

Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 47

November 13, 2020



A Note

from Rev. Chris

It's been a pleasure settling into the office and the worship life of Fairhill Manor these past two weeks. I am looking forward to getting out to visit with you, I will have more info on that next week, but for now please let me know of your prayer requests and concerns as you do already with Pastor Gena. My number is 412-956-6590 and you can call me any time before 9 PM or text me at any time. Thank you and God bless

Those with last names beginning with **A-E & F-O** worship in the Sanctuary this week at 9:30. The Worship Schedule can be found at: <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/sanctuary-schedule>

ZOOM - LIVE

Zoom Worship this Week - Live from the Sanctuary at 9:30 am!

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9 am using the same Meeting ID and password.

Meeting ID: 932 4557 4206 Password: 026316

Fellowship with other "Zoomers" from 9 - 9:30 am.

Text your prayer concerns to Pastor Gena (724) 263-0033. She will share these during worship. At 9:30 am, mute yourself on Zoom (Not sure how to do that? Login at 9 am and someone will help). Those on Zoom are visible on the screen at the front of the Sanctuary until the Children's Message and to others on Zoom for the entire worship service. Please be mindful of this. 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 join Children Worship & Wonder. Materials for children to work with during Worship are emailed weekly with the Manor Minutes. To learn more and register your child(ren), <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/children-worship-wonder>

4th – 7th Graders

Gather online via Zoom with 4th-7th Graders on Sunday evenings from 5-6 pm. Our time together each week will be based around "The Beatitudes," a curriculum designed specifically for online interaction and focused on Matthew 4:23-5:12. JC Leasure and Pastor Gena are co-leading this time.

4th-7th Graders – November 15, 5 pm via Zoom

Stewardship/Finance – November 17, 5:30 pm via Zoom

Women's Stories from the Old Testament – November 19, 5 pm via Zoom

Congregational Meeting – November 22, following the service

Beginning November 29, Worship will begin at 10:15 am

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



Congregational Meeting, Sunday, November 22, following the Worship Service to confirm the new Slate of Church Officers 2021

Webinars for November!

Questions? Difficulty registering? Contact the Church Office.

1. Imagining a New World

Presenter: *Rev. Teresa Hord Owens*

In these unprecedented times, more than ever, we must have the courage to imagine a new church for a new world. We must give ourselves permission to change and live in freedom from fear.

Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens is the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She has served as a former Dean of students at the University of Chicago and has more than 20 years of experience leading diverse teams in corporate America.

2. The Local Church & Social Justice: Bringing Church to the Streets

Presenters: *Rev. Dr. Don Gillett and Rev. Megan Huston*

When ministers are at their best, they are preachers, organizers and chaplains, but balancing these roles can be challenging, especially in the midst of our current political divide. Rev. Dr. Don Gillett and Rev. Megan Huston spent two years working together as clergy leaders for Kentucky’s Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. They will share stories and best practices about navigating the difficult path of balancing the pastoral and the prophetic. During this webinar, participants will be invited to ask questions and explore what it means to be called as a pastor or lay leader to live into the ministry of loving God and neighbor.

Rev. Megan Huston is in her 11th year of congregational ministry and is currently serving in her sixth year as Senior Minister of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Bowling Green, Ky. She also serves as a TriChair for the Kentucky Poor People’s Campaign.

Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett II is the Senior Pastor at East Second Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Lexington, Ky., where he has served since July 1999. He is the Executive Director of the Kentucky Council of Churches. He also serves as a Tri-Chair of the Kentucky Poor People’s Campaign.

Register at <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/webinars> to receive links to recordings of these webinars.



Disciples Mission Fund’s special offering for Thanksgiving benefits higher education institutions, 22 in all. You can participate in the Thanksgiving Offering by giving directly to the Disciples Mission Fund through their website www.disciplesmissionfund.org/give, through Fairhill Manor on the Givelify app, or by writing a check to Fairhill Manor with “Thanksgiving Offering” in the memo.

BLESSING BOX COLLECTION

We can give thanks to God daily, by using our BLESSING BOXES. This money will be collected each Sunday in November and dedicated on November 22. Please give your BLESSING BOX money to Carol Davis or Linda Reese. You can mail your check to Linda Reese, 211 Crest Ave, Washington PA 15301. A check can be written to FMCC DWM. Your blessing boxes can be reused.



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Salvation Army RINGING OF THE BELLS - FMCC will NOT be participating, as a Church, in this year's Bell Ringing Campaign. However, if anyone would like to participate on an individual basis to ring bells please contact Capt. Jason at the Salvation Army, 724-225-5740, ext 113.

TREASURES FOR CHILDREN - FMCC will be participating in the Salvation Army's Treasures for Children Program. Amy and Becca Caldwell will be taking the lead on this and are in the process of gathering all the information.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR – We would like to help provide some food to the Community Circle Food Bank for their clients during this holiday season. Please consider participating in the **Reverse Advent Calendar Food Collection** (attached to the MM email) by filling a box with a different suggested food item on list. The food items will be donated to Community Circle Food Pantry. We are starting the collection a few days before Advent officially begins in order to get the food to the Pantry by, Tuesday December 22nd. We will have a drive-thru drop off for the food at FMCC on Saturday December 19th from 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Any questions please contact Marsha Sams by either texting, 859-421-7227 or e-mailing, msams822@gmail.com



November 22: Last names beginning with A-E & P&Z
November 29: Last names beginning with F-O & P-Z
December 6: Last names beginning with A-E & F-O

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.

Ready to get started? [Download](#) the Givelify app for Android or iPhone.



Poinsettia orders will be taken until December 1st.



Beginning Sunday, November 29
Worship will begin at 10:15 am
with the doors opening at 9:45 am.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
November 15, 2020

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship*

Von Lacock

The day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night. We will not be caught unaware. Forsake the ways of darkness. We will live as children of light. Put on the breastplate of faith, and the helmet of salvation. We will prepare ourselves for the struggles that lie ahead. Encourage one another and build each other up. We will work for the kingdom and live as children of light. Come, let us worship the source of love and light.

Opening Hymn

“O Worship the King”

Audra Allen, organist

O worship the King, all glorious above,
and gratefully sing God’s wonderful love,
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail;
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer*

Pastor Gena

Giving God, we rejoice in the gift of this new day, new with possibilities to serve and to share your love with others, multiplying it until it overwhelms all hatred and evil.

Giving God, you have entrusted us with so many treasures. For the wonder of your creation, from its tiniest parts to the grandeur of the night sky, all working together in marvelous ways, we give you thanks. For the treasures that lie within each of us, gifts and abilities, experiences and graces, given to be used for your glory in building your kingdom, we say thank you. For the treasure that is the love and hope we find in you, knowing that nothing can separate us from you, the gift of your Spirit always with us to teach us and guide us, we are grateful. For the gift of your son Jesus that is the life-changing treasure beyond all value, we give you thanks. Your generosity and your goodness astound us!

Giving God, you show us what is good, and you nurture us with your love. Even so, we do not always live according to your will. In times of difficulty, we cling to fear and forget to trust in your deliverance. In times of ease, when we have power and are in control, we hold tight to our privilege and forget your ways. Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have not taken care of nor have we used your treasures as you have hoped. Forgive us, turn us toward you again, that we might walk in your light.

Rejoicing in the treasures of acceptance and compassion that we find in you as we turn to you with the details of our lives, we pray...

For your church, in this community and around the world, that all might come to know the good news of your love.

For oppressors, that they might know freedom in releasing their power and relying only on you, and for those who are oppressed, that they might find justice and release.

For your creation, that we may be the caretakers you intend.

For those who are young, that they might be nurtured in love.

For those who are old, that they might be secure in your care.

For those fighting addiction, that they might find relief.

For those facing death and for those who mourn, that they might be comforted.

For all who are suffering and those who are caring for them, that they would be freed from pain and fear.

For all of those about whom we worry and those whose troubles are known only to you...

God of grace, hear our prayers.

Now make us more faithful than we can be on our own. Use us to reflect your light, for there are many who need to know of your grace. Walk with us, and show us your way, for we want to follow you. Keep us faithful as we wait and watch for your coming realm, when you will welcome all your children into your kingdom of justice, peace and love. We pray all of these things in the name of our greatest treasure, our Lord and Savior, Brother and Friend, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray this way...

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

Children's Message*

Pastor Gena

Can you think of a time when someone showed care and concern for you? How did it feel to be cared about and cared for? How do you feel when you see someone who is struggling or hurting?

One of today's Scripture passages is from Psalm 123. This is what it says (from *The Message*):



“I look to you, heaven-dwelling God, look up to you for help.

Like servants, alert to their master's commands,
Like a maiden attending her lady,

We're watching and waiting, holding our breath,
awaiting your word of mercy.

Mercy, God, mercy!

We've been kicked around long enough,
Kicked in the teeth by complacent rich men,
Kicked when we're down by arrogant brutes.”

It sure sounds like the person writing this poem and their people have been through a lot! They have faced unkindness, judgement, and dismissal from others. And from God they are hoping for something different, something better, aren't they? They are asking God to show them mercy.

Mercy. Mercy involves feeling compassion or emotion when faced with someone else's pain, acting on that person's behalf to show care. Mercy means showing an ongoing commitment to someone even after the crisis has passed.

I wonder what God's mercy looks like. How do you feel when you need mercy? I wonder who in the world and in our lives needs mercy right now.

Dear God, thank you for being a source of compassion and mercy to us. Help us to feel your presence, and helps us to show your mercy to whoever needs it. Amen.

Adapted from Illustrated Ministry children's sermons.

Scripture Reading*

Matthew 25:14-30

Von Lacock

Sermon*

“One Talent Christians”

Rev. Stillwell

When I was in high school I began to take guitar lessons. Now I never thought that I was a virtuoso, but, after learning a couple of my favorite songs, I began to feel pretty good about myself. Unfortunately, I met someone who had a perfect ear for music. He could listen to any song and play it back with ease. Moreover, he was very smart and good with computers, which I was not. Add to this his ability to fix just about any mechanical thing, a talent that was often in need and which I lacked, and I began to feel as if my own talent was not very much.

I spent much of my high school days in the wilderness of despair wondering why my friends seemed to have so many more talents that I began to feel as if they had five talents for every one of mine. I began to feel like the man in this parable who was given only one talent.

The man who was given five talents had more with which to work. He took his five talents, which was equal to about \$5,000, and traded with them. If we were given \$5,000 we could invest it and make a good amount. The man doubled what he was given. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

But the third man received only one talent, and you have to wonder if he felt envious of the other two. Maybe he was upset that the Master had entrusted the others with more. Perhaps these feelings contributed to his actions, when he went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Later on we find out that he was afraid when he told his master, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.”

The man with one talent is “afraid” to use his talent and fail. For if he used his talent and failed he must have believed that it would result in his losing the talent, and then, when the master returned to find his talent gone, he would be furious.

Now of course the word talent here refers to an ancient form of money, and if you use your money and fail you will lose it, as anyone who has ever taken a hit in the stock market or on the lottery knows all too well. But this parable is the ultimate play on words, so much so that it created a new word in the English language. For talent in the context of this story refers to money, but the common modern usage of the word talent stems from the true meaning of this parable.

The word “talent” occurs dozens of times in the Bible, but each time it refers to money, not abilities, but, because this parable is not about using money but using the special abilities that God has given us, the

meaning of the word talent has now come to mean ability. In fact, Webster's defines talent as a special "natural" ability.

The inclusion of the word natural in defining a talent is key, for a talent is not something we create for ourselves. We do not decide that we would like to be talented at a musical instrument and then we are. Of course we can work hard and become adequate on the piano. We can strive to our utmost potential and become good, but to be great at something requires some talent, some special natural ability, some inborn skill that we did not earn.

With that in mind, who then is the one who reaps without sowing? Was the one talent man right when he accused the master of reaping where he did not sow? Or is it we? We receive talents from God at our birth, many of which we will not be made aware of until we are very much grown, and we enjoy the benefits of those talents. If we are born talented at sports, then basketball and football come easy to us along with all the accolades that accompany those sports. If it is music that is our talent then we enjoy the beauty and wonder that music can work and the attention and adulation that come with it. If our talent is math or logic then we reap the benefit of problems easily solved that bedevil others.

We are born with talents by the grace of God, therefore we can say that we reap the benefits of what God has sown. Because we are stewards charged to be faithful to the gifts that God has given us, we can also say that we are charged with developing and using the talents God has given to us. We think of being stewards when it comes to our money, but we must also be stewards of our talents. Nothing is worse than someone who is naturally talented but lets those talents go to waste by not working to develop them

So we see that the one talent man had it all wrong. He was afraid that if he used his talent he would lose it, but he discovered that he lost it by not using it, and the same is true for us. We each have been given talents by the grace of God. We each have different talents and different amount of talents. Still there is something that God has chosen to give us ability in and we should use that ability for God's end. We might think that we have no talent. We might think that the talent we have is so minuscule that it is not worth using, or that we do not have sufficient talent to do God's will. We may believe that God's purposes are so large and magnificent that they are best left up to those who have been given five talents or more.

The church has benefitted from five talent people to be sure. The apostle Paul had the knowledge and the ability to learn of anyone, but could also preach, teach, and start churches. Likewise, the Renaissance painters such as Michelangelo and Da Vinci painted some of the greatest Christian masterpieces while also sculpting and inventing many things. Alexander Campbell was a man who preached and, yet also was an editor and printer of a newspaper, a farmer, and founded a college.

These are the people who have made a name for themselves because of their many talents and whose names have been remembered by history long after their contemporaries were forgotten. Certainly, without them the Christian Church would be impoverished, but I doubt that it would exist at all if not for the efforts and the faithful stewardship of one talent Christians over the years.

What good would it have done Shakespeare to write such brilliant plays if there was no one to bind and print them for posterity? What good would the preaching and teaching of Martin Luther have accomplished if there was no one to hear and share his ideas? How powerful would Martin Luther King Jr's dream have been if there had not been people to record it, others to march behind it, and still others to believe it and share it?

Think of a piano with 88 keys. Each one is different containing a different talent which is the note that it plays. Each key has only one talent, one note but, if it fails to use it, think of the mess it would make of a

beautiful song. The church is full of talented people, and like Christ's parable some have two or five or more talents, but everyone has at least one. Maybe that talent is singing in the choir, calling on the shut-ins, repairing and maintaining the building, cooking delicious food to share.

You may look at another and think that your talent does not compare to his or hers, so out of fear of embarrassment you hide your talent, but remember the Master rewarded the man who used five talents the same as the man who used two, and I am sure he would have rewarded the one talent man just the same if he had only used the talent that God had given him.

The newspaper columnist, Erma Bombeck, once said "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'"

That should be the hope of each of us. God has sown great things for us to reap, all we have to do is use our talents, whether they be five, or two, or one and we can all share in the joy of the master.

Call to Offering*

Von Lacock

I grew up living in a row house in Lincoln Hill. This is where I learned the meaning of giving. No one had much money but everyone shared what they had. Whoever was baking that day always made a little extra to share with others. We had many different nationalities living here. Some were very difficult to understand but that didn't matter, the smile on their face said it all. The gardens were large and everyone helped each other plant, harvest, and share the bounty.

Fairhill Manor is much like my days growing up in Lincoln Hill. Our church has always been a giving church, not just with financial giving but giving of their time and talents as well. We share the good times and the not so good times. We share God's love with each other. We share our possessions to do God's work. This reminds me of a saying by Mother Teresa, "It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in to giving"

Dedication of Offering Prayer*

Rev. Stillwell

We consider it a privilege to invest our offerings in a cause that will never fail. We are investing in human beings, who are both mortal body and eternal soul, so we give in confidence that our investment will never be lost.

Invitation to Communion*

Rev. Stillwell

I mentioned the five talent Christian, Martin Luther who was once asked how Christians should live their faith in their daily work. Using the example of a cobbler he said "The Christian shoemaker does his duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship." It does no good to make poor quality shoes and think that putting crosses on them will make up for the lack of care. In fact it makes things worse.

Instead we are called to use our talents, whatever they are to the best of our ability, whether it is returning phone calls, making lunches, or writing if we do them well they are a way to reflect God's glory. If we do this then the content of our work doesn't matter so much. We let go of our need to be seen, noticed, or applauded. And instead we work faithfully and diligently; aware that the Creator of all things will find us trustworthy to inherit the fruits of his son's labor to which we are now called to share at this table.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Rita Puskarich

Holy God,

You were there in the beginning and yet you planned for us. You set a plan that included Your Son who was also there in the beginning with your Spirit. We are here as your family; some of us physically here in this room and some of us in our homes. We are gathered with one goal – to remember the life Your Son Jesus gave for each of us and to give you praise and honor. We thank you for loving, accepting, caring and healing us. Bless us now as we take the bread and cup to sustain us in our faith journey. 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)

Closing Hymn

“I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy”

Jody Mullis, pianist

I have the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart, (where?)
Down in my heart, (where?)
Down in my heart

I have the Love of Jesus, Love of Jesus, Love of Jesus
Down in my heart, (where?)
Down in my heart, (where?)
Down in my heart

I have the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart, (where?)
Down in my heart to stay

I have the Love of Jesus, Love of Jesus, Love of Jesus
Down in my heart, (where?)
Down in my heart to stay

And I'm so happy, so very happy
I have the love of Jesus in my heart
(down in my heart)

And I'm so happy, so very happy
I have the love of Jesus in my heart
(down in my heart)

And I'm so happy, so very happy
I have the love of Jesus in my heart

And I'm so happy, so very happy
I have the love of Jesus in my heart

Benediction*

Rev. Stillwell

May God’s grace be sufficient for each new day.
May God’s peace sustain you in the dark night.
May God’s power give you the ultimate victory.



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 Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

Prayer List:

Avery Allen
Donna Bakaitis
Bill Behrens
Bristol Allan Berry
Mark & Susan Britko
Jordon Burk
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Rick & Dawn Couch
Irma Davis
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg
Sloan Amelia Hagy

Judy Hanning
Aryn Hess
Ed & Harriet Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Tom Lane
Bob Lanning
Cheryl Leach
Rick Lewis
Lee & Betsy Martin
Don Melvin
Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Jody Mullis
Georgette Murray
Elinor Newman
Joe Palfreyman
Deborah Patterson

Denny Paul
Sadie Reese
Betty & Charles Riecks
Betty Jo Riggle
Chip Rogers and his parents
Jim and Barb Roupe
Theresa Shape
Doug and Tracy Smith
Jaedan Shetler
Cathy Stewart
Beth Teagarden
Melissa Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash

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

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

Please remember for the safety of others, anytime you enter the Church (even if you are the only one around):

- **Wear a mask**
- **Sign in on the bulletin board inside the back door**
- **Use the hand sanitizer as you enter**

Thank you!!

Church Office hours :
Monday – Friday 9 am -2 pm. Karen is at the Church on Wednesday & Thursday and working from home on Monday, Tuesday & Friday.

Pastor Gena is off on Friday.

Rev. Chris is off on Friday.

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



* You can listen to these pieces of worship at <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/worship-audio-files>