

# Manor Minutes

Volume 12 Issue 20

May 21, 2021

Those with last names beginning with **A-E and F-O** worship in the sanctuary **May 23** 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). May 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the last CW&W until the Fall.

### Tween Team

The Tween Team will next meet on May 23 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. Tween Team will not be meeting on May 30.

June Newsletter deadline – May 24

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

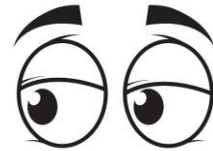
Personnel Committee – June 3, 3pm Library

Graduate Recognition Sunday – June 6

Congregational Meeting – June 6 following worship

Elders Meeting – June 9, 6pm

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



*Celebrate Pentecost*

WEAR RED THIS SUNDAY!

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

You can support this ministry by sending a check to Fairhill Manor with "Pentecost Offering" in the memo, donate on the "Givelify" app, or donate directly to Disciples Ministries at: <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give/>



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)*

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

May 23, 2021

**Prelude**

Audra Allen, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship\***

Donna Stenski

If there is a ringing bell, we listen.  
If there is a candle in the dark, we look.  
If there is a hunger in the heart, we search.  
God is always trying to get our attention, too often we look away.  
But listen - hidden in thunder and silence is the voice of God.  
Look - hidden in every flower, child, and tree is the face of God.  
Here and now, God is with us.  
Let us worship God in Spirit and in truth.

**Opening Hymn #592**

*"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"*

Audra Allen, organist

[Refrain] Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke,  
out of his mouth came fire and smoke.  
All around me looks so fine,  
ask my Lord if all was mine. [Refrain]

Jordan River chilly and cold,  
chills the body, not the soul.  
Ain't but one train on this track,  
runs to heaven and right back. [Refrain]

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

Pastor Gena

Come, Holy Spirit, come again. As long ago you inspired, astonished, and confused your people on the day of Pentecost, so come to us now. Fill our ears with the sound of your breath. Fill our eyes with the brilliance of your presence in each other. Fill our hearts with your good Word.

Holy and Merciful God, we know too well our constant failures to listen as you guide us, our refusal to use your gifts to serve and lift up each other. Forgive us for the divisions we nurture. May your mercy give us peace with you, peace with ourselves, and peace with one another.

We give thanks for all those who have softened our hearts that we might be ready to receive your Spirit in your time. We thank you for those who continue to proclaim the gospel with words and in service. Thank you for those who are dreaming new dreams of how we might continue to be your church in powerful ways into the future. Thank you for those who dare to cross divides and create understanding between people who look and sound different from each other. Thank you for those who stand up and speak your truth and those who in less obvious ways set things right slowly and patiently. Thank you for your Spirit who creates understanding between us, who helps us to find a way where we thought there was no way, who weaves together our skills and experiences and ways of being into something more

beautiful than we could have imagined. Continue to guide us, we beg you. As you have guided us so clearly in the past, come and show us the next steps forward as your church.

Please be with those who feel misunderstood because of their differences. Give us courage to embrace each person as your child.

We pray for those who are mourning this day. Come and bring your mercy where suffering and loss are beyond our comprehension, beyond any words of comfort we can come up with.

Please be with those whose lives are being turned upside down by violence and the uncertainty and chaos it brings. We cry for peace, for fairness and understanding. Show us a new way to live together.

We pray for your wisdom as we navigate more changes and find our next normal. Keep us centered in you, comforted that you are our firm foundation. We ache for certainty and predictability, for ease and familiarity. Show us where and how to find these in ways that truly last.

Please be with those who are lonely, those facing difficult surgeries and treatments, those beginning long recoveries. Give them the strength of your constant company.

We pray now for all of those whose names we have spoken aloud. We pray for those whose names are well-known to you.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Breathe new life in us that we might share the good news of your never-ending love far and wide. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, who has promised to be with us always, and 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\*** **Acts 2:1-21** Serena Dube

**Special Music** Dan Baker

**Children’s Message\*** Pastor Gena

On a hot day, an electric fan can really help keep us cool. How does it do that? It blows air. Let’s turn on this fan. Do you see any air coming out of this fan? So, if we can’t see the air, how do we know the fan is working?

We can’t see the air coming out, but we can see the air blowing the red streamers I’ve tied on the fan. That’s one way we know the fan is working.

Another way we know the fan is working is that we can feel the air from the fan blowing against our skin. We can’t see the air but we can feel it.

We can also tell the fan is working because we can hear the sound of the air and the rattling of the streamers as they blow. We can't see the air, but we can hear it.

Today we are celebrating a very special day called Pentecost. On that day, Jesus' followers were all gathered in one place, and God sent the Holy Spirit so they could teach others about Jesus. But they couldn't see the Holy Spirit. So I wonder how they knew the Holy Spirit was there?

Just like we can see these red ribbons on our fan, moving because of the air, Jesus' followers knew the Holy Spirit was there with them because they saw what looked like flames of fire that came and rested on each of their heads.

Just like we can hear the air coming out of the fan, they could hear something that sounded like a mighty rushing wind.

Just like we can feel the air moving against our skin, they could feel the power of the Holy Spirit. All of a sudden they were able to speak in languages they didn't even know so they could tell everyone about Jesus – even people who spoke different languages from them.

I wonder if we can still see and hear and feel the Holy Spirit today. When we see someone helping another person, maybe even someone very different from them, we know the Holy Spirit is there. We can see the Holy Spirit. When we hear someone comforting or encouraging another person who is hurting or sad, we know the Holy Spirit is there. We can hear the Holy Spirit. When we get a feeling that we should go talk to someone or include someone who is left out, we know the Holy Spirit is working in us, guiding us in how to love others and love God. We can feel the Holy Spirit.

Dear God, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to be our teacher and guide. Help us to see, hear and feel your Spirit more clearly every day so that we might love more like you. Amen.

**Second Scripture Reading\***

**John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15**

Rev. Stillwell

**Sermon\***

**The Spirit of Love and Truth**

Rev. Stillwell

Words are special things. We don't think of them too often like this, but stop for a moment and think of how marvelous the gift of speech is. Animals communicate with a basic type of speech, but they can only communicate the most basic of things, when they want to mate or when there is danger. Cavemen communicated with a series of grunts and, as a result, they were not much better at communicating than animals. So words are special.

The words of the Bible existed for centuries before they were written down in the form of stories that were told again and again and passed down from generation to generation. Wisdom, learning, and tradition, therefore, were not possible until words were created. With all that said, however, some words are more special than others. Love, hope, God, these words mean so much more than ordinary words, but even ordinary words can sometimes take on new meaning or be made special by who says them. Words spoken by your boss can have more meaning than words spoken by your neighbor. Words spoken by your children, are infinitely more special to you than words spoken by a stranger.

Words may be most special, however, when they come from mothers. There is something about mothers which transform words. "It's all right" never had the healing, soothing effect for me when it came from my father as it did from my mother.

Undoubtedly mothers have been blessed with a special language that soothes and calms like no other, but if you are not a mother you also can speak a language that is special. This is possible because God has made it possible for the Holy Spirit to transform our words and give them more meaning than we could ever intend.

This is vital because words, today, in our culture, have lost their value. There are radio stations dedicated to nothing but talk, political talk, sports talk, just talk. Occasionally there is an important story that demands a lot of attention, but mostly the radio personalities are just filling time. The same is true with the television news channels. Their need to find news to cover 24/7 leads to some petty unnewsworthy topics getting lots of words.

Of course cell phones make it easier to talk, and text messaging makes it so that words are barely necessary. Have you ever been talking to someone who was texting someone else? When words can be reduced to a series of abbreviations such as LOL and BRB, words have indeed become cheap. So cheap, in fact, that we often don't hear.

The Bible tells the story of the tower of Babel in which the inability to communicate or be heard caused confusion and enmity throughout the world that lasts to this day. The NRSV says that God confuses their language so that "they will not understand" but another translation has it "so that they would not listen to each other. Would not hear." Often we misunderstand one another not because our words are different but because the overuse of words causes us to not listen and consequently to not hear.

This is the problem and today we celebrate the solution, for the reversal of the Tower of Babel is found in the book of Acts on the day of Pentecost after Jesus ascended into heaven. Having told his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit in the city of Jerusalem, Peter and the apostles receive the Spirit and it causes the people there to proclaim, "in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

That day people had come from all over the empire and they spoke many languages. You can imagine it was a confusing and chaotic scene, and so another language would seem to have made things worse, but the language of the Spirit spoken by the apostle, Peter, brought them all together. The Holy Spirit in Acts provides a new language that everyone can understand, but I don't think of that as new words, but merely a way of speaking in which communication cuts through the language barrier.

The Hebrew word, "Yada" is a word that means boring or empty talk. Perhaps you've heard the expressions. "Yada Yada Yada". A person uses it when telling a story but doesn't want to list every detail. "When I wake up I take a shower, eat breakfast, brush my teeth, yada yada, and then I am on my way," would be an example of how this idiom is used. So many conversations are like that. Speech about God is like that as well. Our words are clumsy, so much sound and fury signifying nothing more than yada yada yada unless the Holy Spirit is present.

When people speak of things they have in common they understand each other and say things like, "Now you're talking my language," even if we've been speaking the same language the whole time. Most commonly, however, the language that everyone understands is rarely expressed in words, but in smiles, hugs, and handshakes. When you want to comfort a friend who has lost a loved one a comforting spirit is manifested better in a comforting presence and acts of generosity than in even the most eloquent of words. Sometimes the best word of encouragement is a smile, the best word of comfort is a pat on the shoulder, the best word of love is an embrace, the best word of grace is disagreeing with someone and yet still praying with them.

On the day of Pentecost when thousands gathered from many countries speaking many languages they understood one another because the apostles spoke God's language, a language that wasn't made up of

words only a select few could understand, but words everyone could understand no matter their language because they told the story of God's love for them all poured out in Christ Jesus.

If we, too, want to speak a holy language then our language has to be one of love. One cannot claim to speak in the spirit if they do not speak in love, but that is only one side of this holy language. To speak in the Spirit one must also speak in the truth. The two things I look for in a friend is love and honesty. Nothing can undermine your message more than using words that are untruthful, because then how can anyone believe you?

If we are dishonest in our everyday life, or if we believe and follow people who are dishonest, why would anyone believe us? We teach this truth to our children when we tell them of the boy who cried wolf and in that story the boy was being intentionally dishonest, but what if he really thought there was a wolf but was simply wrong? Every time he saw a dog he mistook for a wolf and cried out in genuine fear rather than malice?

In this example the boy is much more sympathetic but the effect is the same. Whether he is lying or just wrong, when the wolf is really there no one will believe him.

This is important because if we succumb to believing things that are not true, like gossip, or dis-information, or conspiracy theories we will look foolish. And when we speak up about Jesus Christ and how he could make a difference in someone's life, they will rightfully ask themselves, "Why should I believe you?"

So let us be careful. Careful about what we believe, what we say, how we say it. Whatever your words, in whatever language they are spoken, if they are spoken with the love of Christ in mind, and if they are spoken by someone whom others have reason to believe is truthful and trustworthy then the Spirit will find a way to make those words heard and understood. May the language you speak whatever the accent, whatever the grammar, whatever the vocabulary, be filled with love for Christ and Christ's truth you will surely be speaking a holy language.

### **Call to Offering\***

Donna Stenski

"To each," says the Scripture, "is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good"

(1 Cor. 12:7). As we give, we proclaim that our sharing has been motivated by the Holy Spirit, and we pray that the Spirit will continue to work in our lives and in the lives that will benefit from these gifts. Let us use this opportunity to exercise the gift of generosity and sharing.

### **Doxology**

### **Dedication of Offering Prayer\***

Rev. Stillwell

Bless these gifts to be nourishment for a world hungry for your grace. Bless us to be nurturers of love for a world hungry for your compassion. Bless us to be one in ministry with you and with one another, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion\***

Rev. Stillwell

Few things can divide people more than language and we do spend a lot of time arguing over words. Whether we argue over the meaning of words, or the use of words, whether or not it is ok to use one word or another, the arguments are even worse when discussing the word of God.

There are two things we would do well to remember. The first is that while the Bible contains the word of God, the Bible itself tells us in the gospel of John that the word of God is Jesus Christ, himself, the Word

made flesh. That is the wonderful word of life. And Jesus saved us not through any word he spoke, but through the love that he showed us by laying his life down for us while we were still sinners and by the truth of who he was, God in the flesh. In short, Jesus was the word of God and that was a word of love and truth.

So as disciples we confess that all followers of the Word are welcome at this table and that leads us to the second thing we must remember. Whatever language you speak, whatever Bible translation you read, whatever your interpretations you have of the words in that Bible, the word of God calls us to love one another as he loved us, to love our enemies as our neighbor and our neighbors as ourselves.

No other word in any language has ever been so wonderful to hear and so hard to follow, so, as we come to this table, let us give thanks for the word that is above all words, that unites us in a language of love that cuts through every worldly barrier, let us confess the ways in which we have not fully spoken this word to others, and let us call upon the spirit to help us so that as we leave this table the words we speak will be the words of love which are the Word of God.

### **Communion Hymn #430**

*“Lo, I am with You”*

Audra Allen, organist

Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.	Lo, I am with you in the breaking of bread.
Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.	Lo, I am with you in the breaking of bread.
Lo, I am with you, Lo, I am with you,	Lo, I am with you, Lo, I am with you,
Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.	Lo, I am with you in the breaking of bread.

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

Gary Ford

Lord, we come to your table on this day of Pentecost. Just as you changed the lives of the disciples, so many years ago, we pray that the Holy Spirit will come upon each of us as we take this bread and cup. May our spirits be refreshed and our strength renewed so that we may never be the same. May we grow in Your wisdom and may we share the story of redemption and life everlasting through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 #352**

*“Spirit Song”*

Jody Mullis, pianist

O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love.	O come and sing this song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy.
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.	Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove	O give him all your tears and sadness; give him all your years of pain, and you’ll
will descend upon your life and make you whole.	enter into life in Jesus’ name. [refrain]

[refrain] Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

## Benediction\*

Rev. Stillwell

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together we may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

\* 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=PLmIH3qzih\\_fzHCC2X0Jhc\\_sfniJ7C1O3X](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmIH3qzih_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!

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  
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

### 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



**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

## GRADUATES!!

If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school, college, trade school, etc. please contact the office by May 28<sup>th</sup> with their name, school they are graduating from and any future plans they would like to share. Graduates will be recognized on June 6<sup>th</sup> during the worship service.

# LAURELVIEW NEWS

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.

**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.

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.