

Manor Minutes
Volume 13 Issue 24
May 27, 2022



Special Board Meeting – May 29 following worship

Stewardship/Finance Ministry – June 1, 5:30pm Library

Choir Practice – June 2, 6:30pm Choir Room

Duane “Bo” and Patty Pryor 70th Anniversary Open House – June 4, 2-4pm Large Fellowship Hall

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

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 Luncheon – Sunday June 26

1pm

Back Room at Eat'n Park on Oak Springs Road

Wedding Coordinator Needed

Fairhill Manor has an immediate opening for a Wedding Coordinator with church wedding experience preferred. The position requires excellent organizational and people skills. Please send your resume with experience to Fairhill Manor's secure email at personnel@fairhillmanorchurch.org

Disciples Mission Fund – Pentecost Offering

Each year, half of this offering goes to your own region to support local new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders across the United States and Canada through programs such as coaching, New Church Hacks, and Water the Plants. Planning, nurturing, and sustaining new places of worship is part of the Disciples' vision – participation in this Special Day Offering helps this vision come to life. Please consider giving generously. To access additional Pentecost Offering resources, including images, videos, and stories to share, you can visit: <http://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/pentecost>



HAPPY
MEMORIAL DAY

Remember and Honor

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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Cara Hritz, Bread
Diane Palfreyman, Cup
May 29, 2022 - 10:15am

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Gene Sheller

Leader: Clap your hands, people of God.

People: Shout to God with cries of joy.

Leader: Look to the heavens, brothers and sisters in Christ.

People: Witness the power of our God.

Leader: Clap your hands, people of God.

People: Shout to God with cries of joy.

Opening Hymn

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

Audra Allen, organist

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home;
through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong,
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Funeral Dinner Ministry Offering and Blessing

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

Living Lord, we have gathered here as pilgrims, walking together, seeking to follow you more perfectly, fellow travelers on the road of life, helping and being helped, seeking direction for our lives and the healing of our souls, pressing onward and upward to the high goal you have set before us.

Giver of life, giver of joy, giver of meaning, we confess that all too often we have been so engrossed with making a living that we have neglected to truly live. We have often been more concerned about what we have than about who we are. Forgive us, Lord, for our mixed-up priorities, and help us to keep our eyes on those things that are most important.

Often when we pray we think of the famous prayer of serenity in which we ask that you will:

“give us the grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish
the one from the other.”

We give you thanks for the gift of this prayer that you gave to us through theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr, but we confess that too often we use it only for the things we cannot change rather than the ones that we can. We confess, therefore, in settling for a cheap serenity that allows preventable tragedies from being prevented, and injustices from being made right.

Give us therefore, Lord, the courage that we often lack to do what must be done and the wisdom that we need in all times and situations. Help us also to remember the second portion of the prayer that is too often overlooked:

“Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace. Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that You will make all things right, if I surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with You forever in the next.”

Help us to not avoid the difficult steps on our journey with you, but see them as opportunities to grow closer to you each day. This we ask in the words of an even more beloved prayer, the one that your Son taught us to say:

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

Psalm 96

Von Lacock

Anthem

“Brother James Air,” by Gordon Jacob

Choir

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

Sometimes scary things happen. Sometimes they happen to us; sometimes we hear about scary things that happen to other people.

I wonder how you feel when something scary happens to you. I wonder how you feel when you hear about something scary that has happened to someone else somewhere else. Feeling afraid or worried or anxious is normal; these are things that we all feel sometimes. These feelings might not feel very good, but they are a part of who we are.

I have a book with me today. It’s called *Once I Was Very, Very Scared*, and it was written by Chandra Gosh Ippen. In this book, we meet some animal friends who have all felt very, very scared before – for all different reasons. Let’s see how the animal friends respond when they feel very, very scared.

(Pages 24-27) The turtle says, “I hide ... and my tummy hurts.” The squirrel says, “I remember what my Mommy says. She says we should share our feelings and talk about what scares us. Oh, and sometimes I eat. Nuts make me feel better... Oh, and I don’t sleep very well... and sometimes I talk too much.” The frog says, “I lose my voice, and all I can say is croak croak. I want to say more. I want to yell and say how scared I am, but all that comes out is croak.” The rabbit says, “I jump up and run fast ... and sometimes I get hurt.” The skunk says, “I become a real stinker.” The monkey says, “I find someone

to hold onto and hug. Some people don't like it when I do that." The prairie dog says, "I pretend I'm not here, but pretty soon I'm not pretending. I feel like I'm really not here, and I don't know where I am." The dog says, "I growl and I bark. When I do, people don't bother me." The elephant says, "I don't like to talk about it, but I do think about it almost all the time."

It makes sense to feel any of these ways when scary things happen to us or we hear about scary things happening to someone else. But there are things we can do so that we don't keep feeling like this forever. Let's see what helps the animal friends when they feel scared.

(Pages 30-33) The turtle says, "Music helps me calm down." The rabbit says, "I still like to run, but I also found a safe place where I can be calm and snuggle." The dog says, "I talked to my mom, and she said she was very sorry that someone hurt me. This makes me feel much better." The frog says, "I play water ball with friends and that makes me feel so good." The squirrel says, "My dad says that bad things don't usually happen and that makes me feel better." The prairie dog says, "I learned to breathe. When I get scared, I pay attention to the air going in and out of my body and that helps me calm down." The parrot says, "I find that a cup of tea and a little support help me." And the elephant says, "I learned it's good to talk about things... sometimes."

I wonder what helps you when you feel scared. God gives us so many ways to help ourselves feel better – whether its music or playing or a warm hug or breathing or talking to someone we trust.

Dear God, thank you for being with us, especially when we are scared. Help us to find good and healthy ways to feel better when we are scared. Thank you for all the people who care for us and help us feel better. Please be with all the people who are feeling scared right now. Help us to share your love and comfort with them if we can. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

Psalm 40:1-5; 16, 17

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“A New Song”

Rev. Stillwell

I love music. Ever since I was young and got my first record player I have spent a great deal of my time collecting and listening to music. I am always seeking new songs to enjoy; some new sound that reveals something new about the world that I had never known. I search for songs like artists search for new colors or poets search for new words. Music helps me see the world and new songs change my perspective like nothing else can.

When I was young I would hear most of my new music from my older brother who would have the latest albums and the newest cassettes for me to tape for my own. Then I would read music magazines and, once I got my first job, I would go after getting every paycheck to the music store and buy a new tape. Sometimes I knew what I wanted while other times I would peruse the racks looking at names, titles, and album covers to pick out something that would sound like nothing I had ever heard before.

Of course this method didn't always work, and I sometimes brought home a few albums that didn't have many good songs on them. Those albums I would soon trade in to a used record store or pawn shop so that I could start the process all over again. Much more often than not, however, it did work, and for a few weeks I had a bunch of new songs to sing, until they got old and it became time to find more.

As I have gotten older my quest for the new favorite song has been made easier by the internet and streaming services, so that now any artist I have ever heard anything good about I can check out their songs and see if I like them. This is an incredible thing because there is no doubt that singing is a great gift.

Singing lifts the soul like nothing else can. That is why I enjoyed singing when I was young. I also enjoyed it because I thought I could sing. I would listen to my new favorite songs on my Walkman and sing along loudly enough for me to hear myself singing which meant loudly enough for everyone to hear me singing loudly. That is when my brother kindly informed me that I didn't sound half as good as I had thought I sounded, but discovering that I could not sing hasn't kept me from doing it.

That is what is amazing about singing. It is the only thing you can enjoy even if you don't do it well. If you're not very mechanical then you probably do not enjoy fixing cars. If you cannot dance then you might dread wedding receptions. If you cannot swim, then you probably stay out of the pool, but no matter how bad your singing is, at least when you are alone, you can't keep from singing.

The joy of singing is evident throughout the Bible so much so that an entire book is dedicated to the songs that were sung in temple worship. This book is the book of Psalms, which captures this desire for singing by singing praises to God over the course of over one hundred psalms that were used in the worship life of Israel, and it does so especially in the 40th psalm. Here the psalmist describes despair as being in a pit saying:

¹I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

²He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

³He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

The psalmist does not describe specifically what his problems are, only that they have left him in a morass of woe. He was probably not literally in a pit, and God did not literally come down and lift him out and place him on solid ground. Rather he speaks of a spiritual malaise and a spiritual lift, and he describes this deliverance as God placing a new song in his mouth.

Now did he really sing? Did he really sing a song he had never heard? Was it just like on Sesame Street when a Muppet starts singing and all of a sudden everyone joins in singing a song they have never heard but knowing all the words, parts, and choreographed dance moves? Probably not. More likely it is that the feeling that came with his new or reborn faith was like the feeling that comes with singing a new favorite song.

When have you felt like singing a new song? Have you been sick and felt the unmatched feeling that comes with rediscovered health? Did it make you want to hum a little? Have you known worry and then discovered that you had no need to fret, and it made you want to whistle? Have you known periods of depression and felt the dark cloud that surrounded you suddenly lift? Did that make you want to tap your foot? Have you experienced God's grace and Christ's love in your life and found that whether your neighbors want to hear it or not you cannot keep from singing?

The good news is that experiencing God in our life makes us sing when before we only moaned. The great news is that God gives us new songs all the time. It isn't just a once in a lifetime experience. It isn't like we get a "Get out of the pit free" card, that we can use only once and that is all. Whatever our desolate pits are, whatever our miry bogs may be, God promises to hear our cry and give us a new song. Sometimes God gives us old songs sung in new ways. Sometimes what gets us out of our despair, is remembering some blessing we have already received but have taken for granted.

In my search for new songs, no musical group has provided me with more or better songs to sing than a band named U2. And I mention them because they took an old song and sang it a new way, and it left me moved beyond words. The song they sang was the 40th Psalm. They took the words of this Psalm and put them to music and released it on an album forty years ago, but ten years ago, Jessi and I saw them in

concert. Their songs are filled with spiritual themes but they still they are a rock band, and I did not go with the expectation of feeling God's grace in the tangible and real way that I did. They ended their concert with this old song, old for them, and old for the world, and everyone there whether they were Christian or Jewish or not, knew the words. I don't know if people knew they were singing a psalm but they sang like they were singing the latest hit.

The song is short but they played it for ten minutes with each band member putting down there instrument one at a time until it was just the drummer and twenty thousand people singing "I will sing, sing a new song." As I left that night, the Lord had most certainly lifted me out of the pit, out of the miry bog, that I was in.

I tell you I could really use that experience again. After yet another shooting where we all throw up our hands and say what can we do, after a pandemic that lingers and has left its scars, after hearing again and again how politicians demonize gay and trans youth to frighten people into supporting them, after hearing about the atrocities in Ukraine and any number of other issues, I find myself in the pit more often than I would like to admit, and the songs I used to sing don't comfort me like they did before.

At times like these I remember the Psalms. I remember how they express all aspects of human emotion. In particular I remember Psalm 40.

¹⁶But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"

¹⁷As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God

The psalmist describes God as lifting him out of the pit and giving him a new song as if one happens before the other, but my experience is that the gift of a new song is what lifts us from the pit. In her immortal poem "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" Maya Angelou writes:

"The caged bird sings. with a fearful trill. of things unknown. but longed for still. and his tune is heard. on the distant hill. for the caged bird. sings of freedom."

She explains that the caged bird sings because it has to. When it sings it is free.

It is true of humans as well. I search for new songs, and when I find one I wear it out for a couple of weeks, but eventually the joy fades a little, but I know that God has a new song waiting for me right around the corner. And God has a new song waiting for you. No matter what you are going through, you will never get stuck in a moment that you can't get out of, if you wait patiently for the Lord to incline and hear your cry. Do not delay, O our God, to put a new song in our mouth, a song of hope, a song of joy, a song of freedom. When you find yourself in a pit of despair and do not know where to turn, hold on and wait for the Lord, because a new song is always on its way.

Call to Offering

Gene Sheller

Mighty God, as your word takes hold in our lives bind us together in a bond of love that shakes the very foundations of all that keeps us from abiding in you, as you abide in us. May the gifts that we offer today, be multiplied by you so that others may hear your word as well.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below! Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dedication of Offering Prayer

Pastor Gena

O God, you are great and greatly to be praised! We come now bringing our offerings to you. Use our time, our talents, our money and our very selves to share the good news of your love far and wide until the whole earth lifts its voice in a new song of praise to you. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

I'm always on the look-out for a dine-in Pizza Hut. Take-out Pizza Hut pizza just isn't the same for me. I guess it's because I have such cozy childhood memories of eating at the Chestnut Street Pizza Hut with my family. The red glasses, the server dishing out the first pieces of pizza from that seasoned pan, the pitchers of soda, the jukebox. It was an experience.

On my recent vacation/retreat in Ohio, I came upon a sort of dine-in Pizza Hut in Orville. It was small, with only four booths. I went in and ordered a personal pan pizza and a soda. "Would you like the lunch special?" the man behind the counter asked. "It's a personal pan pizza, soda, and breadsticks for \$6." That was too good to be true! I eagerly agreed to having that lunch special.

I slid into a booth near the counter. The sun streaming in the window felt so good. "You can pull down the blind if the sun is too much," the man behind the counter said. I smiled, "Thank you, but I'm enjoying its warmth."

Soon the man delivered my food to the table. Sure enough, it was a personal pan pizza and a full order of 10 breadsticks! And it tasted so delicious. I had had my doubts about how good it was going to taste, because the man behind the counter was clearly the only worker in the place at that time.

I was seated right in the hub of activity. As I ate, through the window I saw the counter man go outside to direct the mulch guy, who had pulled up outside to work on the landscaping. When he came back inside, he found a cellphone on the counter. He looked at it quizzically and then asked me, "Do you know whose phone this is? No one came in and put it here, did they?" "I'm not sure," I replied, "I didn't see anyone but the mulch guy outside and you." I was really starting to feel like I was becoming a part of the place with an important job to do.

Do you find Communion Tables in your everyday life sometimes too? Places where you get more than you pay for, where the specials seem too good to be true, but are? Places where the sun shines on you and seems to warm you from the inside out while the food tastes as good as you remember? Places where you quickly become a part of the community and feel like you have a job to do? Places that take you back to times of comfort and belonging, love and acceptance?

Who knew the Orville Pizza Hut was a holy place, but it was for me that day. I left feeling cared for, nourished, and uplifted – like I belonged.

May the sun shine warmly on you as you come to this Table today. May the welcome be wide and the gifts be more than you expect or imagine. Our host Jesus is full of grace and mercy – always even more loving than we remember. He welcomes us to this place of comfort and acceptance. His love for us overflows in the cup and satisfies us with the bread. But don't be surprised if Jesus gives you a job to do while you are sitting here. It might sound something like "love one another as I have loved you."

Communion Hymn

"According to Thy Gracious Word"

Audra Allen, organist

According to thy gracious word, in meek humility,
this will I do, my dying Lord, I will remember thee.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Cara Hritz

Gracious and Giving God,

We gather at this table today for the only meal that can ever fill us. You give us everything that we need in every season of life. As we eat this bread and drink this cup, may we be reminded of your last meal and ultimate sacrifice. May this meal fill us with your abundant and overflowing love. As we go into your world this week, may a glimpse of that love be shown to others through us. Amen

Words of Institution

Pastor Gena

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

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Sharing Holy Communion

You will receive the bread and cup together. Please hold them; we will take each together as one body. Disciples of Christ believe in an Open Table. All who profess Christ and follow Him are welcome to share His meal.

Call to Discipleship

Pastor Gena

If you have come to know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and you would like to profess that you intend to begin a life of faith, learning to walk in his way of Love, you are welcome to contact one of the Pastors to take this step. If you would like to join this part of the Body of Christ at Fairhill Manor Christian Church, to covenant to journey together in this life of faith, please reach out to one of the Pastors to learn more. We all take these moments to rededicate our lives to following Jesus.

Closing Hymn

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

Jody Mullis, pianist

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed full grace on thee,
and crown thy good with servanthood from sea to shining

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Pardoned by God's abounding grace, empowered by God's constant love, lifted by God's harmonious peace, go forth to serve God and others, and sing a new song of joy and hope for all to hear.

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
McMurray, PA 15317

Nadine Teagarden
826 Old National Pike
Claysville PA 15323

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
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: The Office will be closed on Memorial Day, May 30.

Karen is working from home on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 9 am – 2 pm. She will be in the Church Office on Wednesday & Thursday, 9 am – 2 pm. The Church phone is forwarded to Karen's cell phone and can be reached anytime.

Pastor Gena is off on Friday. Pastor Gena is working from home and comes in to the church as needed. Feel free to text, call, email or set up a time to meet with Pastor Gena.

Rev. Chris is off on Tuesday during the school year.

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

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

Washington Wild Things

Friday, September 2, 7pm

Fireworks Night

Tickets are \$10/person, Parking Pass/\$2

Jody Mullis will be singing the National Anthem.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Please pay cash or check made out to FMCC and send to the Church Office.

Payment needs to be returned by July 31.