Manor Minutes
Volume 14 Issue 20
May 19, 2023

- Bible Study with Rev. Chris – May 24, 1-2pm via Zoom
- Choir Practice – May 25, 6:30pm Choir Room

Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar

Upcoming dates –

- **May 28** Baptism
  Sunday School Teacher & CW&W Volunteer Recognition
  Last day of Sunday School & CW&W
  Pentecost and Sunday School Celebration
  Cookout after worship
  Wear **RED**
- **June 4** – Graduate Recognition Sunday

Pentecost Offering - May 21 and 28

In the beginning, every church was new. Jesus sent out disciples to proclaim good news and to experience the hospitality of neighbors. The Pentecost offering received on May 21 and 28 helps ensure this movement continues to embody the Disciples of Christ vision: to share the Good News, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. Your gift supports regional new churches and New Church Ministry efforts to equip, train and empower new leaders.

You can participate in the Pentecost Offering by giving directly to the Disciples Mission Fund through their website www.disciplesmissionfund.org/give, through Fairhill Manor on the Givelify app, or by writing a check to Fairhill Manor with "Pentecost Offering" in the memo.

Graduate Sunday

will be June 4. We will honor graduates from high school or higher education during worship. If you have someone in your family that you would like to recognize, please send their name, relationship to you, graduating school and their future plans to the office by May 31.

$2,000 Reese Grants for Post-Secondary Education

Reese grants in the amount of $2,000/year are available for Fairhill Manor members pursuing post-secondary education. Members may receive the grant for up to 4 years of education but must re-apply for the grant each year. Applications are available at fairhillmanorchurch.org/grant and are due by **July 1**.

Bible Study with Rev. Chris

continues on Wednesday, May 24 from 1-2pm via Zoom. Zoom will open at 12:50pm. The Zoom link will be emailed Tuesday. We will continue the study of The Lord's Prayer. Feel free to join even if you were not able to join last week.

To prepare for May 24, "Give us this day our daily bread" read: Exodus 16, John 6:30-35 and James 2:14-18.

FMCC Night at
Washington Wild Things
Friday, June 16, 7pm
Fireworks Night

Tickets - $10/person Parking Pass - $2/car

Jody Mullis will be singing the National Anthem.

Sign up in the Narthex for tickets and parking passes.

Please turn in cash or check
(payable to FMCC) to the office by June 4.

A big thank you to Serena Dube for leading the children's activity of making button flowers that were handed out for Mother's Day.

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
Gary Ford, Cup

May 21, 2023 – 10:15am

Welcome Rev. Stillwell

Call to Worship Connie Sheller

Leader: Let us gather in this space.
People: We gather from many places.
Leader: Let us center ourselves for worship.
People: We are one in the Spirit with joy in our hearts.
Leader: Let us receive God's blessing.
People: We are one in the Lord whose blessing is ours.
All: We are God's beloved! Amen!

Opening Hymn *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"* Carson Throckmorton, organist

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Rev. Stillwell

Lord, our God, pour out your Holy Spirit once again, that the world may know the gifts and blessing of your power. Take away our confusion and grant us clarity of vision. Open our senses to the mystery and wonder of faith. Open our minds to the signs of hope you seek to share with us.

Breath of God, renew us in this time of worship. Help us set aside thoughts that trouble us. Help us pause the challenges of the world that taunt us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may be re-spirited in this hour by your power and your grace.

Life-giving God, we receive your blessing, but we don't always feel worthy to receive it. Your call often confuses us and your love seems too generous. We worship and pray, yet we still count the times we fall short of what we think you expect of us. Your mercy is abundant, but we hesitate to open our hearts to receive it. Get our attention and draw us closer to you, that we may know the relief of your assurance. As we pray to you, hear our prayers now spoken and those unspoken.

O God hear our prayers and looks upon us with eyes filled with compassion. We are indeed your church, called together in one place for praise and thanksgiving. May your Holy Spirit fill this sanctuary and sanctify our lives. Amen.

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 power, and send us grace.

First Scripture Reading Psalm 68:1-10; 32-35 Kevin Puskarich

Anthem "Speak, O Lord," by Getty Choir

Children's Message Rev. Stillwell
What kind of day are you having today? Are you happy or are you sad? What are some of the things that make you happy? Here are some things that make me happy

A sunny day. A party. Spending time with a friend.

What are some things that make you sad?

Falling down and skinning your knee. Feeling all alone. Dropping ice cream.

When you think about things that make you happy and things that make you sad, it is pretty simple. When something good happens, you are happy and when something bad happens, you are sad. Do you think Jesus wants you to be happy? Listen to what Jesus said in our Bible reading for today, "[20]Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy."

Does that mean that nothing bad will ever happen in your life? No, of course not, but the difference between happiness and enjoy is that happiness describes what is happening right now, but joy is the feeling we have knowing that even when we are not happy we are going to be all right. Joy is knowing that though it may be dark now the sun will come out tomorrow. Even when you are sad, you can still have joy in your heart because you know that Jesus loves you.

Second Scripture Reading John 16:16-24 Rev. Stillwell

Sermon **"Pain With Purpose"** Rev. Chris Stillwell
I have two children, but I have never given birth to either of them. Having no experience in this matter I can only surmise from what I have seen, and from what I have heard, that it is hard. I know many of you will count that as the understatement of the century. Giving birth is hard and that is why, when I was in middle school and our Sunday school teacher gave birth to her first child, the girls in the class had many questions for her, first and foremost of which was, "How painful was it?"

I can imagine why that question was more on the mind of the girls than the boys in the class, but I was struck by her answer when she said it was the greatest pain she had experienced, and the easiest pain to forget. It was pain with a purpose she said, and that seemed to be the right answer then and the right answer when my wife and I were talking about having a second child.

After all, giving birth to the first child looked and sounded pretty painful. There are many forms of pain we might go through but childbirth is about the only one we go through willingly. I remember watching my dad deal with the recovery from open heart surgery, and I cannot imagine he would choose to go through it again if he did not have to, but there was my wife willing to go through the greatest pain of her

life a second time, but it wasn't because she had forgotten it as my Sunday School teacher had said, just that the pain was worth the pleasure of a second child. It was pain with a purpose.

So we did and I am glad we did, and I am glad that I did not have to be the one to give birth. It always struck me when Owen was born and Charlotte was born how my wife could experience such pain and such joy simultaneously. It was a moving experience to say the least.

We talk about Jesus as the son of God and he calls God, Father, and in using these masculine terms we are tempted to act is if God is a man or that manliness is next to Godliness, but the entire point of Christ is so that humans would know that God loves us and knows us. If we believe Christ to be fully human and fully divine then we believe that God knows all that we go through and all that we face, and experiences it so that we will know and trust that God can help us to transcend this earthly life and leads us to God's Heavenly Kingdom.

Certainly Jesus never gave birth, but if we accept Christ as being the incarnation of the maker of Heaven and earth and the one who made them male and female in God's own image, then we know that when Christ uses a birth metaphor to describe something he isn't just talking about something he heard about it. God knows what it means to give birth. God who was crucified on the cross so that we might believe God's love for us is unending and who used that death to inspire our faith through the resurrection knows a thing or two about pain with a purpose.

That is why, on the night before his crucifixion, he takes the time to teach many things to disciples that they will not fully understand until after it has occurred and, in the middle of a long treatise with many memorable teachings Jesus uses a birth metaphor to describe what the disciples will go though in the days ahead. He says to them:

> A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me"?
> [20]Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have
> pain, but your pain will turn into joy. [21]When a woman is in labour, she has pain, because her
> hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of
> the joy of having brought a human being into the world. [22]So you have pain now; but I will
> see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

The disciples would not go through physical pain. That pain they were spared, but certainly the emotional pain they experienced could be described as anguish, and just as certainly the feeling they felt when they saw him alive again was joy. Not happiness but joy.

Joy is not happiness. They are related to be sure, but happiness is fleeting while joy remains. If we spend our life chasing happiness I think we will be frustrated. Not that we will never find it, but that it is like a butterfly that flits by and lands near us for a while, but just as quickly departs. Joy on the other hand is much deeper. It radiates and it undermines. It is sometimes overwhelming but other times undergirding. The biggest difference between happiness and joy is that when sadness comes happiness goes, but joy, if it is rooted in something lasting, remains.

Go to a funeral, and you will know this to be true. Funerals are an experience with sadness and joy especially if you believe that the departed have gone on to a better place and you will see them again. A colleague of mine has three sermons that he preaches at a funeral all based around the same theme that death is really birth into a new life. In this way death is like a cocoon out of which comes a new and better life.

On the surface this is not what Jesus is talking about in this passage. He is talking about his death to be sure, but the pain and anguish his disciples will feel is the three days in which they will not see him and their joy will come when they do. On the other hand, while that is not the text of Jesus' teaching I am certain it is a correct reading of the subtext.

In effect we are born to die, and this knowledge gives us great sadness. In fact all of us men and women might look to that day with trepidation and, if we were able to speak to one of our loved ones who went before us, the first question we might ask is, "Does it hurt?"

In the Harry Potter series of books Harry gets a moment to talk to his deceased loved ones who appear to him as he faces the possibility of his own death asks, "Does it hurt, dying?" To this his Godfather answers, "quicker than falling asleep," which I feel doesn't entirely answer the question but gives him assurance that what pain he experiences will be forgotten, as his death will lead to others freedom. Again pain with purpose.

If we think as death as another birth, it will help us to deal with any trepidation we might have concerning the pain we might experience in that moment, especially if we see it as fleeting and the pleasure eternal, but I want to add to this by suggesting that all the pain we experience in this life is as Jesus described it, birth pangs. In fact this is a common theme in the Bible. Jesus talks about the problems of the world as birth pangs as the Kingdom is being birthed into the world. Paul says much the same thing when he writes to the church in Rome, "For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now." Likewise Isaiah and Jeremiah also use this imagery.

We spend so much time in our life dealing with pain. From the first moment we come out crying because it is so bright and cold, to every scraped knee and broken bone, to the pain of surgeries and accidents, to the emotional and psychological pain that comes with living in this world, we must remember, "you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy."

We have come to worship God and to be uplifted, and we have brought our whole selves today. We have brought our good traits and our bad. We have brought our happiness and our sadness, we have brought our gifts and our pain. We bring these things not expecting them to be eliminated but to rejoice knowing that our pain is not the final word.

The composer, Richard Wagner, once said "Joy is not in things; it is in us," but it is in us because Christ is in us, and he has made our joy complete. "You have pain now," Christ concludes, "but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." No one can take away our joy, and if we see our pain as the pangs of birth of a new and better life not even we will take our joy away, for we will see our pain as pain with a purpose, and that is the easiest pain to forget.

Call to Offering Barb Bailey

God of all creation, you offer us so many blessings. For creating us in your image and entrusting us to reveal your presence throughout the world, we thank you. Create blessings, even miracles, through the gifts we now bring, that others may sense your abiding presence and know your extravagant love. In gratitude and hope, we pray. Amen.

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

Creative Spirit, create miracles through the gifts we return to you now. Create miracles through us, as we give our lives back to you. Create miracles through our gifts, as we share them with one another. Truly, the whole of the gifts you have given us is greater than the sum of the parts, and what we give we trust you will multiply as they are sent out into your world. Amen

Invitation to Communion Rev. Stillwell

My wife is wise. Sometimes I forget that. When I do she reminds me, and this is how she reminded me recently. At this time of year I often get frustrated with many things around the house. The grass always seems to need cut, the carpets are always getting dirt tracked on them, and the kitchen floor shows the faintest bit of dirt. Meanwhile I have a retaining wall in my backyard that is crumbling and the ivy has not grown in enough to cover it up yet.

When these imperfections get me frustrated she told me that my problem is I spend too much time looking down. She is right. When we walk around looking down there is so much wrong that we notice, we become mired in the imperfection of this world, but when we walk with our head up we see the sky and the sun.

There is a reason why we imagine Heaven to be in the sky or we picture God looking down at us from on high, and that is because our hope is that God will lift us up above all the things in this world that get us down, and we hope that God will do this now, not only after we die.

As we share in this meal we remember that Christ said, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself." In order to see Christ we need to spend less time looking down and more looking up. Therefore, let us rejoice for we know that there is much in this world that might weigh us down, but our call is to keep our head up so that we might focus on Christ who will lift us to where he is which is above all.

Communion Hymn *"We Call Ourselves Disciples"* Carson Throckmorton, organist

We call ourselves disciples, as pilgrims on the way.
We seek the truth in wisdom, and beauty in each day.
As women, men, and children, we serve, Christ's path to clear.
In joyful expectation we see God's reign draw near.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup Gene Sheller

O God, we come to you praying that we are yours, and we thank you for helping us to be yours by sending your Son to live among us and tell us about you. We thank you for sending him to be the sacrifice for our sins. We thank you for these emblems that represent his sacrifice, the bread as his body and the cup as his blood.

Please bless the emblems and us as we partake together. We love you, honor you and praise you.
In Jesus Christ's 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. Gluten free wafers are available in the Narthex.

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 *"I've Got Peace Like a River"* Jody Mullis, pianist

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

Benediction Rev. Stillwell

Bring God's loving presence to the world. Be companions of kindness to everyone you meet. Go forth, trusting that our companion God goes with us, now and forevermore.

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:

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

Chuck and Mary Wiseman
880 S Main St Apt 214
Washington PA 15301

Nancy Gregg (Evergreen Assisted)
336 N Main St
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokely
900 N Cass Lake Rd Apt 324
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Elinor Newman
835 S Main St Rm 534
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Carol Brown
36 Old Hickory Ridge Rd Rm 213
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Ed Alexy
Avery Allen
Jeannie Allison
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Jim Banish
Martin Berisford
Eleanor Boyles
Mabel Brooks
Doug Bush
Leslie Byron
Sandra Carman
Clayton Chalfant
Leslie Chalfant
Denise Charles
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Aimee & Jim Coture
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Sue Donaldson
Phyllis Doria
Benjamin Dube
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Thomas Farabee
Gary Ford
Jay Freudenberg
Lois Gayman
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg
Kyle Hallam
Theresa Hancher
Sheila Harris
Aryn Hess
Ed Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Kenger Family
Ivy Lacock
Ty Lacock, Jr.
Bob Lanning
David Leonard
John Lewis
Lee Martin
Dave McConnell
Pam McCord
Ruth Mikuta
Paul Myers
Joe Neckerman
Elinor Newman
Homer Nixon
Michaela Nixon
Sandy Nixon
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Deborah Patterson
Bo & Patty Pryor
Rick Rafferty
Cathy Rentgen
Kayda Richards
Betty Jo Riggle
Dave Ross
John Samida
Valerie Shetler
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Cathy Stewart
John Stewart
Bernard Teagarden
Beth Teagarden
Jane Teagarden
Thad Turner
Tammie Wallace
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Sarah Wittenberg

In the Military

Lance Dague	Andrew Gregg
Terrell McClain	Zachary Keene
Brandon Lipscomb	Sarah Lipscomb
Shawn Dallatore	Travis Ringer
Emily Chase	Dylan Demain

Zoom Worship

We welcome visitors and members alike to Sunday morning Zoom Worship. Let's create a welcoming, uplifting and worshipful experience for all who gather. Please **mute** your screen by 10:10am so the sound folks can better assess how things sound before worship begins.

Zoom Worship is live at 10:15am each Sunday
"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 10am using the following meeting ID and password:
Meeting ID: 932 4557 4206
Password: 026316
Fellowship with other "Zoomers" from
10 – 10:10am.
Text your prayer concerns to be shared
during worship to
Rev. Chris (412) 956-6590.

Bethany Class Schedule

May 21	An Ethiopian Is Baptized	Acts 8:29-39
May 28	Saul of Tarsus	Acts 9:9-17