

Manor Minutes
Volume 13 Issue 23
May 20, 2022

Book Club – May 23, 7pm via Zoom

June Newsletter Deadline – May 24

Personnel Committee – May 25, 4pm Library

Choir Practice – May 26, 6:30pm Choir Room

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



Communion Bread

As we move away from using pre-packaged Communion kits, we are looking for those who might like to participate in the ministry of making unleavened bread for our weekly Communion services. We have a tried and true recipe that makes about one month worth of Communion bread. It is easy to make but takes some time and patience to cut into individual servings. If you are interested, please see Carolyn Blackhurst (Chairperson of the Deacons), one of the Pastors or call the Church Office.

Special Board Meeting - May 29

There will be a special called Board meeting after worship on May 29 in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. We will consider quotes for replacing the organ speakers and for upgrading our audio/video/streaming systems. Please plan to attend.

Fifth Sunday Special Offering - May 29

The Board approved a new Funeral Dinner policy at its May 2022 meeting. As per that policy, "when a church member dies, a funeral dinner will be provided to the family of the member and their guests free of charge. Donations from the family will be encouraged to cover the cost of the meal. All others are welcome to use the church facilities for funeral dinners as per the Building Use Policy and provide their own food at their own cost."

In order to provide this important ministry to grieving families, we are asking the congregation to give as they are able to an established Funeral Dinner Fund. You may contribute to this Fund at any time on Givelify. We will also collect a Special Offering to support this fund on the fifth Sunday when a month has five Sundays (four times per year). Our first of these offerings will be collected on May 29. Please give as you are able.

Graduate Sunday

Fairhill Manor will be celebrating **Graduate Sunday** on June 5. If you are graduating or you have a family member who is, please contact the Church Office to let us know. Send an e-mail with the name of the graduate, school they are graduating from and their relationship to Fairhill member. Information is needed by **June 1**.

Bethany Class

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

The class will begin at **9am** on Sunday.

Meeting ID: 883 3055 7258 Passcode: 344061

Unit 3: Liberating Letters

May 22 Freedom, Love, and Faith
& The Fruit of Freedom Galatians 5:1-26

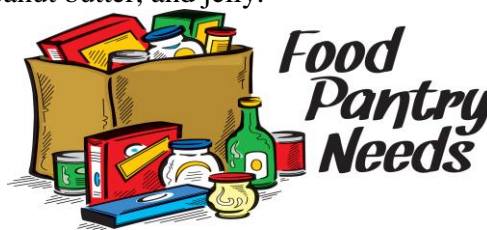
This Zoom class will also be available Wednesdays at 1pm.
You will use the same Meeting ID and Passcode as Sunday link.



There is still time to join!

A new **book group** is beginning on May 23. All are welcome to join. Our first book selection is *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer* by Richard Rohr. Read Chapter 1 and join us via Zoom at 7 pm for discussion (or quiet listening) and fellowship. We will not meet on May 30 but will meet every Monday evening at 7 pm thereafter. We will choose our next book together as a group. If you need help ordering a book, please contact the Church Office. Scholarships are always available.

Remember to donate non-perishable food items to **Heaven's Basket**. The collection container is located in the narthex. The items that Heaven's Basket is most in need of are: mashed potatoes, rice, condensed soup, pasta/pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pancake mix/syrup, oatmeal, peanut butter, and jelly.



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



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Diane Palfreyman, Bread
Cara Hritz, Cup
May 225, 2022 - 10:15am

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Gary Ford

Leader: Jesus dwells among us, teaching us to believe in his name.

People: Let us offer God our thanks.

Leader: The Holy Spirit dwells among us, guiding us down the paths of life.

People: Let us offer God our praise.

Leader: God dwells among us, beckoning us to worship.

People: Let us offer God our worship.

Opening Hymn

“*God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*”

Audra Allen, organist

God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

O God of all Time, what is the point of life, of all of our comings and goings, moving and working and resting? What does it gain us? What is it all for? The sun rises and it sets, the wind comes and goes and comes again. We spend our lives working so that we can retire. And then retirement either never comes or isn't what we had hoped or is so busy that we have to retire again from retirement. What is the point of all of this? Moving from place to place. Building, tearing down, rearranging.

God of all Time, we are weary of fixing things just to see them wear out again. We are weary of cutting and uprooting things just to see them grow again. We are weary of cleaning things just to see them dirty again. We walk our dogs, we water our plants, we fill our birdfeeders, we fuel our cars just to do these things all over again. When will we ever finish? Even our conversations seem to never hold anything new; we tire of hearing ourselves say the same things over and over again, just to different people in different settings.

O God of all Time, thank you for hearing our frustration and despair, our confusion and anxiety, our mid-life crises that seem to happen at any age. We are hoping that our lives do mean something; that all of these things we do are not for nothing. We are hoping that something we do or say might be remembered in generations to come.

While we are still weary, O God, we find ourselves giving you thanks for the dawn of each new day which brings us a fresh, clean start. Help us to find comfort again in the rhythms of our days. We find ourselves giving you thanks for the wonder that is your creation, that its cycles of seasons remind us that beautiful new life does come from death and decay. Help us to allow ourselves to be wowed again by the miracle of all growing things. We find ourselves giving you thanks for the wonder of our bodies and our lives. Help us to marvel again at how wonderfully we are made. Help us to soak in the differing joys of each stage of our lives and the lives of those around us.

Bring delight and awe back into our daily routines. Give us pause to see you in the simple things. In the midst of our routines, while our hands are occupied with familiar tasks, give our spirits time to rest in and enjoy your presence.

As we place our lives in your hands, asking you to guide us and show us how to spend the gift of time you have given us, so we place our cares and worries for those we love in your hands. Please care for these whose names we have heard. Please bring peace and wholeness to these whose names we speak to you now in our hearts.

God of all Time, we talk a lot. Give us time to be still this week, to listen for your voice, to spend time just sitting in your presence. Bless our moments and our days, we pray, that they may move in ceaseless praise of you. We pray all of this in the name of the one who experienced Time as we do, Jesus our Lord and Savior, 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”

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**Ecclesiastes 1:1-11**

J.C. Leasure

Anthem**Children’s Message**

Cara Hritz

I wanted to talk to you about time today.... How many of you can tell time? That’s great!

Did you know that there are many ways to tell time? You can use watches or clocks -- but, even the seasons tell us what time of year it is. What season of year is it right now? Right, it's spring!

What are some ways that we know it's spring? Yes, those are all ways that we know it is springtime. I brought some things from my yard today that help me know that spring has come. These are some flowers. Aren't they beautiful? The beautiful colors of spring flowers in my yard tell me that spring is here.

I think God shows himself in each season of the year. In the fall he gives us the leaves, in the winter, the snowflakes, in the spring the new flowers and in the summer his lightening bugs! Aren't all those reminders of God so cool!

As you look at the leaves and the snowflakes, the flowers and the lightening bugs, I want you to remember that these are God’s special ways to remind us that he is with us in every season and every time of our lives. Isn't that good to know!

Let’s pray: Dear Lord, We know that you are always with us no matter what season or time of our life. In your Bible you promise us you will never leave us alone. Thank you for your promises and your reminders that you are always with us. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading**Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon**“Time Management”**

Rev. Stillwell

It is now time, for us to speak about time. Time is many things. Time is of the essence. Time is fleeting. The time is now. We often think of time as something that is slipping out of our grip, and therefore something that is in short supply. Despite this there is an Irish proverb that states “God created time and God created plenty of it.”

Now we know this is true when we are waiting for the workday to end, for the bus to come, for the water to boil, or for the preacher to finish, but the rest of the time, which is most of the time, if you are like me, you feel that there simply isn't enough time.

So many things need to be done in a day and rarely does a day end when all of those things are accomplished. Big things and little things fill our time, and when we have time to spare we find things to occupy our time and fill our days. Before we know it the days turn into weeks and the weeks into months, and the years as well.

Often we use the phrases “running out of time” which is funny because, until the world ends or until we die, there is still time, but we impose deadlines upon ourselves that take the abundance of time that God

has given us and make it scarce. Let's consider that word -- deadline. No one has ever died from a deadline, but the word conjures up severe punishment for running out of time. Likewise, time has never ceased to be even after a person has spent an hour or so killing it, but the implications are clear by the words that we use, time is deadly. Time is the enemy. Time is coming for us. When it comes to time it is us or it and it is either kill or be killed. Time, therefore, is clearly not on our side.

It is true that God created time, but the question is do we see time as a good thing? Is it a blessing or a punishment? Do we need more time or do we want to kill it? The theologian, Frederic Buechner, wrote of time that after the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden time divided before and after. At that point human beings created clocks and calendars for counting their time out like money and never again lived through a day in their lives without being haunted somewhere in the depths of them by the knowledge that each day brought them closer to the end of their lives.

So in that view, time is a painful reminder of our final destiny. Human beings are the only creatures given a sense of time so that they understand the difference between past and future yet we see our past always growing bigger and our future always getting smaller so that time seems like a predator stalking us and getting steadily closer, and yet the only thing worse than time itself, would be no time at all. That would be an outlook that would surely drive us mad.

That is one way to view time. Others, however, take a more positive view and see time as an opportunity, especially since we do not know how much of it we get, therefore each day is a gift. If we look at time as if it is not a constant, not a guarantee, then we live as each day will be our last, but ironically that does not inspire fear or dread, rather it frees us to seize the day and make the most of our time, and when another day dawns and 24 more hours are added to our allotted time, we rejoice.

In many ways how you look at time determines whether or not you enjoy life. Take this famous passage from Ecclesiastes for instance:

³For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; ⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Now you can look at this passage two ways. The pessimists reads it and thinks if for everything there is a season then things are always the same, nothing changes. In this view the passing of each season brings us one less in our life. The pessimistic view can be best exemplified by a little song that goes:

You're older than you've ever been. And now you're even older.
And now you're even older. And now you're even older.

You're older than you've ever been. And now you're even older.
And now you're older still.

That is one way to think of time, but fortunately there is another. For everything there is a time. For everything there is time. There is time to plant, time to build up, time to laugh, time to dance. That's not all because there will be time for the sad parts of life as well. There is time to mourn. There is time to weep. There is time for it all.

They say that youth is wasted on the young and that is because they lack the wisdom to see how precious time is because to them it is endless, yet if youth were given to grown-ups we would probably waste it too, trying to fill it with errands or tasks.

We human beings have a tendency to take a blessing and turn it into a curse. If there is a time for everything we figure, then we had better do it all or we will not be faithful. The problem is that we too often think that now is the time for all.

Scholar, writer, and local pastor. Bonnie Thurston, tells a story in her excellent book, "To Everything there is a Season: A Spirituality of time", of being so tired one day that she had to come home and rest and cancel all her appointments for three days. She looked at her schedule and was appalled to see that she had literally scheduled herself to near collapse. It caused her to ask the question "Why did I have the need to fill my time? Why did I have the sense that there wasn't enough time? Why did time seem to be the enemy?" It is a common human problem. We complain about not having enough time, but the last thing we want is time on our hands so we will fill the time we have with things we do not need to do. I take the approach that time is a gift, but like a lot of gifts we do not always use it correctly. We try to find things to do with our time, when God has already given us things to do. We are to eat, drink, and be merry. We are to preach the good news. We are to live our life to the fullest while helping others live life as well. We are to see time as divinely ordained and a gift to be used and enjoyed rather than something to be killed.

The church has tried in many ways to explore the ways in which God uses time. One such way is the church calendar which brings us the seasons of Easter, Advent, Epiphany, and Pentecost to remind us of God's work in this world. Likewise, the monastic tradition gives us the times of day such as compline, vespers, and lauds which teach us to pray throughout the day. This practice is called daily office because it is our calling, our vocation, to do God's work. Even when we are not this formal, we are wise to pray at different times of the day to make every day a holy day. Then there is the holiest day of all, the Sabbath. We are to live as if all time is Sabbath time. That doesn't mean we are always at rest, rather it means that we are always aware of God's presence and grateful for God's gifts seeking God's will in all that we do. The Sabbath is God's first command is given to us, not so that we will have to figure out how to cram an hour of church into our busy schedules, but so that we will not be so busy that we will forget God in our life. Likewise, the idea is that if we have time to rest and time to renew, we will make the most of the rest of our time.

If you find yourself running out of time, you aren't using it effectively, or you are trying to do more than God thinks that you should do, and maybe you are spending too much time worrying about time. It is ironic but if you are worried about how little time you have left you will never have enough of it, but if you celebrate the time that you are given it will seem more than enough. As Ecclesiastes says, "whatever God does endures forever" what we do endures for a time, but if it pleases God it's time may be very long.

My brother once sent me a shirt that said "Memento vivere", which translates to "remember to live", and I think that is one thing for us to keep in mind. Every day of our life is filled with chores and errands and to-do lists that need to get done, but if that is all that every day is when we get to the end of our life we will have remembered to take out the trash, pay the bills, drop off the dry cleaning, pick up the dry cleaning, but we will have forgotten to live. We will have been given a large amount of time and we will have successfully killed it.

Let us, therefore, be careful with our time. Let us care for it and guard it. Let us cherish it and use it. Let us know that God has given us a time for everything under the sun so let us not worry and stress but enjoy what God has given us. Above all let us recognize that God has given us time to live not time to kill.

Call to Offering

Serena Dube

O gracious and generous God, Our lives have been blessed by flowing waters and harvests of fruits. Therefore, let us share our harvests with you and your world.

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

Creator and almighty God, from city to city, you continue to bless our lives. Wherever we find ourselves, the bounty of your peace meets us there. We bring these gifts to you in order to share our bounty, as you have shared yours with us. May those who need these gifts find your presence, and may their paths of faith be lit with your light, as ours have been. In your holy name, we pray. Amen

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

The columnist, Harvey Mackay, said:

“Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it you can never get it back.”

So what we choose to do with our time is an important decision to make. There may be a time for every matter under Heaven, but not all at once. Therefore, it means a great deal when a person chooses to spend an hour or two with God in prayer and worship. So many people do not go to church because they cannot find the time, but the irony is that if they looked in the church they would find the time they need.

A book I read a few years ago says it all. IT is called “Too busy not to pray” and it argues the busier a person is the more they need God to help them with all that they face. The busier you are the more you need God's help, the more you need to find the time to pray because only in prayer is the real power of God available to us.

That is why Christ gives us this table to pray and to meditate and to commune with him. There is much we need to do, but before we try to fix or make or write or do, we should spend a moment in prayer and in communion with God's presence.

Let us share the meal Christ has given us and find that just a few minutes with our Lord can have effects that last a whole week.

Communion Hymn*“In Memory of the Savior's Love”*

Audra Allen, organist

In memory of the Savior's love, we keep the sacred feast,
where every humble, contrite heart is made a welcome guest.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Diane Palfreyman

Most merciful God, as we surround this table in loving memory of your Son, we ask forgiveness for those ways in which our lives have fallen short of our possibilities in doing thy will. We would lay aside the cares that press in upon us that we may know only thy presence as we commune together. We thank thee for this bread and cup. Let them be to us a spiritual food, strengthening us to go from this place to be and to do only that which is pleasing to thee. We pray this in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. 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

"Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down"

Jody Mullis, pianist

Come let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker.
Come let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker.
For He is our God and we are the people of his pasture.
And the sheep of his hand, just a sheep of his hand.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

God has a dwelling place with you. You have a dwelling place in Christ, a source of continual blessing in your life. Go forth to spread God's message, that others may also dwell in peace.

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
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Ed Alexy
Avery Allen
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Jim Banish
Abby Blanchard
Susan Britko
Mabel Brooks
Sandra Carman
Denise Charles
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Benjamin Dube
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Jett Fuller
Derek Gardiner
David & Lois Gayman
Doug Graff
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg
Nancy 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
Homer Nixon
Michaela Nixon
Carmen Oliverio
Ruth Mikuta
Deborah Patterson
Bo & Patty Pryor
Kayda Richards
Cathy Rentgen
Betty Jo Riggle
Dave Ross
Jim Roupe

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

In the Military

Lance Dague	Andrew Gregg
Terrell McClain	Zachary Keene
Brandon Lipscomb	Sarah Lipscomb
Daniel Robinson	Travis Ringer
Shawn Dallatore	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.

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram puzzle, using the clues R=I
and M=T, to complete Psalm 111:10, NIV.

M Y L C L O Q Z C M Y L

P Z Q N R V M Y L

H L D R F F R F D Z C G R V N Z U ;

O P P G Y Z C Z P P Z G

Y R V B Q L T L B M V

Y O K L D Z Z N

J F N L Q V M O F N R F D .

M Z Y R U H L P Z F D V

L M L Q F O P B Q O R V L .

PSALM 111:10, NIV

Answer: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. Psalm 111:10, NIV