

Manor Minutes
Volume 13 Issue 14
March 18, 2022



The Story Chapter 22 The Birth of the King – March 20

Prayer Shawl – March 21, 11am Parlor

Lenten Devotional Discussion – March 21, 7pm via Zoom

Choir Practice – March 24, 6:30pm

Stay up to date, check www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar

A special **Board Meeting will be held following worship on March 27, 2022** to consider recommended changes to the COVID Protocols. The Pastor's Cabinet met on Monday, March 14 to revise the Protocols. These recommendations have been emailed to each board member for review prior to the meeting. Please plan to stay in the Sanctuary or on Zoom after worship on March 27 to participate in this important meeting. A quorum of 15 Board members will be needed to take action on this (or any) item of business.

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 20 Free to Celebrate Ezra 6:13-22

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

Daffodil orders will be available next week. The **American Cancer Society** will let Karen know if they are available on Wednesday or Thursday. She will contact you about pickup or delivery. Thank you again supporting the American Cancer Society.



Nadine Teagarden is now living with Beth. If you would like to send her a card, please send it to:

Nadine Teagarden
c/o Beth Teagarden
826 Old National Pike
Claysville PA 15323





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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Connie Sheller, Bread
Gene Sheller, Cup
March 20, 2022 - 10:15am

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Shyla Rash

Leader: The Holy One calls us to trust and pray.

People: God is our light and salvation, the stronghold of our lives.

Leader: The Holy One calls us to take courage, as we travel the path with Jesus.

People: Teach us your ways, O God, and lead us on our journeys.

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Opening Hymn

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Audra Allen, organist

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou mayest smile at all thy foes.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

O Lord God Almighty, come and prepare your way into our hearts, into our families, into our congregation. Come, bringing the good news of your new covenant of love! We want you, we need you in our lives.

Lord God Almighty, we know that the day of your coming is a day of deep spring cleaning, a day of scrubbing and washing, a day of putting things back in their places and moving furniture to sweep out all the dust that has gathered. We open our hearts and lives to you; come and cleanse us, come and purify us, come and rub away the tarnish we've built up. Give us a close inspection; look closely into the cracks and crevices and corners. Throw open the windows of our hearts and fill us with the fresh air of your love and grace. Put a spring in our step, the joy that comes with clear vision and an orderly soul.

Lord God Almighty, thank you for your presence and goodness that is stronger than any other force in our lives. Give us the courage to trust only in you and to release our beliefs in superstition and sorcery. Keep us faithful to those we love and loyal to the truth. Help us to treat each other fairly - even more than fairly - as we would want to be treated. Give us a heart for those who don't have the support systems they need, those who are grieving and trying to learn how to live anew on their own. Nurture in us a love for all of your people, whether far or near, whether like us or very different. Open our eyes to see as you see, across borders and through barriers.

Lord God Almighty, thank you for coming to live among us in Jesus and for living in our hearts even still. Thank you for the hope that fills us when we see your light shining in the darkness and pushing that

darkness back with its glow. There is so much darkness around us. Help us to see your light shining in the midst of it. Help your light to shine in and through us in ways that push back the darkness and expand your goodness more and more wherever we are.

Lord God Almighty, ease the suffering in our world. Strengthen your church as we respond with food, water, clothing, places to sleep, safety and welcome. Bring wars to an end quickly, we pray. Please be with these we are worried about today, these who need your special care. Surround them with the light and warmth of your presence as we speak their names to you now....

Please be with us in our own worries, our own pain, our own dilemmas this day.... We trust in you, and we pray in the name of the one and only Son, born in grace and truth, Jesus the Christ who taught 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;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

First Scripture Reading

Malachi 3:1-6

Linda Reese

Anthem

“In the Quiet Hour,” by David Lantz

Choir

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

This morning we will read a book called “Our World is a Family” together. The words in this book are by Miry Whitehill and Jennifer Jackson, and the pictures are by Nomar Perez. This is how the book is described on its jacket:

Learn how to welcome neighbors into your community, especially if they’ve traveled a long way.

There are so many reasons why people move to new communities. In this vividly illustrated and joyfully written story, explore some of the causes behind immigration and become inspired to welcome new faces into your neighborhood with love.

With clear example of how to be a good neighbor, this inspiring and diverse read is perfect for any family who wants to make a positive contribution to the world around us.

Learn more about how to be a good neighbor to those who might be migrating into your community at <https://miryslist.org/ourworldisafamily>.

“Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior:

Ask yourself what you want people to do for you,
then grab the initiative and do it for *them*.

Add up God’s Law and Prophets and this is what you get.”

Matthew 7:12, *The Message*

Sermon

“Take Jesus For Example”

Rev. Stillwell

When my family gets together we enjoy one another’s company and we talk, but sometimes after we feel like we have said everything we decide to play a game. The game we go to most often is called “Outburst”, which is a game that involves guessing ten items of a certain category in a limited amount of time. The game is just challenging enough to be fun but not too much so that everyone of any age can play, but ours has an added element of difficulty. Our version of “Outburst” is from 1989 so when the judge (usually me) reads the category he has to add the phrase, “prior to 1989” to the category that is being guessed. So if the category is “Famous TV Sitcoms” the judge reads it as “Famous TV Sitcoms . . . Prior to 1989”. Inevitably someone forgets and shouts out beloved shows like, Friends, Seinfeld, or The Office, and we all yell, “Before 1989!”

Now this does not affect every category. Important WWII leaders, for instance, is no different today than it was in 1989. They haven’t made any more of them. Likewise, Famous Founding Fathers hasn’t changed, although I dare say Alexander Hamilton has gotten a lot more famous since 1989. We could, and we probably will, buy a new version of the game at some point, but when we do I think we will still occasionally pull out the 1989 version once in a while when we want a good challenge and a laugh.

What makes our game’s particular quirk challenging is that it limits our answers, but it also causes us to have to remember. For a person like me who was only 14 in 1989 we have to know things about a time when we were not fully aware, but for others who were adults then they have to cast their memory back a way and remember things that may have been forgotten. Always there is an actor or show or celebrity who will be mentioned when the results are revealed and someone will go, “How could I have forgotten about that?” We are surprised, but we should not be because it is amazing how easy it is to forget things that once were so commonplace. How many celebrities, athletes, movies, and TV shows were once the most well-known to us but have now been largely forgotten even by the people who loved them at the time? More than we like to admit I am sure.

If that is the case after only thirty years how much more is it the case after 2,000? I ask that because we have been studying and reading through the Bible, and I imagine you have likely found some story or detail that you forgot or perhaps never noticed before. Not everything is remembered, and we could spend our whole life reading the Bible closely but we will still get a question or two wrong if we were quizzed on its contents. Small details can be forgotten and stories like Esther that were very important at the time they were written can fade and be forgotten or not thought of much over the years but the most important things stand out. Take Jesus for example.

We are two thirds of the way through the Bible, and we are finally talking about Jesus. Like going to see a movie that you know features your favorite star, but doesn’t appear in the story until an hour in we can say, “finally”. It took a while to get here but it was worth it. Christians see Jesus as the symbolic center of the Bible even though the technical center is the book of Psalms. We think that way because we see the Bible as the story of God’s creating the world and everything in it, and working to save that creation from destruction caused by sin. As such Jesus is the culmination of God’s salvific work.

The stories of the Bible each make up a chapter in what is called salvation history; the efforts of God to save the world. First there was the promise to Abraham the creation of a land, the creation of a nation, the giving of the law, the building of a temple, the words of the prophet and each effort have their culmination in Jesus Christ. The idea being that God needed to come in person to show people the way, but God could not come as Christ until all things were put in place.

Therefore the Hebrew Bible concludes with the words from the prophet Malachi who promises that the long awaited day of the Lord will come when he says:

3:1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver. (Mal 3:1, 3)

Christians believe that those words of Malachi are fulfilled in Jesus causing the gospel of John to open by saying that the one promised has come, and he calls him the word made flesh.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-4, 14)

That is such a beautiful, powerful, and meaningful sentence. If you have gotten to this point in the story then you know that God did all manner of things to teach us and reach us. God gave us the Word which was handed down from generation to generation, but as you know, there are a lot of words in the Word, and people often forget them. The Israelites time and again forgot the Word of God and lived in opposition to one another and God.

Other times people argued over the interpretation of the words so that two people of the same faith, following the same commands, came to dramatically different conclusions. Still others emphasized some words more than others or over and above their frequency so that one or two verses here and there become the Word of God but hundreds of verses on a topic are considered a suggestion or nuanced to the point of having almost no meaning.

Words are good. Language is a gift from God, but having God in the flesh is even better than having God in the Word. Take Jesus for example. While Jesus also gave us many new words to remember and surprising commentary on the old words, it was his example that instructs us the most, and his example should be what we remember the most from the gospels and from his life.

More people remember Jesus feeding the 5,000 than remember Jesus telling his disciples, "You give them something to eat." We remember him welcoming children, healing the lame, forgiving the sinners, and driving out the money changers whether or not we remember what he said to those people in those moments. That is not to say that Jesus hadn't given us many wonderful words that we love and cherish just that his actions often spoke louder than his words. Likewise, it is just as important that his actions never contradicted his words.

This is important because I suspect that we all have known a person or two who spoke a good word but whose actions opposed all that they said. I mean a person who speaks of love but doesn't show love, someone who is positive in their speech but negative in their demeanor, someone whose words are filled with peace but their actions often result in destruction or chaos. At the very least we know that it is much easier to talk the talk than to walk the walk and many Christians have learned to talk before they have learned to walk. But take Jesus for example.

Before he begins his public ministry. Before he utters a word about who is blessed, before he tells a parable or teaches us to pray, he goes into the desert alone for 40 days and prepares himself for what he

has come to do. He fasts and he prays. He overcomes temptation. He is baptized and receives the Holy Spirit. In short, Jesus leads by example, and his words have all the more meaning because of this.

You know, it is not just TV shows, historical figures, or Bible verses that can fall into obscurity. Every time I turn around there is another internet page, game or phone app that everyone is using. Some have lasted, but most likely today's Tik-Tok will be tomorrow's MySpace. Today's Wordle will be tomorrow's Words with Friends. One site I think that may last is YouTube. It is great because it has something for everyone, and it is a place for people to share their videos. My son uses it to broadcast his podcast. The church uses it to share our services. I use it for many reasons, but one I find most helpful is that it has videos for how to do just about anything around your house. When I needed to fix a faucet, I went to YouTube. When I changed a dimmer switch I looked on YouTube. When I get stuck on a video game I know there is a gamer on YouTube who will help me by not just telling me what to do but by showing me what to do. I hope it sticks around because I gave away my home improvement books, because when I need to do something it is one thing to read some instructions, but it is much better to see how someone else does it and then follow their example.

This is just as true when it comes to being a Christian. By all means read as much as you can and do your best to remember and understand the words of God's story that we find in our Bible, but more important is loving one another, forgiving others, treating each other as your neighbor, and letting go of your will and replacing it with God's will.

If after all of your reading and study you still have a hard time knowing what to do, or you know what you should do but you are not sure how to do it, just take Jesus for example. Take Jesus as the example for your life and how you should live it. The mark of a Christian isn't how much they remember from church or Sunday school or how many scriptures they can recite or how much theology they can repeat. What matters is that we take Jesus as our example and do our best to live in such a way that others will be reminded of him through the way we act.

If you remember nothing else of God's story remember Jesus' perfect example of how we are to live and be so that in all that you say and do, in all the ways that treat one another, in all that you wish to accomplish in your life take Jesus for your example.

Call to Offering

J. C. Leasure

During this season of self-denial, let us deny ourselves of some personal possession in order to tell the story of Jesus Christ and to advance the kingdom of God.

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

Holy One, our light and our salvation, the stronghold of our lives, accept these gifts as a token of our commitment to walk in your ways. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

St. Francis said, "Preach the gospel, if necessary use words." Christ has commissioned us to preach the good news, and we can shout it from the highest mountain. We can proclaim it in every language. We can use every technological device at our disposal, or hire the best marketing and advertising minds the world has to get the message out, but if we preach the good news only with words, but do not reflect it in our actions who can blame others if they do not believe us?

Seeing is believing, and if people see the resurrected Christ in us, they may believe in spite of themselves, in spite of all the thoughts in their head that say it's crazy, it's impractical, it's silly to believe that a man rose from the dead two thousand years ago and promises us to live with him in eternity.

I suspect that we all are here in part because we have known people who lived as if they have met the resurrected Christ. They took Jesus as their example and because of that their example affected us greatly and taught us how to live our faith. Each week we meet at this table and we remember Jesus' words which are repeated, but we also remember his actions, his life, his death, and his resurrection which speaks louder than words. As we share in this meal let us take Christ as our Lord and example and live a life that reflects the good news of God's love better than any words we can share.

Communion Hymn

"Come, Risen Lord"

Audra Allen, organist

Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest; no, let us your guest be—with you we dine.
Yourself at your own board be manifest in this your sacrament of bread and wine.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Connie Sheller

Everlasting Father, Messiah, Yahweh, King of Kings, the greatest gift—we praise you and thank you for sending Jesus to teach us how to live in peace and harmony with our fellow mankind. We ask now, as we partake of this bread and cup, representing your Son's broken body, that we remember — we are your beloved people. 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

"Joy to the World"

Jody Mullis, pianist

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Go forth with confidence and hope, because God's love has been poured into your hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

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

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
Randy Ford
Jay Freudenberg
Jett Fuller
Derek Gardiner
David & Lois Gayman
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg

Linda Hainer
Kyle Hallam
Judy Hanning
Aryn Hess
Ed Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Kenger Family
Family of Pam Kloss
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &
Ty James Lacock
Von 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 Riggle
Dave Ross
Jim and Barb Roupe

John Samida
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

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.

Puzzle!

Complete the Scripture verses (NIV, unless marked)
using letters found in the words



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



See! The winter is _ _ _ _ ; the rains are over
and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season
of singing has come. (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

"Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no
part of it _ _ _ _ , it will be just as full of light as
when a lamp shines its light on you." (Luke 11:36)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your
fingers, the moon and the _ _ _ _ , which
you have set in place, what is mankind that you
are mindful of them ... ? (Psalm 8:3-4)

We all, like sheep, have gone _ _ _ _ _ ,
each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD
has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but
you are fellow citizens with the _ _ _ _ _
and members of the household of God.
(Ephesians 2:19, ESV)

Answer: past, dark, stars, astray, saints



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)
