

Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 23


May 29, 2020

Coronavirus update: As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian church, we continue to work toward the re-opening of the building of Fairhill Manor Christian Church and our resumption of worship in the sanctuary. Our three Task Groups of Building Preparation, Worship and Communications met this past week to layout the necessary steps to return to our next normal. As you may imagine there are many changes that need to be made to make our return safe for members and friends. I encourage you to continue to pray as we make those decisions and watch your Manor Minutes for updates. Our Communications Task Group will be soliciting your help in a survey. I hope you will respond as you can and share your thought as we, with God's help, will get through this difficult time together—one congregation seeking to serve in God's name and share through God's love. Blessings, Darwin



Zoom Worship
Meeting ID: 932-4557-4206
Password: 026316

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93245574206?pwd=cHdQMmlPWURmWkdqQUZmRXlMeGdudz09>

A cartoon grocery bag character with a smiling face, arms, and legs, holding a sign that says "HELP US, HELP OTHERS!".

HEY CHURCH -We will be hosting another **DRIVE-THRU FOOD COLLECTION** – Saturday, June 6th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the front drive at FMCC 351 Montgomery Ave. We will be collecting non-perishable foods, especially, but not limited to, canned tuna, other canned meats, Spaghetti -O's, canned Ravioli, peanut butter, jelly, mac 'n' cheese, pancake mix, syrup. Monetary donations will also be accepted. We will have a crew at the front steps to collect your items. There will be no need for you to get out of your car. Our crew will be social distancing, wearing face masks, and gloves. Please enter the drive-way off of Montgomery. This food drive is not limited to only Church folks so please let your neighbors and anyone else know that this is happening. Hope ALL is staying safe and healthy.... blessings to all.



Sunday at 11 AM

Meeting ID: 735-805-8215
Password: 550943



NEW KEYS!!!

The trustees have changed the exterior door locks, except the Parking Lot Entrance, to control access to the church to enhance our sanitation of the building due to the COVID-19 virus. Rooms, hallways and stairs are clearly marked to aid in keeping the building clean. All doors are still accessible from inside the building. We appreciate everyone's help in our mission to create and maintain a safe environment.

Thank You, Fairhill Manor Trustees



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Dr. W. Darwin Collins, Interim Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

May 31, 2020

Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

Welcome*

Rev. Collins

Call to Worship*

Marsha Sams

Listen, can you hear the wind? Look, can you see the dancing flames? Can you hear the message in a language you can understand? Do you see the visions? Can you dream the dreams? Come let Pentecost become real in our lives this morning. Come and worship our God who sends the Spirit to touch us and transform us into courageous disciples! Come, Holy Spirit; Come!

Opening Hymn*

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

organ by Audra Allan

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praises we render: O hold us to see
that only the splendor of light hideth thee.

We Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives

Decoration Day

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Sleep, comrades, sleep and rest
On this Field of Grounded Arms,
Where foes no more molest,
Nor sentry's shot alarms!

Ye have slept on the ground before,
And started to your feet
At the cannon's sudden roar,
Or the drum's redoubling beat.

But in this camp of Death
No sound your slumber breaks;
Here is no fevered breath,
No wound that bleeds and aches.

All is repose and peace,
Untrampled lies the sod;
The shouts of battle cease,
It is the Truce of God!

Rest, comrades, rest and sleep!
The thoughts of men shall be
As sentinels to keep
Your rest from danger free.
Your silent tents of green
We deck with fragrant flowers
Yours has the suffering been,
The memory shall be ours.

We remember with gratitude those who have served our country and given their lives. May their sacrifice not be forgotten, and their memory further inspire us to work for peace and justice to end war and violence. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Rev. Collins

Wondrous and loving God, you who can come in gentle ways to comfort and assure, and then come in powerful and dynamic ways to startle and awaken us to your glory. On this Pentecost Day, come as you did with those early followers of Christ to awaken us to your power at work within us through your special gift of presence in your Holy Spirit. Come to us in this time of protection from the coronavirus to assure us of your power at work in giving us control of protecting ourselves and others. For your power is one of healing and love to care for others as we care for ourselves. In this week as we have remembered the sacrifice of others for our freedoms and security, make us bold in your Spirit to do what we can to protect and secure the safety of our loved ones and community. That is a sign of your Spirit's power among us. Send your Spirit among us to guide us to seek ways to break from the fear that surrounds us and to help our neighbors in need. Give us the courage to speak of your love for all people in a time of division and prejudice. Call us, as you did those early disciples to BE your church in word and deed. Send your Holy Spirit upon us today! Let the rushing wind of your spirit, stir us up to action for good and healing. Let the flame of your power ignite our hearts with passion for justice and peace. As we have brought names of people to prayer this day asking for healing mercies, may we also add our names, asking for empowerment and renewal of our spirits. Hear the prayers offered silently for those we remember this day... Take us and use our gifts and our talents for healing in your world. Help us to be bold in our proclamation of your great Good News of love and hope. Through the name of the one who claims us as his own, even Jesus, our Christ, we continue to pray,

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.

Anthem*

“Come Flood This Heart of Mine,” by David Lantz III

Dale Hertrick (Saxophone), James Cope (Trombone), Audra Allen (Organ)

Children's Message*

J.C. Leasure

I'm sure by now you know that I'm a big baseball fan. But did you know I worked for the Wild Things? I worked in the Kid Zone there and was in charge of the bounce houses and games. Every year we would always host the PONY League teams at the park during the World Series. One year my boss put me in charge of showing the Japanese national team around before a game one night. It was hard to do because I didn't speak any Japanese and they didn't speak English. It's pretty hard talking to someone when you can't understand each other. However, we all understood one language: baseball! I showed them the really big, inflatable batting cage that we had and we all took turns hitting balls. That was one of the best days I ever had there.

Having fun with the Japanese team reminds me of the story of Pentecost. All the disciples were gathered and having a meal together and suddenly the Holy Spirit came down from Heaven and filled all the disciples. The disciples were praising God with eager shouts and loud singing. Everyone around them could hear their praises and people that were in Jerusalem from other countries could hear them in their own languages. That's pretty cool!

Because of the Holy Spirit, everybody was able to understand how much God loves them; kind of like how the Japanese team and I were able to understand each other through baseball. So, remember we may not understand everybody we meet because of different languages or cultures, but they can understand how much God loves them by showing His love to them through being kind.

Scripture Reading*

Acts 2: 1-21

Connie Sheller

Sermon*

“Understanding the Wonders of God”

Rev. Collins

Consider the scene on that Pentecost. Like Times Square on New Year's Eve or Pittsburgh streets after a Steelers' Super Bowl victory or the Penguin's winning another Stanley Cup (we all would hope). Maybe it's New Orleans for Mardi Gras or any number of celebratory gatherings where social distancing is neither practiced nor considered. The spirit of the event takes over and rational thought is suspended.

Well, that was Pentecost following Jesus' ascension into the clouds, these early followers of Christ were gathered in Jerusalem as were thousands of other Jewish pilgrims from around the known world from places with names that challenge Connie and every other reader of this Acts account.

And wherever these large crowds gather there is that which repulses us, especially now in distancing for health reasons...but even when not in a pandemic, we may be fearful of the hazards of crowds, the noise, the pushing and shoving, the need for personal space. Yet there is that which attracts and intrigues us by these large gatherings...to be a part of the experience, to discover what it is that is happening...so we at times will go, with hesitation and caution, perhaps, but we go...just as those from all diverse backgrounds and language gathered around the disciples that first Christian Pentecost...for something was happening...a great wind, flames dancing on their heads...and then there was that most consequential eruption of the Spirit of all...these Galileans began speaking in other languages...not the experience of some of our Pentecostal brothers and sisters who get caught up in the spirit and speak in tongues that are not recognized, but they spoke in the languages of the crowd who had moved around them. No, as much as we think about Pentecost being an ecstatic and chaotic event...it had a much richer and powerful impact...it was so that the people gathered could understand...the mighty works of God!

Most commentators of the scripture contrast this great day of the birth of the Christian Church with the Hebrew text of the Tower of Babel. Where humans by their common language sought to rise to the level of God and in retribution God scattered them with speaking different languages so they could no longer plot against God.

This scattering of creation into various ethnic groupings has, at times, justified division and prejudice against those of a different background or language. Somehow diversity was a punishment and not of God. Yet note, Pentecost, as God's Spiritual revival...of the fulfillment of the prophet Joel's picture of the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day did not come about with the disciples speaking one language and requiring that they all become one nationality. Instead, the uniting of people was not of ethnicity or all downloading the Babel app to learn one language...it was that they all came to an understanding of who God was and what God has done through Jesus Christ.

Not just seeing the power of God at work in the wind and flame but understanding God's grace through Jesus came in their own language...it wasn't the Gospel of someone else...it was their Gospel too.

In our day and time as there are still forces in this world that would seek to divide us and seek to lift our differences as exclusive barriers, we need that Pentecost gift of understanding of God's mighty works is for the whole world...for no language difference or ethnicity is greater than the Spirit of Pentecost that united them in God's grace.

For Pentecost is far more than fire and wind and crowds, it is the gift of understanding God as creator of us all, the one who in God's grace unites the whole world and gives us hope. It is the gift of understanding of who and whose we are.

I'm sure there were people offended by that first Pentecost...God's love and mercy extends even to them...but from that one singular day in Jerusalem, the church advanced around the world to all nations and languages and ethnicities...even to us!

Call to Offering*

Marsha Sams

Good a.m. - Even though our doors have been "closed" since mid-March you the Church, Fairhill Manor, continues to be a community of Disciples outside of these walls by being God's hands and touching lives because of the teachings we have learned from Jesus the Christ. How you ask? Please let me update you what we have been doing. On May 2nd we held a Drive-Thru nonperishable food collection which yielded over 2,000 food items and \$1,700. The food and monies have been sorted and distributed to Community Circle Food Pantry and Salvation Army. We will be having another food drive on Saturday, June 6th from 10-12 so please come by and see us. For the last 2 ½ – 3 months several folks from FMCC have been packing supplemental food bags at the Salvation Army on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. At last count over 16,000 bags have been packed and distributed!!! City Mission received 116 pairs of socks that were collected during the Disciples Women's sock drive. Our church van was used a couple of weeks ago to transport food boxes, potatoes, & bread from the Greater Washington County food bank back to Washington to be distributed to people who do not have transportation to go to the Meadowlands to pick the food up on the designated day. On this Pentecost Sunday I am always reminded of one of my favorite Hymns, "Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Melt us, mold us, fill us, Use us. Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on us." Friends we have the Spirit, may it continue to be fresh within us.

As we continue to be the Church outside of these walls please remember that your monetary offerings are still very much needed and appreciated to maintain our Church Budget. God is Good all the time and All the Time God is Good. May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

Invitation to Communion*

Pastor Gena

One year ago, on Pentecost Sunday, our congregation entered a new phase, into a new reality. On that day, I said something like this: "We find ourselves in a situation that perhaps we hadn't expected, that we didn't see coming, that leaves us feeling a great deal of loss and uncertainty." That statement could describe us again on this Pentecost Sunday, couldn't it? For even more reasons, like this coronavirus pandemic that makes this video-recording even necessary. We didn't see this coming a year ago, did we? And yet...

And yet, as the church, we remain with the same task as we had one year ago and really since that first day of Pentecost. This isn't what we want the world to be like, what we want our lives to be like, but where is God working among us even now? Like Peter, our work is to help the world see a different angle – to recognize the new thing God is doing, point to it, celebrate it, and move with it! Here is the good news Peter – and we too – can bring: God is pouring out God's Spirit on all people regardless of

any divisions, classifications, barriers we have made. God is creating a newer, larger community which will encompass anyone and everyone who calls out to God for liberation, for new life...who calls out.

This Table is a Pentecost table. It reminds us again and again of God's newer, larger community that extends its welcome to all. We have been reminded during this time that the Table is so much more than this one Table here in this Sanctuary. It is a Table that is bigger than we can imagine that is in more places than we can imagine. Imagine, there's even a piece of it in your home! And we have remembered that on that night in the Upper Room, Jesus took what was already present – bread and a cup – and helped us to see them from a different angle – as symbols of his new covenant of love with us. And so we take what we already have – whether crunchy or chewy, salty or sweet, square or round, juice or water or tea or soda or milk or whatever we have at hand – and it becomes for us a reminder of the great love Jesus has for each one of us and for all of us.

Imagine the Feast if we gathered all of the elements we have been using at home! What a beautiful, colorful, wonderful bounty of diversity it would be! That seems fitting for this time, doesn't it?

Let's keep looking for where God is working and step in to join where we can. May this meal remind us of the beauty in diversity of all who gather around this Table in many places, all because Peter and his friends saw God working and joined in so long ago.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

J. C. Leasure

Our Father in Heaven,

On this day we celebrate the coming of the Helper that your Son promised to us. We hear the story of how people from many countries heard of your mighty works in their own languages that day. We ask that we partake in communion with you, let it remind us that salvation is for everyone who calls upon the name of Christ. Just as you welcome all, help us to spread the gospel with open hearts. 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, NRSV)

Benediction*

Pastor Gena

We go now,
to be surprised by the Spirit in all that we do and everywhere we go.
We go, claiming our identity as Pentecost people –
people of wind and fire, dreams and visions,
people filled with that most amazing and transforming Spirit.

And now may our loving God who created us,
Christ Jesus who has redeemed us,
And the Holy Spirit who has lifted us and inspired us to serve in Christ's name,
Be with us all. Amen.



The Pastor's Cabinet formed three task groups to plan and prepare for the reopening of the church. There is no date, for a return to the sanctuary for worship, at this time. A return will be determined by the Commonwealth and we will follow CDC guidelines. If, in the meantime, you have any questions, thoughts or concerns related to the reopening please forward your concerns to one of the following three task groups:

- Task Group I** Preparation and care of the building, Terry Houston, Chair houstonterry@comcast.net
Task Group II Preparation for worship in the sanctuary, Rita and Kevin Puskarich
Co- Chairs Kevin7952@comcast.net and ritap87@comcast.net
Task Group III Communications, Cara Hritz, Chair, caradotson@gmail.com

Please continue to pray, not only for our church, but for all others churches, businesses, groups and individuals who are struggling at this time and ask God to grant us patience and compassion and to strengthen our love for one another.

Thank you. Gary Ford, Chair, Pastor's Cabinet

Prayers and Concerns

Please keep the Pastoral Search Committee in your prayers:

J.C. Leasure (Chairperson), Becca Caldwell, Jackie Nelson, Diane Palfreyman, Rolinda Sprowls and Mike Sweeney

Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Pastor Darwin (412-337-4293) or 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 and only to Pastor Darwin and Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

Prayer List:

Avery Allen	Lee & Betsy Martin
Bill Behrens	Ruth Mikuta
Bristol Allan Berry	Dick Moninger
Kassidy Brightwell	Jody Mullis
Mark & Susan Britko	Ed Palfreyman
Diane Cope	Joe Palfreyman
Emily Cope Robinson	Denny Paul
Nick Cross	Betty Jo Riggle
Fred Engle	Barb Roupe
Joe Greene	Shirley Sanders
Bonnie Gregg	Beth Teagarden
Judy Hanning	Melissa Teagarden
Aryn Hess	Shirley Teagarden
Ed & Harriet Jackman	Gary Weaver
Dallas Jacobovitz	Nikki Wells
Tom Lane	Tom Williams
Cheryl Leach	Chuck & Mary Wiseman
	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





Fairhill Manor Christian Church extends its deepest sympathy to Tom Wallace on the death of his mother, Effie Darby who lived in Wayne, WV.

Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center, 835 S Main Street, Washington PA 15301

Bill Behrens Rm 437

Rev. Marge Frank

Homebound Members:

Phyllis Cimino

317 Wellness Way

Strabane Trails #325

Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Mary McDonough

949 Bruce Street

Washington PA 15301



Fairhill Manor has entered a new era: the age of anytime, anywhere giving. We are now signed up with **Givelify**, the mobile giving app for places of worship and charities.

Givelify gives you a beautiful, easy giving experience using your smartphone. There are no frustrating web forms to fill out, and recurring gifts are easy to set up and modify. Even better, it's free to download and use. It's safe and secure and gives you access to your complete giving record.

Want to see how it works? [Watch the demonstration video](#) that shows you all about how to make and track donations.



May 29 Cori Newman

May 30 Ashley Keene

May 31 Preston Allison

Joshua Ingram

Rev. Collins is available to you for your pastoral needs.

Cell: (412) 337-4293

Email: wdar1950@gmail.com

All **Outreach information** can be found on the FMCC website, <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/how-to-help>.

Applications for the **Reese Grant** can be found at

<https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/reese-grant>.

This grant is open to any Fairhill member pursuing higher education (education beyond high school).

Due date is June 15.



Graduates!!

If you are graduating or you have a Family member who is, please call 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 4.

