

**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 13 Issue 13**  
**March 11, 2022**



*The Story* Chapter 21 Nehemiah: Rebuilding Walls, Rebuilding Lives – March 13

Pastor's Cabinet Meeting - March 14, 10am via Zoom

Lenten Devotional Discussion – March 14, 7pm via Zoom

Stewardship/Finance Ministry – March 15, 5:30pm Library

Personnel Committee – March 17, 3:30pm Library

Choir Practice – March 17, 6:30pm

Stay up to date, check [www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar)

## Bethany Class

The Bethany Class Zoom will open at 8:30 am.

The class will begin at 9:15 am.

Meeting ID: 883 3055 7258 Passcode: 344061

Unit 1: Liberating Passover

March 13 Free to Worship Ezra 6:1-12

March 20 Free to Celebrate Ezra 6:13-22

March 27 Free Because of the Lord Deuteronomy 8:1-1

Jane and Bernard Teagarden have moved to The Waters in McMurray. If you would like to send cards, please address them as:

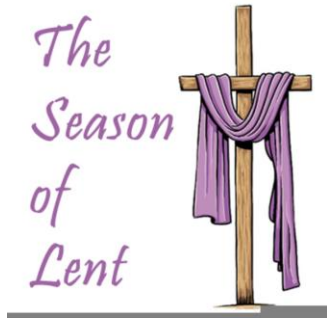
Bernard and Jane Teagarden  
441 Valley Brook Road  
McMurray, PA 15317



The Disciples Womens Ministries of the First Christian Church of Canonsburg is holding a women's event on Saturday April 30 from 1-3pm. The theme is "You Are A Blessing" with keynote speaker, Rev. Nikki Mazza-Fredley. Light lunch and entertainment will be provided. The cost is free. Donations will be collected for the Thomas Campbell Apartments.



Daylight savings time begins on Sunday March 13, 2022 at 2am. Before you go to bed Saturday night, set your clocks AHEAD 1 hour!



Fairhill Manor Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
351 Montgomery Ave.  
724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister  
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor  
Elders: Gene Sheller, Bread  
Connie Sheller, Cup  
March 13, 2022 - 10:15am

**Prelude**

Audra Allen, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship**

Isaac Mayen

Leader: When disasters strike, where can we go?

**People: God is always there.**

Leader: When enemies surround us, whom can we trust?

**People: Christ is always with us.**

Leader: When life is hard, who can ease the load?

**People: The Spirit is always there to sustain us.**

**All: Come! Let us worship the God of our salvation.**

**Opening Hymn**

*“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”*

Audra Allen, organist

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!

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

Pastor Gena

We bless you, Lord. You are the Great God who teaches us, holds us up, and rescues us. Praise be to you for your mercy and your steadfast love. We worship you, you alone.

Forgive us for straying from your word. Give us the courage and discipline to open your Scriptures and read them for ourselves. We want to understand them and live by what we have learned, not only by what we have heard and been told they say. Speak to us through your word; may it come alive to us in meaningful ways. Make us thirsty to spend more time with you, studying how you have lived with and loved your people for generations – and how you live with and love us.

Thank you for those who inspire us and teach us. Thank you for those who model the disciplines of our faith for us – prayer, study, worship, service. Thank you for those who help us to understand what you are saying – through your word and in our hearts. We praise you that you speak through all of us in the community of faith – children, women and men. Give us ears to hear your truth when you speak – even when the lies around us and within us are so loud.

Loving God, our hearts are aching. We are worried and afraid. We feel helpless and angry in the face of so much evil. Make us sensitive to each other, especially when we are sad. Help us to reach out to each other with listening ears and with patience and kindness. Give us courage to ask for what we need, to reach out for the support and help that we so desperately want.

Thank you for the outpouring of your love around the world. Be with those who are afraid, running for their lives. Those sleeping anywhere they can find a place to lay their heads. Protect their hearts and minds from the trauma all around. Grant safe passage; pave the way. Bring an end to war, we pray. Halt evil in its tracks; bring evil to its knees. Grow love and light; spread it far and wide.

As we walk this Lenten journey with Jesus, as we examine ourselves closely, remind us that no matter the wilderness, no matter the adversary, no matter our mistakes, we are beloved. We lift our faces to the warmth of your presence. Help us to feel this truth in our hearts, our minds, our bodies - we are beloved.

We pray now for so many of your beloved children who are in need of your presence and care. Come to their aid, we pray. We lift up the needs of our world and its people to you in the silence of these moments.... We lift up those we have named aloud and those near and dear to us who need your tender care....

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. It is in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, that we pray this prayer with one voice....

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

**Prayer Response:**                                 “*Lord, Listen to your Children Praying*”  
*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;*  
*Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.*

<b>First Scripture Reading</b>	<b>Nehemiah 2:1-8</b>	Gary Ford
<b>Anthem</b>	“Mercy,” by Craig Courtney	Choir
<b>Children’s Message</b>		J.C. Leasure
<b>Second Scripture Reading</b>	<b>Nehemiah 8:1-12</b>	Rev. Stillwell
<b>Sermon</b>	<b>“Rebuilding and Remembering”</b>	Rev. Stillwell

It is harder to rebuild than to destroy. This is an eternal truth that I am reminded of from time to time when something happens that makes its truth too obvious to avoid. A few years ago at this time strong winds came that knocked over my neighbor’s trees which in turn knocked over my fence. We could measure the time it took to destroy my fence as the one and a half seconds it took for the tree to fall or as the hour of time the winds blew finally toppling over the three trees. Either way the time it took to destroy the fence was a lot shorter than the month it took to rebuild it.

Likewise, a month ago I had an accident with my car. A small patch of ice that I didn’t see caused me to spin into a hillside. The whole incident could not have taken more than two or three seconds, but it took a month to fix the damage. Part of the delay was waiting for parts, but even if the mechanic had all the parts he needed and no other cars upon which to work I am sure it would have taken a day or two to fix what was destroyed in a second or two.

This is the case with anything but, while the destruction of something large might take a little longer than the destruction of something small, the rebuilding of something large will take much more time than rebuilding something small. We have been hearing about the exile of the Jewish people and two weeks

ago we heard of the temple being rebuilt. It was destroyed quickly but took more than 4 years to rebuild, and when it was rebuilt the city remained destroyed. Specifically the walls were destroyed. The walls have significant practical impact as they protect and secure the city from attack and from wild animals, but they also have symbolic significance. The walls were a symbol to other nations that, when repaired, announced that Israel was restored to its God.

The disrepair of Jerusalem and its walls pained a man named Nehemiah. He does not appear to be a hero. He is a waiter to the Persian king in who remains in exile until one day the king notices his sad demeanor. Realizing the important symbolism of Jerusalem's Wall, Nehemiah ached with concern to have it rebuilt and this is why Nehemiah is a book in the Bible. Nothing else happens in this book except that Jerusalem walls are rebuilt but this is the last part of Israel's restoration. In fact this is the last narrative portion of the Bible implying that what was lost has now been regained

Centuries earlier, God had given the Israelites some wonderful gifts: a land, security, abundance, prosperity. Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann has said that the memory of those gifts and that relationship was the glue that bound the Israelites together. It also kept them close to God, reliant upon God and responsive to God.

As the years passed, however, the Israelites grew careless and cynical about their faith. "Prosperity causes amnesia," Brueggemann says. People with amnesia don't know who they are, what they're expected to do, or to whom they're accountable. This goes a long way toward explaining how the Israelites ended up being overrun and carted off to Babylonia, where they spent half a century in exile. By the time Cyrus the Great told them they could go home, many of them had forgotten most of what they'd known about their own religion.

The Israelites' return was a crushing disappointment. The walls of Jerusalem were in ruins. The great temple was a mound of rubble. The countryside was a wasteland. A hard-nosed administrator named Nehemiah and a scribe named Ezra stepped up and organized a series of urban renewal projects that included building a new temple and new city walls. When the work was finished, everyone in Jerusalem, including the children who were old enough to understand, gathered in the town square. The Israelites were safer now, and they had a place to worship, but their situation was still bleak. The Persians still dominated and controlled them. External enemies still threatened them. Internal divisions and injustices still set neighbor against neighbor. The Israelites needed guidance and assurance.

They asked Ezra to fetch a scroll he'd brought with him from Babylonia. The scroll contained the first five books of the Bible as we know it. Ezra opened his scroll and began to read its stories--stories of creation, of Noah and the ark, of Abraham and Sara, of Joseph and the coat of many colors, of God releasing the Children of Israel from Egyptian captivity, of Miriam and Moses, of the Ten Commandments and God's other instructions for creating a community.

The stories were written in Hebrew, but by then the Israelites were speaking Aramaic, the language of the Persian Empire. So Ezra translated the stories into the people's everyday language. Meanwhile, thirteen priests circulated among the people to "give instruction in what was read," Nehemiah says, and to "explain the meaning."

The people in Jerusalem hoped there were connections between Ezra's scroll and their circumstances that would apply to everybody. That's why they asked Ezra to fetch it. That's why he translated it. That's why the priests explained the meaning of it. And then hundreds of years flaked away and the crowd experienced it. By which, I mean, those former exiles discovered where they were in the story God was writing. They had wandered so far from God and had forgotten so much about their faith that there was a huge gap now between the way God wanted them to live and the way they were living.

So the people hear again the reading of the law as a way of limiting the distance between God and the people. In this way the exile has officially ended and the nation God made of Abraham's descendants had been rebuilt in both body and spirit. Nehemiah's account ends with the people celebrating and sharing gifts of food and wine, because their long season of amnesia was over. Their sacred memories were alive again. They could face the hard work that lay ahead assured of God's presence, God's love, God's guidance, and God's strength.

Would that we could say the same today for we live in a time of crisis in which much has been destroyed or is being destroyed. More significant we live in a time when destruction is so easy. Two towers that stood for 30 years were destroyed in matter of minutes. A cathedral that took two hundred years to build and which stood for almost 700 years burns in less than two hours. Cities in Ukraine are learning first hand of the power of destruction and knowing that even if they prevail the time for rebuilding will be immense.

Whenever things like these occur you will inevitably hear people talk about the end times, but we forget that people have been through this and worse before. I imagine it felt a bit apocalyptic for people who lived through WWII only to be faced with the threat of nuclear annihilation when they should be able to celebrate the end of the war, or for people who lived through WWI only to have to deal with the outbreak of the Spanish Flu afterwards, or for those who experienced the Civil War, or for those who saw the city and temple destroyed, were sent into exile, and returned to rubble.

Time and again God has been with people in difficult times but each generation forgets, or doesn't now, and each generation thinks it's the end of the world. That is why we read these scriptures. We read to remember. These events did not happen to us, but that doesn't mean that we are not part of the story or that these stories are not part of our own stories.

So lately I've been sharing Brian McLaren's paraphrase. He says the Bible teaches you what's true and right, helps you see where you've gone wrong, guides you on how to get on the right track again, and educates you in the skills of staying on the right path. He says:

You'll know you're getting somewhere when you begin to see yourself in what you're reading and when you begin to involve the Bible in the decisions you make about public and private issues instead of just being led by your own whims and preferences.

We have enough human power and energy to alleviate much suffering. The question is, are we willing to use it to rebuild knowing that it is harder and longer than destroying? Knowing that making things right in our life and in our world will take much more work than it took to make them wrong will we still try? It may very well have been that had Nehemiah not spoken up and returned the people of Jerusalem may have lived in the rubble of their city like a person who lives in the mess of their life because it is easier than trying to clean it up. Nehemiah was not a seemingly particularly important figure. He was neither king nor prophet but he was chosen for such an important act because of the thing that was special about him. He prayed his way through life.

I do not mean that he occasionally asked God for something. I mean that he prayed before he spoke. He prayed as he listened. He prayed before he acts. He prays in response to what is happening around him not to entice God to do his bidding, but to understand what God is doing and how he can be a part of it. He prayed because he needed to in order to do what needed to be done.

We have a lot of work to do. There is much to do in our life and in our world, much that needs to be set right and much that needs to be rebuilt. May we be about Nehemiah's work today. May we be in constant prayer not to have God act for us but for us to be drawn into the power of God for our life and our world.

Let us pray in all things so that we will have the wisdom and guidance and energy to do the work of rebuilding that God calls us to do. God has called us to the harder work of rebuilding, but it is harder because it is better. At the end of my life I hope to look back and see what I have built and what I leave behind rather than to see that I left a mess in my wake. Let us get to work knowing that with God at our side it will be hard but it will certainly be worth it.

### **Call to Offering**

Donna Stenski

Lord of Light, when we become complacent and fail to see the wonder of your presence, you bless us with your radiance and your love. Illumine these gifts, that the world may see your light shining in our gifts and our offerings.

### **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**

Rev. Stillwell

In your never-failing faithfulness, Lord, you lead your beloved children into a land flowing with milk and honey. We come to you today, thankful for your manifold blessings. Receive these offerings as the first fruits of your bounty in our lives. Send our gifts into a world that is hungry to know your refuge and your strength. Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Rev. Stillwell

It is a simple yet frustrating fact of life that it is easier to destroy than rebuild. There are things that happen in our life that are so quick that they seem to take just an instant, but their effects last a lifetime. This should remind us first to be careful in all that we do and say, for a thoughtless action or a slipped word can lead to years of trust and friendship destroyed. Second it should keep us from being discouraged when we try to rebuild something in our life and especially when that something is our life, itself. Too often we do not heed either of these lessons.

When we forget the first lesson the best thing for us to do is to apologize quickly so that the damage will be limited and the rebuilding will be swifter. But when the destruction is severe we need to be honest about how long the work will take to restore what was lost. If we do not then we will be discouraged easily and give up quickly.

When I get discouraged over how much work it is to rebuild I think of two things, one is something I was told by a person who attended the weekly AA that was hosted at my previous church. He said with alcoholism comes great guilt. He said “sometimes you do such terrible things that you think that God doesn’t want anything to do with you. But then you come here and you learn that God does. No matter how terrible you have been, God will forgive you and love you. That made it possible for me to forgive myself and to love myself, and that made it possible to rebuild my relationships and my life”

The other thing I think of is the example we have of our God who has dedicated many millennia to restoring us to the paradise that God intended for God’s created. When I do I give thanks that God does not tire easily or give up quickly but is persistent and relentless. His steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100:5) I also give thanks that our reconciliation with God is not a long and arduous process tantamount to rebuilding a city wall or a large temple. Rather it is a simple call of repentance accompanied by a pardon that has already been prepared for us. Once we accept God’s forgiveness we will find that not only has our relationship with God been repaired, but we can begin to repair and rebuild our life much faster now that we have God with us to help.

As we share in this meal let us think of all the work God has put into restoring us to paradise, and let that inspire us to work to rebuilding our relationship with God and one another, rebuilding things in our life which have been destroyed or allowed to fall into disrepair and to rebuilding our world.

### **Communion Hymn**

“*These I Lay Down*”

Audra Allen, organist

Before I take the body of my Lord, before I share his life in bread and wine,  
I recognize the sorry things within: these I lay down.

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

Gene Sheller

Almighty God, At the end of our Sunday school lesson today the people in Judah who revered God’s name celebrated like frolicking well-fed calves. May we also rejoice as we come to this communion celebration established by Jesus for us to remember what he did for us? We are so sorry that we needed his sacrifice, but we are so thankful for his saving us from our sins. Please help us to be happy that Jesus saved us. Please bless this bread and cup as we remember and bless all who believe in him. In his name we pray. Amen

### **Words of Institution**

Rev. Stillwell

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.

### **Closing Hymn**

“*Let There Be Peace On Earth*”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With ever step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace one earth, and let it begin with me.

### **Benediction**

Rev. Stillwell

Remembering God’s grace, remembering God’s love, remembering God’s promise to rebuild your life and the world, go forth in confidence and hope.

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Recorded worship services can be found on the Church website or on YouTube,  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih\\_fzHCC2X0Jhc\\_sfniJ7C1O3X](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih_fzHCC2X0Jhc_sfniJ7C1O3X)

**Zoom Worship** will continue to be live at  
10:15 am each Sunday.

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45am using the  
meeting ID and password.

Meeting ID: **932 4557 4206** Password: **026316**

Fellowship with other "Zoomers" from  
9:45 – 10:15am.

Text your prayer concerns to be shared during  
worship to Rev. Chris at (412) 956-6590.

#### **Church Office hours:**

Karen is working from home on Monday, Tuesday and Friday,  
9 am – 2 pm. She will be in the Church Office on Wednesday &  
Thursday, 9 am – 2 pm. The Church phone is forwarded to Karen's  
cell phone and can be reached anytime.

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 during the school year.

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



**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](http://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

Ed Alexy  
Avery Allen  
Terry Bailey  
Donna Bakaitis  
Jim Banish  
Tom Barnhart  
Abby Blanchard  
Susan Britko  
Mabel Brooks  
Sandra Carman  
Denise Charles  
Wanda Chicone  
Emily Cope Robinson  
Ruth Cox  
Irma Davis  
Jessica Duke  
Libby Eberhard  
Fred Engle  
Jay Freudenberg  
Jett Fuller  
Derek Gardiner  
Lois Gayman  
Joe Greene  
Bonnie Gregg

Linda Hainer  
Kyle Hallam  
Judy Hanning  
Aryn Hess  
Ed Jackman  
Dallas Jacobovitz  
Family of Pam Kloss  
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &  
Ty James Lacock  
Bob Lanning  
Libby LeDuff  
Lee & Betsy Martin  
Dave McConnell  
Don Melvin  
Michaela Nixon  
Ruth Mikuta  
Deborah Patterson  
Bo & Patty Pryor  
Kayda Richards  
Cathy Rentgen  
Betty Jo Riggie  
Dave Ross  
Jim and Barb Roupe

John Shadeck  
Hannah Simpson  
Doug and Tracy Smith  
Cathy Stewart  
John Stewart  
Bernard and Jane Teagarden  
Beth Teagarden  
Nadine Teagarden  
Gary Weaver  
Nikki Wells  
Tom Williams  
Chuck & Mary Wiseman  
Sarah Wittenberg

#### **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



# Church Officers – 2022

Moderator .....	Gene Sheller	
Vice-moderator .....	Serena Dube	
Secretary .....	Sharl Burk	
Church Clerk .....	Bette Jo Puskarich	
Church Historian .....	Chuck Riggle	
Personnel Committee.....	Candy Wasalasky	22
	Jerry Puskarich	22
	Donna Stemski	24
	J.C. Leasure	25

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ed Palfreyman	22
Dave Dague	23
Von Lacock	24
Jim Ulery	25
_____	26

## TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Carmen Oliverio

## BOARD OF ELDERS

Cara Hritz	22
Jackie Nelson	22
Diane Palfreyman	22
Consuello Sheller	22
Kevin Puskarich	24
Rita Puskarich	24
Gene Sheller	24
_____	24
_____	24

## ELDERS EMERITUS

Eleanor Boyles  
Fred Engle  
Charles McConnell  
Nadine Teagarden  
James Wheeler  
Chuck Wiseman

## BOARD OF DEACONS:

Carolyn Blackhurst	22
Joyce Brandtonies	22
Ruth Campbell	22
Janet Houston	22
Julie Meier	22
Bette Jo Puskarich	22
Jerry Puskarich	22
Candy Wasalasky	22
Serena Dube	23
Dan Leasure	23
Karen Palfreyman	23
John Samida	23
Lisa Gardiner	24
Karla Glover	24
Jamie Hatfield	24
Deb Knight	24
Kathy Moninger-Ford	24
Tom Ulery*	24

## Junior Deacon

Financial Secretary/Treasurer –  
Brian Shaw



Please fill out this order form and return to the Church Office with payment by March 20. Indicate the number of flowers you would like. Make checks payable to “Fairhill Manor” and indicate “Easter Flowers” in the memo.

#\_\_\_\_\_ Tulips (6” pot) @ \$10/each

#\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinths (3 bloom) @ \$10/each

#\_\_\_\_\_ Mums @ \$11/each

#\_\_\_\_\_ Lilies @ \$11/each

**Orders with payment are due by March 20, 2022.**

Given by

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

(circle one)

In Memory/Honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

(circle one)

In Memory/Honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

(circle one)