

Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 44

Oct 23, 2020

A Prayer of Thanks from Pastor Darwin

As we focused for the past five weeks in worship on the Apostle Paul's comments to the Philippian Christians, I am struck by the depth of his appreciation and love for these people he had only come to know in a short period. He wrote "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you."

In these past 16 months that I've been honored to be your Interim Senior Pastor, I have come to love and appreciate you...and so as I conclude my ministry with you, I end my time with the same feelings as Paul....I will keep you all in my prayers with a heart filled with joy and pray for God to bless you all as you come to love and to be loved by your new pastor, Rev. Chris Stillwell.

As Meister Eckhart said more than 800 years ago, "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough." Thank You! Amen.

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



November 1: Last names beginning with A-E & P-Z
November 8: Last names beginning with F-O & P-Z
November 15: Last names beginning with A-E & F-O

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

Children Worship & Wonder has begun! To learn more and register Children age 3 – Grade 5, <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/children-worship-wonder>

We invite children to join in Worship via Zoom at 9:30 am. Materials for children to work with during Worship are emailed weekly with the Manor Minutes.

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!!**

New Group for 4th-7th Graders!

We are excited to announce that we will be gathering 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 by Illustrated Ministry designed specifically for online interaction and focused on Matthew 4:23-5:12. JC Leasure and Pastor Gena are co-leading this time. Please contact Pastor Gena or the Church Office to find out more. Would you like to see more children and youth in our congregation? Invite the young people in your life to join us!



Calling Commission – October 26, 6 pm via Zoom

Elders Meeting – October 28, 6:30 pm via Zoom

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

October Webinar discussion – November 2, 7 pm via Zoom

November Board Meeting – November 11, 7 pm via Zoom

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

DRIVE-THRU NATIVITY

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and requirements, the annual Drive-Thru Nativity will NOT be held in December.



Bo Pryor will celebrate his 90th birthday on October 28.

Let's all join together to wish him a very happy birthday.

If you would like to send him a card, his address is: 140 Lagonda Rd, Washington PA 15301



Ask a Rabbi and Your Money and Your Life: Stories of Stewardship

Register for October webinars here: <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/webinars>

Discuss these webinars via Zoom on Monday, November 2 at 7 pm.

A link/call-in number for this discussion will be sent to you during the last week of October.

BLESSING BOXES

Throughout these COVID19 months, God has remained faithful to us with many blessings. 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. A check can be written to: FMCC DWM. Boxes can be kept and used again.



All money goes to the DOC Church Mission Fund. 50% is used for women's studies, programs, and development nationally and internationally. When we recognize our daily blessings, we provide countless blessing for women in our world!



Pastor Gena's day off is Friday. If you need to reach Pastor Gena on Friday, please call the Church Office at (724) 225-8610.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

RINGING OF THE BELLS FOR WASHINGTON'S SALVATION ARMY (SA) -2020 – It has been decided, by your Outreach Team, because of the concern for our congregants' health and the current COVID-19 situation, that as a Church, FMCC will NOT be participating 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. We are encouraging that if you are out and about and see a red kettle to please make a donation and thank the volunteer for their time. Also a Givelify account has been set up through FMCC if anyone would like to make a donation that way.

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 is 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** 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



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
October 25, 2020

A Service of Gratitude and Farewell

Prelude

Joshua Garrett, Steel Drums

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship*

Gene Sheller

Let us gather to pray with joy! For God has called us to a good work that will lead us to be pure and blameless. Thanks be to God for our shared service of the gospel!

Opening Hymn

“He Has Made Me Glad”

Jody Mullis, pianist

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart,
I will enter His courts with praise.
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

He has made me glad, He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for he has made glad.
He has made me glad, He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer*

Pastor Gena

Faithful God, our hearts burst with thanksgiving this morning for your goodness, your faithfulness, your love. You provide for us, you give us energy and resources for the journey, you lead us and guide us.

Thank you for this congregation and its leaders. Thank you for those who worked to discern who would best lead us through this interim time. Thank you for their sensitivity to the movement of your Spirit, who guided us far better than we could have foreseen. You knew what we would need during this time of uncertainty and transition, of self-reflection and reorganization, and you provided that steady, insightful, caring and focused leadership in Pastor Darwin Collins. Thank you for the ways you worked to bring about this partnership that has surely borne fruit even in times of uncertainty, that has nurtured us even in times of disconnection, that has pushed forward with hope even when it was easy to feel paralyzed. We are in awe of your wisdom and your guidance. Keep us open and sensitive to the movement of your Spirit.

We ask for your forgiveness wherever it is needed, that we may always look back upon these 16 months with fondness and thanksgiving. Release us from any regrets, cover any wounds with your mercy and grace. We entrust any unfinished tasks to your care, knowing that your plans are sure and often beyond our understanding.

We thank you for the many ways Pastor Darwin has brought your word into our lives – in worship, in the midst of meetings, as we faced difficult and contentious decisions. Thank you for the ways you have cared for us through Pastor Darwin in our homes, in our hospital rooms, over the phone. Thank you for the words of challenge, encouragement, and grace you have spoken to us through him.

We ask that you continue to bless Pastor Darwin and Rachel as they live into the joy of grandparenting, of deepening and cherishing their shared life with each other. Bless them with fullness of life and love, we pray.

We ask that you continue to bless this congregation. Continue to raise up leaders among us who will guide us into this new chapter. Show us your vision of who you call us as Fairhill Manor Christian Church to be in this time and in this place. Help us to see the gifts you have given us, each of us, for the good of this congregation and our community, that we might continue to be a place of welcome, love and hope.

Be with those who need your special care today. For those struggling with disappointment or illness, those who are alone and afraid, we pray. Be with these who we have named aloud and those we name in our hearts now... Teach us how to love well, we pray.

Give us glad hearts that abound with exclamations of praise as we pray together in the name of Jesus as he taught us 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.

A Time of Appreciation, Gratitude and Farewell

Anthem

Children's Message*

Pastor Gena

Have you ever noticed in our Children Worship & Wonder stories we say this sentence a lot ... "They were so happy they just couldn't help but give thanks to God"? We said this in our story of the mother and father Noah and their family. They were so happy to be home after the waters dried up and they came out from the ark that they couldn't help but give thanks to God. Abram and Sarai were so happy that God was with them in all of the places they went that they just couldn't help but give thanks to God. Do you remember what all these people did to show their thanks to God? They built a special place, called an altar, and they prayed their thanks to God. They talked with God and listened to God. Can you think of other ways people give thanks to God?

Today in Children Worship & Wonder we will hear about the people of God who were so happy after God led them out of slavery in Egypt and through the water to freedom that they just had to give thanks to God. And do you know how they gave thanks to God? They sang their thanks. And Miriam, the prophet, led the dancing.

How else do people give thanks to God?

Today we are saying good-bye to our Interim Pastor Darwin Collins. This is the last time he will lead us in worship in this way. This is the last time we will call on him as our Pastor to guide us and care for us. We are sad to see him go, but mostly, we are so happy to have had him as our Pastor for these past 16 months that we just can't help but give thanks to God. I wonder how we might do that. We've been praying our thanksgiving. We can sing and dance our thanksgiving too. How else might we give thanks to God for the gift of Pastor Darwin?

Dear God, thank you for loving us through Pastor Darwin Collins. We are so happy that you have been with us that we can't help but pray our thanks, sing our thanks, dance our thanks and play our thanks! You are always with us, guiding us and showing us the way. Bless Pastor Darwin and Rachel as they go. We know you go with them too for you are in every time and every place just as you have promised. Amen.

Scripture Reading*

Philippians 1:3-11

Gene Sheller

Sermon*

“Doxology”

Rev. Collins

For the past four weeks we've focused on the members of that First Christian Church of Philippi. The concerns of some disputes, the need for them to support and welcome their new pastors, their cause for rejoicing in the midst of adversity, the assurances that God would provide for them and their charitable expressions of sending gifts to Paul. What we haven't spent much time with is the author of the letter...or these emails. Paul of Tarsus. A Jew by faith, a Roman by citizenship and a converted Zealot against the followers of Christ to now, the greatest evangelist for this one, named Jesus of Nazareth...or for Paul Jesus the Christ.

Unfortunately, with no videos available and no photographs or pencil sketches, we are left with only snippets of information. Perhaps the best description we have of this one who with such devotion and compassion wrote this emotional letter, is to be found in the apocryphal book, The Acts of Paul and Thecla. A first century writing it was a favorite of many because of its use to promote the leadership and preaching of women...now you know why it may not have made it into the Holy Canon. What it does reveal are the characteristics to put flesh and bone onto this great leader without whom Christianity may never have left the Middle East. The text describes Paul in this way: a man of middling size, which in those days would have been between 5' 2" and 5' 5". His hair was scanty, otherwise deep receding hairline or bald. His legs were a little crooked with knees projecting, with large eyes, a unibrow and his nose was somewhat long. A television evangelist, probably not. Compensating for all of this he is described as being full of grace and mercy and at once seemed like a man and at other times like an angel."

And from this shortish, not so handsome mix of humanity and heaven, we find in our text this remarkable and complimentary introduction to his last words to these Christians he loved...and it's a Doxology. A thank you note. A recognition that what marks us as Christians is yes, our love for God and one another; our joy in Christ, our trust in God's presence in all times, our humility...all of these are essential lessons from this letter, but Paul begins, as I believe all of our days ought to begin and end...with thanksgiving for God's blessings. And his thanks is the same as mine as I depart as your Interim Pastor...Giving thanks for your sharing in the Gospel. And it is with my prayer that you continue to share the love of God with each other and this community of Washington. May your love continue to overflow.

I have been privileged and honored to share in this ministry with you for these past 16 months...months marked with the grief over the loss of your former pastor, Mike, the replacement of your administrative assistant, Shirley, a roof replacement and the demanding and anxious searching for a new pastor. And then came the pandemic. Through all of this I give thanks to the Elders who maintained close contact with all our members, the Trustees who were required to be health officers, maintenance supervisors and all around quick on their feet. Ministries and Board members had to adjust to virtual gatherings fighting to remember to unmute and mute, to sit up so we could see more than the crown of one another's heads, Givelify has become second hand for many of us to contribute to the church. And I offer the depths of my thanks to the Pastor's Cabinet who probably thought we would never stop meeting...and lastly to our staff...Gena and her creative technical machinations that brought us to where we are in worship; to Karen

and her excellence as our administrative assistant who kept us connected; to Audra and Jody for adding their musical talents to calm and reassure us during stressful and anxious times; for Wray whose extra care in sanitizing our building gave us confidence to return to our church home; and finally to Jim whose appreciation for church music and his contacts with other musicians provided a wonderful variety of music to strengthen our worship.

What I love most about this letter of Philippians is Paul's introduction...so many important things to share, but he begins by giving thanks. In my life, I am so grateful for the example of faithful people who constantly practiced offering Doxology...of giving thanks in all times. Among the stories that Fred Craddock wrote was an experience early in his life when sitting on his porch one summer night, after a long hard day, he turned toward the sky to admire the stars. He said it was then that an idea came to mind...not so much an original idea, but with no one there to claim it as their own, he possessed it and named it...Doxology. And from that day he said he took Doxology with him every day. To work, to family dinners, to holidays...there was doxology. They laughed together at humorous times, sang together in church and during good times...doxology was his best friend.

One day Fred thought long and hard about whether to take Doxology into the hospital as he visited Betty who had just received word that the cancer was spreading, and her days would not be long. He decided that doxology should remain in the car. When Fred arrived at the room, he decided to skirt the subject of the prognosis, until Betty said, "Pastor, it's alright to talk about me dying soon. I've worked through it with God. Because God has blessed me with a wonderful life, great family, the best of friends and so much happiness. I am grateful." When Fred returned to the car, Doxology asked if he should have gone with him...and Fred said, "Yes. I guess I misunderstood the importance of gratitude."

Doxology...thankfulness...it is so important as a follower of God to always be thankful...to never leave Doxology behind. Whether in the best of times or pandemics, whether healthy or dying. Give thanks to God. When Doxology I on our lips we will never lose sight or awareness of God's loving presence in our lives. That's how I end my ministry with you, as partners in the Gospel with doxology on my lips and you, the wonderful people of Fairhill Manor CC always in my prayers and my heart. Thanks be to God!

Call to Offering*

Gene Sheller

There is a section of the Disciples of Christ denomination (the DOC) called Disciples Home Missions (DHM). That ministry includes, among others, the Disciples Men, the Disciples Women, Youth, and Young Adult. The people of our congregation can access those ministries and many others in the DHM. Rev. Sheila P. Spencer is the DHM's Interim President.

Rev. Sheila likes her move from California to Indiana to the DHM because of the changing seasons. During a recent walk she reflected on a prayer from the Book of Uncommon Prayers. The title of the prayer was "When the Seasons Take Your Breath Away" and it is written by Anthony Robinson. It reads as follows:

"Praise be to you, O God, for your created world and especially for the quartet of the seasons: winter's bright blue chill and death, spring's new green and growth, summer's sweet ripeness and brightness, and autumn's colors, and bittersweet hastening and gathering. Thank you for this amazing rhythm and its reminder that we live always before you and by your sustaining seasons." I really like that poem.

If you haven't already done so, look around at the many members of Fairhill Manor Christian Church. We are different, like the seasons, except we are all here at the same time. We are so different from each other with different ideas and abilities. What a kaleidoscope we are!

We celebrate our shared life of joy, love, and working together to gain knowledge and full insight to determine what is best while giving thanks for each other at Fairhill.

We are different even in our ability to give financially. Please pray during this time of offering that during the coming weeks you will give as much as you can, without endangering yourself financially, so that our congregation will continue to thrive and do the ministries we do.

May God bless you in the giving of your offering.

Dedication of Offering Prayer*

Rev. Collins

Gracious and generous God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not merely with our words, but with our lives and actions of generosity as well. Amen.

Invitation to Communion*

Rev. Collins

I spoke with the members of my spiritual retreat group this week and foremost among our conversation was the anticipated loss that we feel over the cancellation of family gatherings, especially for Thanksgiving. I shared that one of my disciplines for Thanksgiving Day is not merely to rejoice over the presence of family gathered physically at the table each year, but to think upon the special family and friends that have gathered with in previous holidays who are no longer present many having gone to their eternity. I can imagine with my inner eyes to see them and to give thanks for what they left of God' love. At this table of remembrance we practice much the same discipline, not seeing our physical Christ, or the disciples...or the hundreds of others with whom we have shared this dinner in past years, we still can see with our spiritual eyes and be encouraged to give thanks for those around us, for those who share this observance over Zoom and for those with whom we have dined at this table before. I don't know who all they are...but while we share the Lord's Supper together this morning I invite you to reimagine them present and offering thanks to God, for this community, this family we call the church.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Connie Sheller

Our loving and faithful Father,

We thank you for the teachings of Paul, for they give us insight into our purpose in life. Help us to share God's transforming power of love equally with everyone, to exhibit moral discernment between right and wrong, good, and bad, and to know true joy through a consistent, vibrant relationship with Christ. As we partake of this bread and cup, representing Jesus' body and blood, fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we may be more like Christ everyday: thankful and joyful. Amen

Words of Institution*

Rev. Collins

Gathered with his followers around the table, Jesus took the bread and offering a prayer of thanksgiving to God, broke it and gave it to them and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you." Later in the meal he took a cup and offered a similar prayer of thanks to God. He gave it to them and said, "Take and drink. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for many for the forgiveness of sin." Join with all of us by eating and drinking these gifts of God for us, the people of God.

Closing Hymn

"Give Thanks"

Jody Mullis, pianist

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy one,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
Give now let the weak say "I am strong"; let the poor say "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us.

Litany of Farewell

Rev. Collins and Pastor Gena

Pastor Gena: The Christian life is not so much a destination as a journey. God travels with us always, and people join us along the way. There are times of welcoming fellow travelers, and there are times of bidding one another farewell. Today we share the time of farewell with our Interim Pastor Darwin Collins and with Rachel, whose time with us in this way has come to its conclusion.

Rev. Collins: I thank Fairhill Manor Christian Church, its members and friends, for the love kindness and support shown me these last 16 months. With joy I recall the many things we have been able to accomplish together. As I leave, I carry with me many memories of experiences we have shared together.

Pastor Gena: Your years of experience have comforted and anchored us during a difficult time. We accept that your journey now leads you elsewhere. Your influence on our lives will not leave us even though you depart from us.

Rev. Collins: I trust that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. As you experience the uncertainty of change and the insecurities of moving on, may you also experience the blessing of inner growth and the excitement of new beginnings. God's blessing be on you.

Pastor Gena: So now, Pastor Darwin and Rachel,
Go in Peace; with our love, our blessings, and our prayers supporting you.
Go in Strength; with the gifts we have shared in our time together.
Go in Joy; with the assurance that the bonds of our life in Christ cannot be broken.
You are a part of our church family; here you will always be welcome.
We go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

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



Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact 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
Irma Davis
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg
Sloan Amelia Hagy

Judy Hanning
Gilbert Haught
Aryn Hess
Ed & Harriet Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Tom Lane
Bob Lanning
Cheryl Leach
Rick Lewis
Lee & Betsy Martin
Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Jody Mullis
Georgette Murray
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
Cathy Stewart
Beth Teagarden
Melissa Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash

Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center

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

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.

Givelify
Tap. Give. Done.



TAILGATE PICNIC PHOTOS....

