

Manor Minutes

Volume 12 Issue 21

May 28, 2021

Those with last names beginning with **A-E and P-Z** worship in the sanctuary **May 30** 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

Children Worship & Wonder has concluded for this season. CW&W will resume in the Fall.

Tween Team

Tween Team will **not** be meeting during the summer.

LÔÔK

Personnel Committee – June 3, 3pm Library

Graduate Recognition Sunday – June 6

Congregational Meeting – June 6 following worship

Stewardship/Finance Ministry – June 8, 6pm via Zoom

Elders Meeting – June 9, 6pm Shepherds Room

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



As we spend time with family and friends over this long weekend, let us not forget the meaning of Memorial Day. A time to remember all those who went in harms way to defend our freedoms and gave the ultimate sacrifice. Remember...



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

May 30, 2021

Prelude

Jody Mullis, pianist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship*

Linda Reese

Give the Lord glory and power. Adore the Lord, resplendent and holy.
We seek your kingdom, Lord.
To enter God's kingdom you must be born of water and the Spirit.
We seek your kingdom, Lord.
God sends the Spirit to show us what love is.
We seek your kingdom, Lord.
God sends Jesus to bring us eternal life.
May we be led by his Spirit, Lord, and being led, become your children.

Opening Hymn #720

"Oh 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 sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Rev. Stillwell

We come before you this day, O Lord, to remember. We remember those who have gone before and laid the groundwork of faith for us to follow. We remember those members past who built our church, and who built our faith. Whether they laid the bricks for our building or built the pulpits from which we speak, or worked on the lights which help us see, or whether they taught us in Sunday school, led us in songs, or prayed with us when we were in need, we remember and give thanks.

In particular we remember those whom we have lost in this past year, the recently departed, and we pray that they are with you, above all pain and concern, and we pray for that their families may receive comfort.

We come to remember also, Lord, the work that you have done, in our lives and in the life of the church. We remember our past so that we will be inspired in the present moment to work toward a better future. We come to remember, Lord.

We come also to confess. In our pride, we have often forgotten your holiness and your due as creator of all things in failing to care for your creation. By your grace and mercy, heavenly Father, forgive us when we act as if we are your equals. By your love and compassion, holy Mother, correct us when we squander opportunities to care for your creation.

Christ, our Savior, through indifference and hatred, we have failed to live out your gospel of love for all of our sisters and brothers. Holy Spirit, in our addiction to busy-ness, we have failed to listen for your guidance, and have not heeded your call to serve God's kingdom.

Pardon us and show us your mercy. Lead us to redemption both personal and corporate so that we may truly be the Body of Christ on earth as it is in Heaven. As we pray for mercy for ourselves, we ask mercy for others as well.

We have come also, Lord, for help. We pray for those whose needs have not been met. Guide them and guide us in helping to help them.

We pray for those who are sick, and who seek relief from pain and discomfort. May your healing touch come to them and may your Holy Spirit heal their souls.

We pray for those who are distressed whether in body, mind, or spirit. May they find the peace and solace they seek, and may we play our part in leading them to you.

We ask these things of you, O Lord, that are one, yet three, in an eternal dance. We offer you praise that you constantly invite us to dance along, even when we feel unworthy. We hear your call in many ways, and through many means, as we open our hearts to you.

This we pray as your son has taught us.

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*

Isaiah 6:1-8

Gene Sheller

Special Music

Children's Message*

Pastor Gena

When I was little, I used to have a dream in which I would be walking down our stairs at home, and if I got going fast enough, I would just take off and fly! Isn't that crazy? It was pretty fun, actually.

Sometimes our dreams can be pretty wild. Have you ever had a dream filled with strange creatures or mythical events? I wonder how you felt in that dream. Were you happy, excited, confused, or afraid? How did you feel when you awoke from your dream? Were you relieved to be awake? Or did you wish you could fall back asleep and keep dreaming?

Today's first scripture is from a book of the Bible called Isaiah. Isaiah is the name of a prophet who shared God's messages with God's people. A prophet is a person God chooses to speak out—to tell the people whether God is happy with what they were doing or not. Being a prophet is a very big job!

Sometimes in the past when God first called someone to be a prophet, that person had a strange dream or vision. Isaiah had a very wild vision! Some of the creatures he saw in his vision had six wings—two to cover their eyes, two to cover their feet, and two to fly. And they could talk! These creatures were called seraphs, and they praised God, saying, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.” I wonder what those six-winged creatures might have looked like.

Isaiah’s vision is fun to imagine, but maybe the most important part of the vision was God’s question and Isaiah’s answer. Today’s coloring page has this question and answer on it. God’s question was, “Whom shall I send?” and Isaiah’s answer, “Here I am; send me.”

Have you ever agreed to do a big, important job that needed to be done? That’s what Isaiah did. He helped the people know more about God and God’s love for a very long time after that wild vision!

Dear God, thank you for dreams, visions, and our imaginations. Send us into the world with your message of love and hope for all people. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading*

Romans 8:12-17

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon*

“Say What?”

Rev. Stillwell

Last week we had a story of tongues of flames that fell on the Disciples shoulders as the Holy Spirit descended upon them from on high, this week we get a story about burning coals used to purify the lips of perhaps God’s most famous prophet, Isaiah.

People may associate fire with the Devil but there is a lot of fire in the Bible, and it usually is a representation of God. Whether it is the angel who guards Eden with a flaming sword, a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of smoke by day that represents God’s presence among the Israelites as they wander on the desert, the tongues of flames at Pentecost, or the burning coals in Isaiah fire almost always represents God in the Bible. In our churches we light candles to represent and remind us of God’s presence with us because of the light they bring and I think also because of how vital fire is to human existence. The symbols of God’s presence are usually the things that we need most in life such as water, bread, and fire.

In particular the prophets use this image often to describe a process that makes us worthy of God. Malachi calls it a refiner’s fire, in which all impurities are removed from us so that we can stand righteous in the presence of God. I don’t know about you, but I much prefer the New Testament where tongues of fire stay on the apostle’s shoulder apparently not touching them or burning them to the Old Testament where burning coals are used to purify Isaiah’s lips so that he might speak God’s word, I can say for certain if that were still required to speak the word of God, I would never have finished seminary. I don’t know too many who would.

Perhaps that is the point. Prophets were rare, and not just anyone could do the job, for it was a hard job without much reward, and you would be right to question the sanity of anyone who so willingly volunteered for the job. In fact, many of the prophets we read in the Bible were reluctant to go and speak, and certainly no one yelled, “Here I am, Lord! Send me!”. Well, no one except, Isaiah that is. This passage is Isaiah’s call passage in which the most famous of prophets is chosen to speak a word to Israel from God, and it is not the word that they want to hear. People who follow God want a prophet to congratulate them in their faithfulness but more often than not the prophet’s lot is to tell the people that they have been unfaithful or deficiencies in some way.

He was commissioned to go to the people with the word of the Lord, but it was not the promise of prosperity that would come to those to whom he spoke. Indeed, it was the opposite. As is often the case

with a prophet Isaiah was not commissioned to cry “peace, peace,” when there was not peace. They would listen, but they would not understand. The people would want to hear about God’s blessing for them, but they would not hear the ways in which they had fallen short in God’s eyes.

Although Solomon’s Temple, where Isaiah saw his vision and was commissioned to speak God’s word, was a magnificent and awe-inspiring sight, it was also the epitome of injustice, domination, and the idolatry of power, the very things that would bring Israel to its knees. But Isaiah isn’t all doom, he has good news as well. It’s just that the good news of “Comfort, Comfort, my people” comes 32 chapters after “gird yourselves, and be dismayed!” So not any person could bring God’s word to a people who would be reluctant to hear it.

Isaiah was God’s chosen and the burning was required that he might be worthy of speaking God’s word, but as is often the case, what begins narrowly in the Bible is made broad in the New Testament, so that, by the time we get to Pentecost, the fire of God is now flames that represent the Holy Spirit. which makes people like Peter and the other 11 worthy to share God’s good news.

But it does not stop there. Up to this point it was one or two people at a time sharing God’s message. First the Patriarchs, Abraham, Moses, Joshua and others who would often speak directly to god and tell the rest what was they heard. Then the kings, Saul, David, and Solomon led the nation of Israel. Then the prophets, Samuel, Elijah, and Isaiah among them who proclaimed God’s word. Then Jesus came who was the Word made flesh, and with Jesus the age of the prophets came to an end, and the age of the Spirit began, and with the Holy Spirit many people, indeed all people were qualified or capable of speaking God’s word.

This would seem to not work since everyone is different and has different gifts, but it works for two reasons. The first reason it works is that we know what the message is. Up to this point each prophet or leader had a different message from God to give to the people from, “Go to the land that I will show you,” to “Let my people go”, from “Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” to “what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

The word that God spoke to the people changed according to the needs of the people, but the message Peter shared on Pentecost is the message that we are all commissioned to share, or some form or version thereof. “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. Therefore, let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified”

The word that they were anointed to speak was short and simple by design. The early disciples, not Peter and Paul, but here I mean Barton and the Campbells believed not in creeds and confessions that were created by men and could be hard to understand and, therefore, ripe for disagreement. Instead, they used simple slogans like “No creed but Christ” and “in essentials unity, non-essentials, liberty, in all things charity.”

This was helpful and important for us to remember because the fact is there are many who have claimed to be anointed by God and have even claimed the word prophet who have added much to the message whether that be stumbling blocks and extra requirements for people to follow Christ, or extra promises that Christ never made.

The other reason this works is because the message is God’s but the messenger matters as well. We all respond differently to different people. But everyone responds best to people whom they know or whom they believe they have something in common. So, by commissioning all Christians to preach the good

news, the priesthood of all believers, as Luther called it, we each have an opportunity to each reach different people.

When we share God's word we share as Paul shared that we "have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."

Children are led, they do not lead. When Isaiah responded to the call that asked, "Whom shall I send?" He cried, "Here I Am!", and as important as he was as a prophet, he simply followed the leading of the Spirit and said what it told him to say.

Dan Mosely, professor at Christian Theological Seminary, once said in a sermon on this passage, "because your lips have been touched by the cleansing coal of the spirit's fire, because you know you are only adequate by the mercy of God, you can with fear and trembling say, "Here I am. Send me." And even when you stand with others in the midst of overwhelming destructive powers, you will be able to whisper, with a voice burned by divine fire, a word of hope."

We will be able to do so because we will not have to think of what to say. The Holy Spirit has commissioned us and tells us what to say. Let us as God's children simply follow its leading.

Call to Offering*

Linda Reese

Today we remember those who have given their lives that we might be free to live and worship as we choose. Let us honor those who made that ultimate sacrifice by giving as we can to enable us to continue to proclaim the sacrifice Jesus made for our salvation.

Doxology

Dedication of Offering Prayer*

Pastor Gena

Parent God, because of Jesus we come calling you Father and Mother and asking you to remind us of our many sisters and brothers, your many children, who so need hope and care. Use us and use these gifts to reach others with the story of your great love for all of your creation. Amen.

Invitation to Communion*

Pastor Gena

Many times we come to this meal with fear and trembling. Am I good enough? What about all of the things I've done wrong? What about the secrets I keep? Just like Isaiah in our passage today, we find ourselves in the midst of glory and holiness and all of a sudden, the light shines so brightly that we can see ourselves for who we really are. "Oh, great. I'm dead. Not only am I a terrible person but I live with a bunch of terrible people. There's no way I'm getting out of this one." We go from praising God right into a full self-appraisal, which always ends up in "there's no way I'm good enough to be here."

I love the part in the Isaiah passage about the seraphim with the coals. It's almost like God is being who God is in all God's glory and is all ready to call Isaiah to do important work when suddenly Isaiah begins ruminating about what a terrible person he is. So God says to the seraphim, I don't know, go touch him with a burning coal. Maybe that will convince him that he's ok and clean and we can get on with the program here.

I doubt that's actually what happened. But we can relate, I'm sure. We spend so much time worrying about if we are good enough. Or we spend our time convincing ourselves that we really are better than

someone else so at least we can feel better about ourselves. But it's just not about that. All of us make mistakes, all of us fail, and all of us get it right sometimes.

Here at this meal, God comes and touches our lips with a meal that pulls us out of our self-appraisal and reminds us that, true, we will never be enough ourselves, but that's ok because that can't keep God from loving us. It's not about us being loveable enough. It is about the fact that God is love. God is love.

And being led by God's Spirit, we are not distant slaves trying to do what our master says, trying constantly to measure up and jockey for position. We are children of God! So, come children of God, you are already a part of this family. Come and taste this meal and be reminded that you are loved and you are ok.

And as children, of course, we are always waiting for our parent God to ask, who will go for me? And with God's help and the sustenance we receive at this Table, we will answer, "Here I am. Send me."

Communion Hymn #395

"Seed, Scattered and Sown"

Jody Mullis, pianist

Seed, scattered and sown, wheat, gathered and grown,
Bread, broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of God.
Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands,
One cup that is shared by all; the Living Cup,
Living Bread of God.

Is not the bread we break a sharing in our Lord?
Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ outpoured?

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

JC Leasure

At this table we proclaim your death until you come again. We feast with you to agree with what you have done for us. As we partake in this communion, let us affirm your love for us. We stand before you as sons and daughters, as heirs to your kingdom. With this feast, we are reminded to live as your heirs. We will strive to not live by our sinful nature, but by the Spirit that you have given us.

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.

Sharing in Communion

Closing Hymn # 705

"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

Jody Mullis, pianist

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
his truth is marching on.

[Refrain:]
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out all human hearts before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. [Refrain]

Benediction*

Rev. Stillwell

May the God who sustains, the Son who heals,
and the Spirit who empowers
go before you into all your tomorrows.

* 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

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) to "Requests for Prayer or Help." There you can send an email which will go directly to Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center

Bill Behrens Rm 437
835 S Main Street
Washington PA 15301

Homebound Members:

Phyllis Cimino
317 Wellness Way
Strabane Trails #325
Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

In the Military

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

Don Ainsley
Ed Alexy
Gary Anderson
Avery Allen
Donna Bakaitis
Tom Barnhart
Bill Behrens
Bristol Allan Berry
Abby Blanchard
Mark & Susan Britko
Mabel Brooks
Jordon Burk
Mary Chase
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Coretta and family
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
Sandy Harton
Aryn Hess
Ed & Harriet Jackman
Family of Caleb Jackson
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
Connie Sheller
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

GRADUATES!!

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

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.

At the General Board meeting, on May 12th, the Board approved and recommended the following revision to the constitution which must be provided to the congregation, for review, two weeks prior to the congregation meeting on Sunday, June 6:

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.