the granddaughter of Chuck and Betty Jo Riggle.



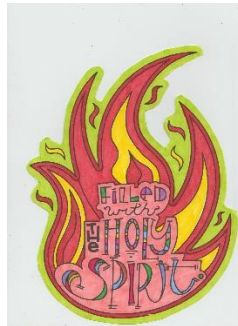
Mackenna Paige Riggle graduated from the University of South Florida in Tampa with a BA in History. She is the daughter of Charles Ardis and Erin (Taylor) Riggle and the granddaughter of Chuck and Betty Jo Riggle.

PENTECOST POSTERS

Many thanks to the Caldwell Family for sharing their Pentecost Coloring Posters. Great job!!!



By Becca



By Jeff



By Amy

Puzzle!

Read the Old Testament book of Ruth, which is a great love story. Then search for the words below, which are all from that book.

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

Barley, Bethlehem, Boaz, David, Elimelech, Gleaning, Grain, Harvest, Jesse, Judah, Kilion, Kinsman, Mahlon, Mara, Moab, Naomi, Obed, Orpah, Ruth, Sandals, Threshing, Vinegar, Winnow