

# Manor Minutes

Volume 12 Issue 19

May 14, 2021

Those with last names beginning with **F-O** and **P-Z** worship in the sanctuary **May 16** at 10:15am. The Worship Schedule can be found at: <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/sanctuary-schedule>.

## ZOOM – LIVE

**Zoom Worship this Week - Live from the Sanctuary at 10:15am!**

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45 am 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 Rev. Chris (412) 956-6590. He will share these during worship. At 10:15 am, mute yourself on Zoom (Not sure how to do that? Login at 9:45 am and someone will help). Those on Zoom are visible to each other for the entire worship service. If you would like to see but not be seen, click Stop Video on your Zoom screen.

### Children Worship & Wonder

We invite children age 3 – Grade 5 to participate in Children Worship & Wonder. Join CW&W on Zoom around 10:30 am (contact Pastor Gena for the login information). CW&W will conclude this session on May 23.

### Tween Team

The Tween Team will next meet on May 16 from 5pm-6pm via Zoom. If you know a Tween in 4<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> grade that would enjoy becoming part of the Tween Team, please contact Pastor Gena or JC Leasure.

Stewardship/Finance Ministry – May 18, 6pm via Zoom

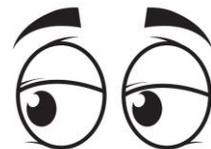
June Newsletter deadline – May 24

Pastor's Cabinet – May 25, 2pm via Zoom

Graduate Recognition Sunday – June 6

Congregational Meeting – June 6 following worship

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



### 2021 PENTECOST OFFERING

**MAY 16 AND MAY 23**

The 2021 Pentecost Offering is a special offering in support of the new church movement in your Region and across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**BE BOLD + BE COURAGEOUS + BE GENEROUS + BE THE NEW CHURCH**



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)*

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

May 16, 2021

**Prelude**

Audra Allen, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship\***

Kevin Puskarich

Mystery of God, draw us near. Fill our minds with awe!  
Wisdom of God, surprise us. Encourage us with hope!  
Glory of God, shine through our lives. Reveal your power and your glory!  
In the mystery, the wisdom, the glory of God, Let us worship!

**Opening Hymn**

*“All Creatures of Our God and King”*

Audra Allen, organist

All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing;  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam,  
O silver moon with softer gleam,

Refrain

O praise God, O praise God,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O rushing wind with voice so strong,  
you clouds that sail in heav’n along,

O praise God, Alleluia!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
you lights of evening find a voice,

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

Pastor Gena

Abiding God,

You teach us what it is to be happy – to live in your love, to follow your ways, to listen to you. When we do this, we are deeply nourished, our spirits are alive and healthy, producing wonderful fruits just when the time is right. You continually fill us up with your nutrients, sustaining us so that our spirits do not flag, our hope does not completely run out.

We know what it is like to be blown this way and that, never sure where we are going, angry at the slightest affront, out of control and never at peace, following every new idea that promises to save us and make us happy. We don’t even need you to judge us; we know within ourselves that we are not ok.

Come and plant us again in your love. May we feel your love being pulled through us, nourishing every one of our cells, from the tips of our toes to the tops of our heads. And may your love, flowing into every part of us, cleanse us of our fear, our self-loathing, our guilt and shame, our confusion, our chasing after things that really don’t satisfy us. In your love, replace these with deep love, well-being, and wholeness. Planted in your love, we are finally where we belong.

Thank you for your love. Thank you for friends and family who stick with us, who never leave us, who encourage us to be our best selves, who let us feel the pain of our mistakes so that we are drawn back to

you. Thank you for offering to guide us and show us a way to true happiness – to a deep joy that promotions and gadgets, popularity and power can never bring.

We pray for those who do not know the security of your love, the deep rootedness of abiding in you. Show us how to reach out with love, how to welcome these into your presence.

We pray for those who are being abused physically or emotionally, for those who live in the chaos of addictive homes, for those who never know when the next meal or the next hug are coming. Show us how to love, we pray.

We pray for our earth, your marvelous creation. Inspire us to take care of our home as you have asked us to, that it may flourish now and in the future, nourishing and sustaining generations to come.

We celebrate with those who are celebrating today. We lift up those who are preparing to graduate, beginning a new phase of life. We thank you for those who have cared for our loved ones, allowing them to recover and grow and heal and be able to live fully again.

We pray for those who are suffering, never able to do what they want to do, feeling deep pain and anxiety in their bodies, always frustrated or hopeless. Bring hope and new meaning to these, we pray. And show us how to love.

We pray for this congregation and for every gathering of your followers everywhere in your world. May we faithfully serve you and our neighbors in ways that produce good fruits of love, peace and joy.

We pray now, lifting to you the names of those you already know so well, those who need your special presence and care... Thank you for abiding with these loved ones.

And now, give us a deep sense of your abiding presence with us as we go throughout our days. No matter what happens, help us to know that we belong to you. We pray all of this in the name of your loving son, who teaches us how to love, Jesus the Christ, who teaches us to pray saying...

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

**Prayer Response:** “*Lord, Listen to your Children Praying*” Audra Allen, organist  
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\*** **Psalm 1** Donna Stenski

**Special Music** “I Sing Praises to Your Name” Jody Mullis

**Children’s Message\*** Pastor Gena

Do you have a pet at home? How do you take care of your pet(s)? What does your pet do for you? Maybe your pet is a playmate or brings you joy or keeps you company?

Pets are pretty fun, aren’t they? Talking about pets makes me think about an important word in the Gospel story today. Jesus says the word “abide” over and over. He talks a lot about love, too, when he says abide. Let’s listen to the first couple verses of today’s Scripture:

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. (John 15:9-11)

Do you know what abide means? I looked up "abide" in a dictionary and found a whole bunch of different meanings. Abide can mean to live in a place or live with someone, it can mean to listen to and follow rules, or it mean to stay with someone. Like "abide with me." I think that all three of these meanings show up in the story, but let's talk a little more about pets so that we can figure out this "abide" word a little more.

Let's start by saying that our pets abide with us. They live at our houses with us - that covers the first meaning. There are probably rules about your pets, like the cat needs to use the litter box, the dog needs to be on a leash, the fish need to stay in their water . . . you get the idea. That's the second one. The third one is a little more tricky. I said that it means to stay with someone, but I think that it is more than just staying with someone. It is staying with someone no matter what! More than just staying in the same room with them, it is loving them and caring for them.

That gets us to the Gospel story for today. It's a story from the Gospel of John, and while Jesus says a bunch of great things in John's Gospel, it is sometimes a little confusing. So, let me try to straighten it out a little. First Jesus says that the Father loves him, and that he loves us. Then comes that "abide" word, he says "Abide in my love." Or live in my love, follow the rules of my love and stay with me no matter what! He says that if we do that we will have joyful hearts.

Jesus says that if we abide in his love then we can love each other even more, which is the whole reason for the story. To teach us to live with each other, to listen to what other people need, and to love them no matter what.

Loving God, teach us to abide in your love, to live lives full of love, to listen to the needs of others, and to love and care for them no matter what. Thank you abiding with us, no matter what! Amen.

Adapted from <https://faithformationjourneys.org/?p=295>

**Second Scripture Reading\***

**John 15:9-17**

Rev. Stillwell

**Sermon\***

**"The Lord Abides"**

Rev. Stillwell

Within the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John there are a lot of stories and a lot of sayings that are repeated so that when you read them through you may begin to have a been there read that feeling. By the time you get to John, the fourth and final of the gospels, you get some new stories to read and that is good. No one needs to read about how Jesus calmed the storm for the fourth time, that starts to feel like Thanksgiving dinners when your uncle tells the same story he always tells. After a while you want a new story.

So John, which is not only the last gospel in the Bible but the last written, draws from a different source of stories to give us the signs of Jesus such as turning water into wine at the Wedding of Cana and the "I am" stories such as, I am the Bread of Life, I am the Light of the World and the one we have read today, I am the True Vine.

Not only is this story unique in the gospels but it uses a word that does not appear in any other gospel, and it appears nowhere else in John, but in this passage it appears 12 times. I think that means that we should probably pay attention to the word and the word is, "abide".

The truth is that I can't help but pay attention to it because it reminds me of one of my favorite movies, "The Big Lebowski", whose main character they call the "Dude" is a laid back guy who likes to use the phrase the Dude abides. It is really the only reference I have for that word which is otherwise so rarely used.

Maybe the Dude was influenced by this teaching of Jesus because in the Gospel of John we learn that the Lord abides, and we are called to abide as well, and if you didn't know what that word meant before you read this passage then you better know now, or you'll never have a chance of understanding what it means to abide in the Lord and he abides in us.

So let's take a look. There are many definitions of the word, therefore there are many ways for us to abide, and they all seem pretty appropriate to what Jesus is telling his disciples.

The first definition for the word "abide" means -- to remain; continue; stay. This is a good definition for how Christ abides in us. He remains, he continues, he stays. People thought they had lost him when he was lifted up on the cross, the loss was immeasurable, but when he is lifted up again, to ascend into Heaven so that his followers know that his physical presence will no longer be with them, they are not sad or upset, because he says to them, "Remember, I am with you until the end of the age".

The disciples trust that Jesus will be with them in all places, in all times. They will not have to hunt for him as they did when he went off to pray, and they will not have to fight to be near him for he can be near all of them all the time, because the Lord abides with them.

The second definition is helpful to understand how we can abide in him. It reads -- to continue in a particular condition, attitude, or relationship. We, who have taken Jesus to be a lord and will surely call upon him in our last moments, need a little reminder to stay in relationship with him in the time between. After the fire of conversion begins to die but before the end comes in sight we need some help in keeping our faith going.

This is important because our lives are up and down and often so is our faith, we're either on the mountain or in the valley, and we don't take much time just to be or we do not put much value in being on the plateau. But those can be moments when we really get a chance to know what it is like to rest awhile in Him and abide our days rather than just biding our time.

The fact is that we spend most of our time doing nothing really special and whether or not we feel Christ's presence in the rainy days goes a long way to whether or not we bear good fruit on the sunny days.

That's how Jesus describes abiding, being rooted, "just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Him. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.

Now this is a great metaphor for as the branch abides in the tree we should abide in the Lord. The branch bears the fruit, but only because of the nourishment it gets from its roots. We love to look at our forsythia bushes in the backyard in the early spring. It is so beautiful and bright and so we cut a few branches and put them in vase in our dining room to have some of that beauty inside. It worked for a while of course, but eventually it withered and died and had to be thrown out. The branches that continue to abide in the bush shine bright still.

There are still more meanings which eloquently describe what it means to abide with him and He with us. Another is – to put up with; tolerate; stand: Clearly this describes Jesus abiding in us. He puts up with our complaining, he tolerates our shortcomings, he stands with us even when we fall.

Next is -- to endure, sustain, or withstand without yielding or submitting, and again this is the Lord abiding with us. The Lord abides a vigorous onslaught of sin and selfishness. He abides all that we throw at him and yet he will not yield or submit because he wants us to yield and submit our will to him. There is no sin so great that he can't wash it away with his grace. No prodigal son can go so far away that he won't be welcomed back when he turns around, repents, and comes home.

The next definition works both ways and it is – to wait for; await. The example sentence that the dictionary provides is, “to abide the coming of the Lord or abide the coming of the Kingdom” which we must do, but Jesus waits for us as well. He waits for us to open our hearts, waits for us to turn to Him. The Lord abides our conversion.

Then we have -- to accept without opposition or question: to abide the verdict of the judges. This clearly is for us. Trust and obey as the old hymn sings for there is no other way than to abide in Jesus but to trust and obey. For us to abide in Christ and what he calls us to do is to surrender our will to his trusting that it is infinitely better than our own.

The final definition fits Christ completely as it says -- to suffer for. Of course he suffered on our behalf. God's love for us was so great that he came into our world in our form, and even without a crucifixion you could imagine the human form, with all of its desires and drives, with all of its pains and limitations, was suffering for God. Yet nothing was insufferable if it meant helping those who were lost finding their way back home. There was nothing that Lord wouldn't abide for the sake of the world.

If you didn't before, you can see now why it is that we begin our church year in Advent singing in “O Little Town of Bethlehem” with its verse, “O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord, Emmanuel,” and then we conclude the Easter season with Christ assuring us that he abides with us.

It is such a good and perfect word. Jesus won't come and go as he pleases. He won't come once and never again. The Lord will abide, dwell, live, reside, in our hearts. That is what having the Spirit is like. We teach our children about Jesus living in our hearts because that is the simplest way we can think to explain it, but another way to say it is that the Lord abides with us.

He abides with us and he calls us to abide in Him. When we are in the Spirit, when our hearts are attuned to God, we are not simply biding our time we are abiding our time, making the most of each day, enjoying every moment, recognizing it as a gift. When we abide in Him we make an ordinary moment a transcendent moment because we are aware of all that is around us and from this will come the fruits of which Paul spoke, kindness, mercy, gentleness, compassion, love.

As we move from Easter to Pentecost we celebrate that Christ is with us always and we should make it a point to be with him more. The Lord abides with us. That is what ties our whole faith together. Jesus ascended so that he could be with all of us, and He abides in us, so that His “joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.” I don't know about you, but I take comfort in that. It is so good knowing that he abides with us making things easier for all of us sinners.

**Call to Offering\***

Kevin Puskarich

Christ calls us to participate in a mission of reconciliation throughout the world—inviting us to participate in the building up of the body of Christ, where justice and peace prevail. Let us give generously of our time, talents, and treasure to foster this mission.

**Doxology****Dedication of Offering Prayer\***

Rev. Stillwell

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts, Lord, and on all of us gathered here, that we may abide in your love and that your love may abide in these gifts. In your loving name, we pray. Amen

**Invitation to Communion\***

Rev. Stillwell

The thing I have purchased which has given me the most peace is a fountain. I love it, and I envisioned many days of sitting by it and reading, but I have two kids so that doesn't happen much. In fact, I mostly run it while I am outside working in the garden, cutting the grass, or painting the deck, and I find that it is the most relaxing and peaceful in those moments. While I am working, the gentle sound of soothing, falling water reminds me of peace and makes my work lighter. I understand that to be similar to the way that the peace of Christ works in our lives. It is not a call to be complacent or lazy. It is not an opportunity to indulge in comforts or luxuries. The peace of Christ is a comfort in times of trial or struggle. It is an encouragement that should rouse us to action. It is a promise that our efforts ultimately do matter.

The peace of Christ does not keep us from work, but gives us comfort while we work, and I think that one of the reasons I find running water so relaxing is that it reminds me of the waters of baptism where we are united in his peace. As you come to this table let us receive the peace that Christ brings like a fountain receives the water. And let us receive the Holy Spirit that stirs us from placidness even as it reminds us of gentleness.

**Communion Hymn***"I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table"*

Audra Allen, organist

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,	I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus,
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Allelu.	I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus, Allelu.
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,	I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus,
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Allelu.	I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus, Allelu.

**Prayer for the Bread & Cup\***

Linda Reese

God of love, we remember as we gather here the love that Jesus Christ has for us. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. Jesus Christ called us friends and laid down his life for us. As we eat this bread and drink this cup, we remember that Christ gave his body for the sake of our lives. May your Spirit help us to grow in that love. Keep our hearts open so that when we have the opportunity to love others, we will recognize in it the opportunity to love you. Amen

**Words of Institution\***

Rev. Stillwell

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: That the Lord Jesus Christ, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is broken for you; eat this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; that is poured out for you. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat of the bread and drink of the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. (I Corinthians 11:23-26)

## Sharing in Communion

### Closing Hymn

*"Blessed Assurance"*

Jody Mullis, pianist

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)

(Refrain) This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

### Benediction\*

Rev. Stillwell

Created by God, we go to love all of creation. Blessed with love, we are bound by love. Chosen for love, we go now to love.

\* You can listen to these pieces of worship at

<https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/worship-audio-files>

Previous Worship services can also 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)

## PRAYER REQUEST

**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!

### Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center

Bill Behrens Rm 437  
835 S Main Street  
Washington PA 15301

### 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

Don Ainsley  
 Ed Alexy  
 Gary Anderson  
 Avery Allen  
 Donna Bakaitis  
 Tom Barnhart  
 Bill Behrens  
 Bristol Allan Berry  
 Abby Blanchard  
 Mark & Susan Britko  
 Mabel Brooks  
 Jordon Burk  
 Mary Chase  
 Wanda Chicone  
 Emily Cope Robinson  
 Rick Couch  
 Ruth Cox  
 Irma Davis  
 Sue Donaldson  
 Jessica Duke  
 Libby Eberhard  
 Fred Engle  
 Jay Freudenberg  
 Lois Gayman  
 Rose Ann Gorby  
 Joe Greene  
 Bonnie Gregg

Judy Grover  
 Sloan Amelia Hagy  
 Kyle Hallam  
 Connie Hanning  
 Judy Hanning  
 Sheila Harris  
 Aryn Hess  
 Ed & Harriet Jackman  
 Dallas Jacobovitz  
 Bob Lanning  
 Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &  
 Ty James Lacock  
 Von Lacock  
 Cheryl Leach  
 Libby LeDuff  
 Pastor Michael Lehman  
 Lee & Betsy Martin  
 Dave McConnell  
 Don Melvin  
 Parker Muhleman  
 Michaela Nixon  
 Ruth Mikuta  
 Dick Moninger  
 Georgette Murray  
 Karen Palfreyman  
 Deborah Patterson  
 Joyce and Denny Paul  
 Betty & Charles Riecks

Betty Jo Riggle  
 Jim and Barb Roupe  
 John Shadeck  
 Theresa Shape  
 Hannah Simpson  
 Doug and Tracy Smith  
 Rolinda Sprowls  
 Cathy Stewart  
 John Stewart  
 Beth Teagarden  
 Nadine Teagarden  
 Gary Weaver  
 Nikki Wells  
 Tom Williams  
 Chuck & Mary Wiseman  
 Sarah Wittenberg  
 Marcie Yocum  
 Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash



### Becca Caldwell's Graduation Party!

When: May 29th, 2021 from 11am – 1pm

Where: Fairhill Manor Christian Church 351 Montgomery Avenue  
 Washington, PA 15301

**Please RSVP by May 15th** Amy 724-207-3945 call or text or  
[acaldwell8898@gmail.com](mailto:acaldwell8898@gmail.com).

Let us know how many will attend and your sandwich preferences.  
 Turkey, Roast Beef, Ham Pretzel bun, Italian or Club

We hope to see you there!

### 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 Friday.

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

# LAURELVIEW NEWS

April showers bring May flowers and exciting news about Laurelview. This year we are happy to announce some different opportunities for the summer camping program at Laurelview. While we are still working on all the details, we wanted to share this great news with you.

We will kick off the season with **Family Camp June 24-27**. All ages are welcome! Families, including church groups – church is family after all, will work together as one group. This group will have an area at camp to set up tents to build their little community. We will have a schedule with opportunities for the groups to come together for various activities throughout the day including keynote and recreation.

**NOTE:** We have plenty of old bed mattresses people can use in their tents for added comfort. If someone wants to come and does not have a tent, they can contact Rachel Neil or John Owen.

In July, we will have tentatively set the dates for two camps:

July 8-11 Grades 10- Graduates

July 15-18 Grades 7-9

These dates and format of the camps are contingent on social distancing orders and guidelines over the next few months and may need to change format-wise.

We will end the summer with another family camp August 5-8.

Look for more information to be coming soon.

## WANTED!

### Photographs & Memories

The Thomas Campbell Apartments are celebrating 50 years of providing affordable housing in Washington, PA. The Board of Trustees is looking for pictures, memorabilia and memories. If you have anything to share, please contact Lisa Buday at 724-938-1355 for information on how to best share your items and preserve your memories.

ALSO! Save the date for the 50th Anniversary Celebration: September 25, 2021.



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The General Board, at its meeting on May 12, 2021, approved and is recommending to the congregation a change to "Article IV, Section E. Election of Honorary Officers," of the Constitution.

Proposed revision to constitution:

Current Article IV, Section E Election of Honorary Officers

The names of prospective honorary officers will be submitted to the elders. The elders will make a recommendation to the general board. The general board will then make a recommendation to the congregation for approval.

Suggested revision:

Fairhill Manor Christian Church has four categories of honorary offices. They are Elder Emeritus, Deacon Emeritus, Trustee Emeritus and Disciple Emeritus. For each office, it is suggested but not required, the nominee shall have served a minimum two full terms in the office for which they are nominated and have fulfilled the duties of that office above and beyond expectations. For elders a minimum of two terms or six years; deacon, a minimum of two terms or six years; trustee a minimum of two terms or ten years; disciple a total of ten years of service is required but that service can be in any combination of offices and/or positions. Any member of the congregation can nominate a person for any honorary office.

The following steps are required for someone to become an honorary officer:

1. A nomination will be made in writing, recommending an individual for a specific honorary office.
2. The nomination shall include the name of the nominee and the nominator, terms/years of service and the reasons why the nominator believes the nominee should receive this honorary status.
3. The nomination will then be submitted to the elders.
4. If additional information is needed, the elders may request a meeting with the nominator to discuss the nomination.
5. The elders will then make a recommendation to the general board.
6. The general board will then make a recommendation to the congregation.
7. The nominee shall be notified of their honorary selection.
8. The congregation will then make the final decision on the nomination.
9. Upon approval, the nominee shall be honored, at a Sunday service, where formal recognition shall include the presentation of a certificate naming the nominee to their particular office as well as a lapel pin.

# Puzzle!

Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.



Th\_\_r\_\_for\_\_,  
\_\_s G\_\_d's ch\_\_s\_\_n p\_\_ \_\_pl\_\_,  
h\_\_ly \_\_nd d\_\_ \_\_rly l\_\_v\_\_d, cl\_\_th\_\_  
y\_\_ \_\_rs\_\_lv\_\_s w\_\_th c\_\_mp\_\_ss\_\_ \_\_n,  
k\_\_ndn\_\_ss, h\_\_m\_\_l\_\_ty, g\_\_ntl\_\_n\_\_ss  
\_\_nd p\_\_t\_\_ \_\_nc\_\_. B\_\_ \_\_r w\_\_th  
\_\_ \_\_ch \_\_th\_\_r \_\_nd f\_\_rg\_\_v\_\_ \_\_n\_\_  
\_\_n\_\_th\_\_r \_\_f \_\_ny \_\_f y\_\_ \_\_ h\_\_s \_\_  
gr\_\_ \_\_v\_\_nc\_\_ \_\_g\_\_ \_\_nst s\_\_m\_\_ \_\_n\_\_.  
F\_\_rg\_\_v\_\_ \_\_s th\_\_ L\_\_rd f\_\_rg\_\_v\_\_ y\_\_ \_\_.

C\_\_l\_\_ss\_\_ \_\_ns 3:12-13, N\_\_V

Answer: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:12-13, NIV