

**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 13 Issue 15**  
**March 25, 2022**



*The Story* Chapter 23 Jesus' Ministry: Scary Good – March 27

**Congregational Meeting** – March 27, following Worship

Lenten Devotional Discussion – March 28, 7pm via Zoom

Bereavement Task Force – March 31, 5:30pm

Choir Practice – March 31, 6:30pm

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



To my church family:

I want to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls and prayers during my recovery. It has been a difficult time but I am getting better every day. Love you all.

Von



**Blanket Sunday** will be celebrated on Mother's Day, May 8. \$10 will buy a blanket for someone in need in some part of our world! Please give what you can. More information will be in the April newsletter.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister  
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor  
Elders: Jackie Nelson, Bread  
Cara Hritz, Cup  
March 27, 2022 - 10:15am

**Prelude**

Audra Allen, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship**

Amy Caldwell

Leader: Like a loving Father, God offers us freedom to choose our own path.

**People: In God's freedom, we are a new creation.**

Leader: Like a merciful Mother, God offers us compassion when we lose our way.

**People: In God's mercy, we are a new creation.**

Leader: Like a forgiving Parent, God welcomes us home with open arms.

**People: In God's embrace, we are a new creation.**

**All: Come! Let us worship the one who makes all things new.**

**Opening Hymn**

*"As with Gladness"*

Audra Allen, organist

As with gladness sages bold did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.

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

Rev. Stillwell

In the quietness of this moment, matchless God, speak to our hearts. We long to know you completely and fully, but the problem is that our vision and faith are too puny to envision or trust your greatness.

We can look into the heavens and see countless stars. We can see the surface of Mars as human inventions move over its surface. We can send our telescopes to the outer reaches of our solar system to snap pictures of the rings of Saturn. Yet when all of that is said and done, we have explored only a speck of dust in comparison to the vastness of the universe.

How, then, can we hope to fathom you, for whom the universe is but a small thing or perhaps even one of many? How can we hope to explain your presence and power when it was you who flung the stars and planets upon the tapestry of space? We cannot explain you, understand you or limit you, but we can attempt to understand our limitations, and then to say in faith, "We believe."

This is precisely what we say today as we meet as your people. Honor us in our attempts to share your love, to spread your compassion, to notify people of your presence in our world, so that they, too, may believe in you that by the power at work in us, you are able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

We give thanks that by your Spirit you empower us to bear with one another in love, maintaining unity in the bond of peace. We give you thanks, then, almighty God, that you call to us in grace and mercy, that you help our unbelief, that you empower us to be your people and your church.

May we, as your people, lead a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called, believing that in all your mighty creation there is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God of all, who is above all and through all and in all. .

*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**

**Matthew 3:13-17**

Amy Caldwell

**Anthem**

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand,” by Roy Wingwald  
Choir with Dale Hertrick

**Children’s Message**

Cara Hritz

I’m sure you recognize what I have in my hand. It’s a photo album with pictures in it. Do you have any pictures like this at home? Most parents have several photo albums that are full of pictures taken of their children as they are growing up. Let’s ask the parents here if they have pictures of their children at home.

We took pictures of our children in school, at church, playing, at Christmas time, on their birthdays, and many other occasions. We were pleased with them as they grew up and we are pleased with them today. Do you think God was pleased with His son, Jesus?

I know He was, because the Bible tells us that He was. When Jesus was baptized, the Bible tells us that there was a voice from heaven that said, “This is my Son and I love Him. I am very pleased with Him.” Why do you think God was pleased with His son?

Let’s read that verse again to see what God said first: “This is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him.”

What did God say first? That’s right! God said, “This is my Son!” God said, “This is my Son and I love him.”

What’s the second thing God said? That’s right! God said, “I love him.” God loves His Son!

These pictures show a lot of things that our children did. But more than anything, these pictures show that these are OUR kids. They belong to us and we love them!

When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we become the children of God. Our baptism is like an official adoption into God’s family. God loves us from the very beginning when we become His children because that is what He wants us to be.

God says to us, “You are my son. You are my daughter. And I love you!” God loves you! That’s pretty awesome, isn’t it? Let’s pray and thank God for bringing us in to His family.

Dear God, thank you for loving us and bringing us in to your family. Thank you for the gift of baptism. Thank you for the way you call us yours. Amen

**Second Scripture Reading**

**Matthew 5:1-11; 38-48**

Rev. Stillwell

**Sermon**

**“It’s All About Who You Know”**

Rev. Stillwell

As we move throughout the world we become aware that there are an endless number of doors. There are doors to houses, doors to offices, doors to rooms. Any sizable building will have several doors for entry and several more inside. Once I and a friend went to another friend’s house and we had difficulty figuring out which of the three doors that adorned the front of her house was the front door. So I knocked on the left door, he knocked on the right door, and of course, our friend answered the middle door.

As we move throughout the world and throughout our lives we also become aware that we will not be able to get into many of the doors we encounter. Some of them are locked and we do not have a key. Others are armed with alarms and so we stay away for fear that they will alert someone that we are trying to enter them. Others are guarded and we cannot get past.

But of all the doors that we see it is the doors that we do not see which are often the most important to us and often the hardest to knock down. Here I’m speaking of the doors of opportunity, the doors of perception, the doors of influence. You see doors are just as effective at keeping us out of a desired location in metaphor as they are in reality.

I found this out when I tried to get into the very prestigious doors of the University of Chicago’s Divinity School. The physical doors were easy enough to enter. They were unlocked and unguarded. I walked right through and met the students there, sat in on the classes, and roamed the hallowed halls. That was the easy part, but it was the doorway to admission that I found the most challenging.

They required a lot. Good grades, good performance, and good behavior in my previous schooling was just the first requirement. Next came the GRE. After this came the application followed by several written essays. In between of course was an application fee. When all of this was accomplished I was granted an interview with the dean. Finally, I needed one more thing. Or perhaps I should say three more things for I needed three letters of recommendation from good, respected, influential people who could speak on my behalf.

I thought long and hard about who to ask. I needed to make sure that they would be respected, that their name would look impressive, that they might hold influence to get me through that coveted door. Of course I also had to make sure they would write something good. In the end I chose a professor who knew me well and who was a respected Biblical scholar. Next I asked my minister thinking that a divinity school would want to hear from a minister on my behalf. Finally I chose a professor of English who had graduated from there and who knew some of the faculty there. I figured these three must have been influential enough, respectable enough, and impressive enough to help get me through the door of higher education.

As it turned out they weren’t enough, and after all that, I received a letter that simply stated, “We regret to inform you that we do not have a space for you at this time.”

There was no space for me to be taught about Jesus by the faculty of that school, but, for those who wished to be taught by Jesus Christ, himself, there was plenty of space and no doors to keep people out or in. For Christ had gathered a large group of disciples since beginning his ministry. He saw Peter, Andrew, James, and John by the Galilee and he told them to follow, and they did. He went throughout the region preaching in the synagogue and attracted crowds of people. Matthew tells us, “When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.”

At this point, Christ does not have the twelve disciples as we know them, so when Matthew says, “his disciples came to him” he is referring to the crowds of people who have come to hear him. There were no requirements to hear Jesus speak, no entrance fee, no golden ticket, no VIP pass, other than to drop what you were doing and come to the mountain.

Those who did were privy to the first of Christ’s teachings. He says, ‘blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> ‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> ‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> ‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

He goes on to give those famous words we all know about turning the other cheek and loving our enemies and so much more. There is so much to his teaching that we could get lost in its greatness, so we will stop here and focus on what have become known as “the Beatitudes”; the blessings.

A lot of people have just been blessed by this man who has picked up the mantle of John the Baptist, who is supposed to be the son of God and the long-awaited Messiah, but who are these people of which he speaks?

The poor in spirit are the sad, the downtrodden, the depressed. Along with them are those who mourn. They mourn for a loved one. They mourn for themselves. They mourn for the state of the world. The meek are the humble and the lowly. They are also the silent and the scared. Of course those who hunger for righteousness and the pure of heart are those who do God’s will. While the merciful and the peacemakers are the ones who work to establish God’s kingdom. And those who are persecuted and reviled for Christ’s sake are those who have already experienced the cross.

But still we may ask, who are these people? We know what they are like, but who is actually among these people who will inherit the earth, who will see God, who will be called children of God?

Were they in his audience? We know nothing of the crowds of which Matthew speaks. Who was there? If it was in the middle of the day was it filled with the unemployed and the listless? If Jesus spoke at lunch time was it a crowd of business people and laborers on their lunch break? If he spoke at night were there families with their children?

We do not know who was among this crowd, but since many, like Peter and Andrew, left their work to hear him, and we know that later women and children, the sick and the healthy, the curious and the indignant all came to see him, we could rightfully assume that they were in this crowd as well.

I imagine Jesus spoke to a very diverse audience, and, included in this audience, were some of the very people of whom he spoke. It is amazing to think that, as Jesus gave these famous words, the meek, the poor in spirit, the mourners, and the reviled could have been in the front row listening to him.

It is amazing because that is not how it works in our world. Imagine the people Jesus just described trying to get into an elite club to hear a famous speaker. Imagine them trying to get into a concert to see a popular band where ticket prices can climb as high as \$150. Imagine them trying to get into the Oscars or a big Hollywood premier where all the a-list celebrities fight to get invited. Imagine them trying to get into one of the inauguration balls where every four years corporations line up to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for access to the president.

In our world if someone has a message that people want to hear they will pay through the nose to hear it, and there are only so many people that will be let through the heavily guarded door.

Yet when Jesus gave his inaugural speech it was free of charge and the wealthy and powerful did not get special treatment. There were no doors blocking the way, and, in fact, Jesus claimed that those who could not get into the exclusive places of this world would be the ones to receive heaven and see God.

So the modern reader may read the Sermon on the Mount and see this as Heaven's guest list. These are the type of people who will be the first to enter through the narrow door, and, if these are the type of people on Heaven's guest list, then it is apparent that we cannot buy our way in or get by on influence. This should be good news for us. It isn't the cut of our hair, the style of our clothes, or the thickness of our wallets that gets us in.

So hearing the Sermon on the Mount should be good news to our ears but there is still something uncomfortable about it. It makes us unsure because the list seems restrictive in a different way. Now it isn't the wealthiest and the happiest who get in, but it is the saddest and most desperate; those who have suffered the most.

If we read the Sermon on the Mount like a guest list would we get in? When we ask who are these people about whom Jesus is talking, we really are asking are we one of these people? Are we meek enough to get in. Are our spirits poor enough? Have we shown enough mercy, made enough peace, mourned enough for the state of the world?

Well, if we think that way then the blessing of the sermon on the mount will turn into a curse. My preaching professor used to tell us, "Never turn a blessing into a command." When Jesus says blessed are the meek and the poor in Spirit he is not telling us to be meek or poor in spirit. Now that doesn't mean that we should not be merciful or try to make peace because Christ commands that we do this in many other instances throughout the gospel, but still we do not all have to be a MLK or a Nelson Mandela. Jesus said, "As you cared for the least of these, you also cared for me".

If we walk away from hearing the sermon on the mount wondering where our blessing is we can ask ourselves how have we treated the least among us for in the end it IS who you know who gets you in, only not in the conventional understanding of that saying.

I don't think that we should read over every line of the beatitudes and worry that we must fit into one of these categories to win Christ's blessing. Rather I think that the lesson for us is that we cannot enter

through the door of Heaven without a letter of recommendation. This letter should not come from the powerful or the influential. It should not come from those who are impressive by our standards, instead we must receive a letter of recommendation from the poor in spirit, the meek, the peacemakers.

Maybe I should have found some of those people to give me a recommendation to get into the doors of the University of Chicago. I probably would not have gotten in, but that's all right. For the door through which I wish to enter now would gladly take those references.

### **Call to Offering**

Gene Sheller

May we, who call ourselves Christ's disciples, continue to give freely of our worldly riches, just as Christ gave freely of his heavenly riches. May the morning offering be received.

### **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**

Pastor Gena

O God, bless these our offerings of our time, our energy and our money. Multiply them in ministry, that your ways of love might spread throughout our word. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Pastor Gena

Listen again to the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:1-9, this time from *The Message* translation:

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

“You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

“You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

“You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

“You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

“You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.

“You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

“You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.”

Welcome to this Table where things are always different than we expect them to be. This Table where no guest list is needed because all are welcome and have a seat. This Table, where our hunger for God is fed and our thirst for God's love is quenched. This Table, where the Son of God bends down and washes our dirty and tired feet. The Tables are turned; everything is upside-down here. Thanks be to God.

**Communion Hymn***“O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near”*

Audra Allen, organist

O God, unseen yet ever near, reveal thy presence now,  
while we, in love that hath no fear, before thy glory bow.

**Prayer for the Bread & Cup**

Jackie Nelson

Holy and Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, graciously hear this prayer.

Thank you for this day and this Holy Table where we can gather as one body, a family in love. After baptism Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days and fasted and prayed. That is a long time! We can't imagine it. Jesus is our example of taking time for prayer. We hardly miss a meal and our prayer time is not as good as it could be. It is no wonder that we are spiritually hungry and come to this table.

Feed us Lord, with this bread and cup. This is what we are starving for. Meager in its appearance but full of everything meaningful to us. You God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Your word, creation, Abraham, miracles, David, Hope, Faith, Love promise, suffering, obedience, mercy, heaven, grace, eternity...All of it!! Thank You for All of it.

Holy Spirit be with us as we share together. Speak to us during this time of Lent. In Jesus precious name, Amen

**Words of Institution**

Pastor Gena

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

**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**

Pastor Gena

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***“Seek Ye First”*

Jody Mullis, pianist

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

**Benediction**

Rev. Stillwell

May Christ's love fill you this day with the living and enduring word of God.  
May Christ's love lift you up and guide you, that you may go forth to transform the world.  
Shalom and amen.

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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)



**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

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

Nadine Teagarden  
826 Good Intent Rd  
Claysville PA 15323

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  
Carmen Oliverio  
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

**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.

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

# Puzzle!

Using the code, complete this passage based on Ezekiel 34.

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

“As a                                                         looks after his  
                                                        when               is  
                                                        them, so will I                             after my                             .  
I will                                                         them and                                                         them.  
I will                                                         for the                             and bring back  
the                                           . I will                             up the                                                   
and                                                         the                             . You are my  
                                          ... and I am your                      .”



Answer: shepherd, scattered, flock, he, with, look, sheep, rescue, pasture, search, lost, strays, bind, injured, strengthen, weak, sheep, God