

Manor Minutes

Volume 12 Issue 39

October 1, 2021

The Story – October 3 Chapter 3 Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh

Trustee/Stewardship Finance Ministry Meeting – October 5, 6pm Library

Dartball – October 5, 7pm @Home

Calling Commission – October 7, 10am via Zoom

Personnel Committee – October 7, 4pm Library

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

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

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45am 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 be shared during worship to Rev. Chris at (412) 956-6590.

Reconciliation Ministry – Special Offering
October 3

Your gift promotes our capacity to reveal
God's love and justice by promoting conversation,
education, and inclusive worship.

**TRUNK OR
TREAT**

**October 24
2-3pm
Church Parking Lot**

Help Us, Help Others

Hygiene Kits for Church World Service

Goal: 125 We need your help.....

- Purchase one or more items for the Hygiene Kits. Choose tags in the Narthex. Sign your name next to the numbers of your tags on the record sheet. Purchase the items and return them to the boxes in the Narthex by Sunday, **October 3**.
- Contribute money to purchase items for the Hygiene Kits or to help ship the kits. Give on Givelify or put money (marked "CWS Kits") in the Offering Plate.
- Make one or more complete Hygiene Kits. Find full instructions at <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/hygiene-kits/>
- Join us as we bless the School and Hygiene Kits during worship on **October 10**.
- Help assemble Hygiene Kits on Sunday, **October 10** right after worship in the Large Fellowship Hall

Dates to remember:

October 10: Bless the School and Hygiene Kits during worship.

October 10: Assemble the kits following worship.





Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(*Disciples of Christ*)

351 Montgomery Ave.
724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
October 3, 2021

World Communion Sunday

Prelude Audra Allen, organist

Welcome Pastor Gena

Call to Worship Serena Dube

Gracious God, you show us the meaning of reconciliation in the life of Jesus Christ.
In His touch, His words, His actions, Jesus reconciled people to God and to the community.
We gather to renew ourselves that we, too, might reconcile others with a touch, a word, or an act.

Opening Hymn “*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*” Audra Allen, organist

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

Our God is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother’s tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer Rev. Stillwell

Colorful God, the cool weather moves in, and the leaves change from green to red and gold. As we gather in all we need for winter, may we stop and marvel at the fruits you bring, the painted landscapes, the bounty of this land - on farm and in market.

As the season changes, we are reminded that you are an unchanging God, but it is your desire to continue to change us—to mold and shape us, to teach us to have faith like a child. Lord, be our teacher!

Teach us to praise you, God, for awe, wonder, and excitement as new things happen in our life and in the life of our church.

Teach us to confess. At this time of year, we are inundated with busyness. Forgive us, Lord, when our busyness overshadows you.

Teach us to be thankful that in teaching us, you change us. Teach us to trust in you for guidance and direction.

Help us realize the magnitude of your grace and then to teach others what it means to live with that grace. As we seek to further your kingdom, fill us with the same exuberance, wonder, and awe that we see in

children at the beginning of a new school year. Fill us with the same beauty and color that we see in the changing leaves all around us.

As the hemisphere begins its preparations for sleep and all its wondrous glory, may we know a quiet peace of mind that you envelop us in your warmth. Help us draw in others who might not feel this warmth - so that we become a people who share your bounty of food and spirit with all whom we meet.

We give thanks that by your Spirit you empower us to bear with one another in love, maintaining unity in the bond of peace.

We give you thanks, then, almighty God, that you call to us in grace and mercy, that you help our unbelief, that you empower us to be your people and your church.

May we, as your people, lead a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called, believing that there is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. Amen.

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

Genesis 37:1-11

Kevin Puskarich

Infant Dedication – Margot Evelyn Hritz

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

As I am sure all of you know, Halloween is coming soon. Because of that I brought a Jack o' Lantern with me this morning. How many of you have ever made a Jack o' Lantern? If you have, you know that the first thing you do when making a Jack o' Lantern is to clean up your pumpkin by washing off the dirt and mud. Then you cut a hole in the top of the pumpkin and clean out the inside. You scoop out all the seeds and yucky stuff.

The next thing you do is to carve a face. You cut out the eyes, nose, and mouth. I don't know about you, but I always like to put a smile on my Jack o' Lantern. The next step is to put a candle inside the Jack o' Lantern. Then you light the candle so that the light will shine through the eyes, nose, and mouth. Finally, when all is finished, you place the Jack o' Lantern in the window so that all who pass by your house will see its light.

You know, I was thinking. This is a pretty good picture of what happens when we invite Jesus into our heart. When we become a Christian, Jesus picks us up and cleanses our life from sin. He removes all the yucky thoughts and the seeds of doubt, hate, and selfishness that we have inside. Then he puts a smile on our face and puts his light inside to shine for all the world to see.

I don't know what you think of when you see a Jack o' Lantern, but I hope that this Halloween you will think of Jesus. Think about how he came to take away the sins of the world and put his light in our hearts to shine for him.

Special Music

“How Great Thou Art”

Audra Allen

Second Scripture Reading

Genesis 37:18-28

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Show a Little Grace”

Rev. Stillwell

As we move through the Old Testament we are only just beginning and a long way from the culmination of our story, which is the resurrection and the actions of Jesus, but if a story is a good one it will give you ideas of what is to come. It will give you hints, and it will show you signs that point to the theme that will run throughout. This we can call the upper story, which is the story of God’s love for us despite our waywardness. It is the story of God’s forgiveness despite our transgressions. It is the story of God’s grace. That is the upper story.

As we read the lower story, the individual stories of the Bible, the upper story may not always be apparent. It is hard to find God’s grace in the midst of people killing one another or a list of animals the people can and cannot eat. Still there are stories where the two clearly intertwine, and our story for today of Joseph and his brothers is one of the best examples of just such a story.

It is a story of many things. Pride, arrogance, jealousy, hate, wisdom, all play their part in the story as well as vivid dreams and a colorful coat, but perhaps more central to the story than anything is grace, and what Joseph and his brothers experience is a prelude to the grace that God will show us through Jesus Christ. So let’s tell the story.

Once there was a man named Jacob. He was the son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham, through whom God had promised to make a great nation. This was not yet fulfilled but Jacob would take an important step in the creation of that nation by having 12 sons. Each one would go on to be the patriarch of a tribe and from them would come the twelve tribes of Israel, but it almost didn’t happen, because with twelve brothers you can imagine how there was often a lot of fighting. This must have driven Jacob crazy but in many ways it was his fault.

Parents are not supposed to have favorite children, but Jacob loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age as the Bible says, which is odd considering that Joseph was not the youngest. Benjamin was younger, but these things rarely make sense. As a sign of his favoritism, Jacob gave Joseph a multi-colored coat and this gift provoked jealousy amongst his brothers. While Joseph cannot be blamed for the unequal love of his father he did not make things better for himself, when he told the brothers of a dream in which his brothers had sheaves that bowed down to his and then another day the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to him. When he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him, and said to him, ‘What kind of dream is this that you have had? Shall we indeed come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow to the ground before you?’ So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

At this point in the story I am with the brothers. Have you ever been upset at a sibling? Have you ever been involved in sibling rivalry vying for the attention of your parents? What did it make you do? Perhaps you still feel that your brother or sister is your parents’ favorite, but how mad and jealous would you have to be to want to kill them? That is what Joseph’s brothers want to do and it is a measure of how much they resent him that we can say Joseph was lucky to only be sold into slavery.

At the age of 17 Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery and tell their father that Joseph was killed by a ferocious animal showing him his colorful coat now covered in blood as proof. Joseph is sold to Ishmaelites who take Joseph to Egypt to be a slave to an Egyptian administrator named Potiphar. That is pretty bad, but things get worse for Joseph from there. Potiphar's wife takes a liking to Joseph, tries to seduce him, and when he refuses her advances, falsely accuses him of assaulting her. In this way Joseph finds himself in prison. This is twice now that the one to whom people were to bow, finds himself in a lowly place.

It is literally the low point of Joseph's story, and now we expect he might feel bad about bragging and lording over his brothers. This is also where the story turns around, for while in prison, Joseph gets a reputation for correctly interpreting dreams. Here there is an important lesson. At his lowest Joseph might have forgotten God believing that God had forgotten him, but he does not. In fact, "The LORD was with Joseph" is a repeated refrain in Joseph's story. So when his fellow prisoners, the Pharaoh's cupbearer and the Pharaoh's baker, tells Joseph of their dreams Joseph listens and gives them the interpretations. In three days the cupbearer will be restored to his position and in three days the baker will be killed. The predictions come to pass, and when the Pharaoh himself has dreams, the baker remembers Joseph and he tells the Pharaoh that his dreams mean there will be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.

Joseph's wisdom leads him to being promoted to Pharaoh's court in Egypt in charge of the grain distribution, and this leads to his being reunited with his brothers. At last the chance for revenge is at hand for Joseph. With more than 20 years having passed and Jacob certainly having given up hope that he would ever see Joseph again he sends his other 10 sons (not the youngest, Benjamin for it seems Jacob has not learned his lesson about playing favorites) to Egypt to get grain, and who would be in charge of this but Joseph. This is an incredible story of remarkable coincidence but, with God there are no coincidences.

They do not recognize him but he recognizes them and when he does, Joseph hatches a plan. Their bags are filled with grain and, unbeknownst to them, the Pharaoh's cup also. When they leave they are searched, and the cup is found. The brothers said to one another, 'Alas, we are paying the penalty for what we did to our brother; we saw his anguish when he pleaded with us, but we would not listen. That is why this anguish has come upon us.' All of this is a scam to get them to bring Benjamin. This they do and when they are all twelve reunited, Joseph tricks them again.

This time a cup is placed in Benjamin's sack and when it is found he is detained, but when the brothers show love and concern for Benjamin and Jacob, the kind they did not show to him, Joseph believed that they had changed, and he had changed too. Moreover, Joseph saw God's hand in all of this and he said to his brothers:

'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me. . . Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.'

So in the end, his brothers do bow down to him, but that is not the happy ending Joseph expected. Joseph does not take revenge and our question is "Why?" Joseph is captured by the upper story where God is

working his purpose within the ups and downs in Joseph's story. God was at work in the new nation and God will is revealed through it. God made provision through Joseph to sustain the new nation during severe famine. Joseph was God's agent to save the new nation by bringing the new nation to Egypt where the Israelites would grow to a great nation of over a million people. Joseph had 21 years of a hard life, but 71 years of a blessed life, and I think that should be our take away from his story.

Things did not always go well for him. He was his father's favorite with all the gifts and positives that came with it, but it also caused him tremendous grief. At times he could have despaired, and when he had the opportunity he could have done to his brothers what they had done to him or worse. If he had he would have missed out on what God was doing and the story God was writing.

When Jacob dies, his brothers fear that Joseph may yet have his revenge, and so they ask him to forgive them, and Joseph says, "Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today."

It is a great story and one that I think has a direct message to us. When you are unsure what to do, when you do not know how to treat people including those who wrong, you it is important to remember that you can't go wrong with grace. God is at work in the midst of the details of our lives accomplishing his good purposes. As Paul told the church in Rome, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Knowing that God's story line is unfolding even in bleak and confusing times allows us to live freely, being able to forgive those who sin against us. Throughout Joseph's short but eventful life, he had learned this truth well: People will let you down, but God will never fail you.

The next time you find yourself at a crossroads and uncertain of what to do and how to respond do what Joseph did. Try a little forgiveness, show a little mercy, share a little grace and see if things don't work themselves out for good because they will be worked out for God.

Call to Offering

Serena Dube

God of overflowing abundance, when your people suffered from thirst, you satisfied their need with water from a rock. Receive our gifts this day, O God, and transform our gifts into blessings that grace the lives of others like an ever-flowing stream.

Doxology

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

Dedication of Offering Prayer

Pastor Gena

God of us all, on this World Communion Sunday, we rejoice that you are gathering us around the Table of your son, the risen Lord. May our offerings reach out to bring hope and grace to our near and distant neighbors, whom you know and love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

This Sunday is World Communion Sunday. Established by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1936 and originally called World Wide Communion Sunday, this day calls us to be mindful that when we gather at the table, we celebrate not only with those present but also with sisters and brothers around the world.

At its best, World Communion Sunday serves two purposes: it is both a joyous and meaningful partaking in Jesus' sacred meal with his friends and a time to honor and celebrate different Christian traditions from around the world.

And the Table Will be Wide - A Blessing for World Communion Sunday

And the table
will be wide.
And the welcome
will be wide.
And the arms
will open wide
to gather us in.
And our hearts
will open wide
to receive.

And we will open our hands
to the feast
without shame.
And we will turn
toward each other
without fear.
And we will give up
our appetite
for despair.

And we will come
as children who trust
there is enough.
And we will come
unhindered and free.
And our aching
will be met
with bread.
And our sorrow
will be met
with wine.

And we will taste
and know
of delight.
And we will become bread
for a hungry world.
And we will become drink
for those who thirst.
And the blessed
will become the blessing.
And everywhere
Will be the feast.

Prayer © Jan L. Richardson. janrichardson.com

Communion Hymn

“All Who Hunger Gather Gladly”

Audra Allen, organist

All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand’ring.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers,
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion’s love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Diane Palfreyman

It's here at your table Lord that we see thee face to face. We thank you that the bread and the cup we bless at your table this morning is sharing the body and blood of Christ that give us eternal life. As we eat and drink deeply, quenching our great thirst for you, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit so that from our hearts may flow rivers of living water by which you renew the earth. We pray this in Jesus precious name. Amen.

Words of Institution

Pastor Gena

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)

Sharing in Communion

Closing Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace first taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

And now may the Christ who loves us and freed us from our sins, grant us grace, mercy and peace. And may the joy of Christ's sustaining presence be with us now and forever. Amen.

Recorded worship services can be found on the Church website or on YouTube,
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih_fzHCC2X0Jhc_sfniJ7C1O3X



Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Rev. Chris (412-956-6590) and Pastor Gena (724) 263-0033 directly and confidentially. Or scroll down on the opening page of our website (www.fairhillmanorchurch.org) to "Requests for Prayer or Help." There you can send an email which will go directly to Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

Homebound Members:

Phyllis Cimino 317 Wellness Way	Alice Cokeley 149 Meadows View Rd Strabane Trails #325 Washington PA 15301	Mrs. Mary McDonough 499 Bruce Street Washington PA 15301	Bill Behrens 835 S Main St, Rm 437 Washington PA 15301
Ed Alexy	Sloan Amelia Hagy	Betty Jo Riggle	
Avery Allen	Kyle Hallam	Dave Ross	
Donna Bakaitis	Connie Hanning	Jim and Barb Roupe	
Jim Banish	Aryn Hess	John Shadeck	
Tom Barnhart	Ed Jackman	Theresa Shape	
Bill Behrens	Dallas Jacobovitz	Hannah Simpson	
Abby Blanchard	Bob Lanning	Doug and Tracy Smith	
Susan Britko	Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy & Ty James Lacock	Cathy Stewart	
Mabel Brooks	Libby LeDuff	John Stewart	
Denise Charles	Frank Lippert	Beth Teagarden	
Wanda Chicone	Lee & Betsy Martin	Nadine Teagarden	
John Collar	Dave McConnell	Gary Weaver	
Emily Cope Robinson	Don Melvin	Nikki Wells	
Ruth Cox	Michaela Nixon	Tom Williams	
Irma Davis	Ruth Mikuta	Chuck & Mary Wiseman	
Jessica Duke	Georgette Murray	Sarah Wittenberg	
Libby Eberhard	Deborah Patterson	Marcie Yocum	
Fred Engle	Cathy Rentgen	Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash	
Jay Freudenberg		Owen Stillwell	
Jett Fuller		Eli Graff	
Derek Gardiner		Molly Johnson	
Lois Gayman			
Joe Greene			
Bonnie Gregg			

Take a minute to review the prayer list. If there is a name that you know has received answers/healing to their prayer request and can be removed from the list, please contact the Office by phone (724) 225-8610 or email fairhillmanor@yahoo.com.

Thank you ☺

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

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 Tuesday during the school year.

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