

**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 12 Issue 42**  
**October 22, 2021**

## **Stewardship** C A M P A I G N

For our stewardship emphases this year we have asked you to look at the parable of the Good Samaritan to see how he used his gifts to help others, and we have all been encouraged to go and do the same. Now we come to Commitment Sunday this Sunday, and we ask that you make a pledge of how much you will be able to give to the church's operating fund to help Fairhill Manor as we prepare to begin another year in the service of Christ.

A pledge is a non-binding agreement which helps the Stewardship/Finance committee estimate how much they will receive in the next year, and therefore, how much they will be able to budget. The pledge can be changed if your financial circumstances change. You can also give without pledging, but returning your pledge card would be very helpful to the budget committee.

If you have never made a pledge before we hope you will start this year as we hope to increase the number of pledges as a whole. If you have pledged we thank you and hope you will again this year. Whatever you are able to pledge please put it in the offering plate on Sunday, or fill out the form on our website. This Sunday, we will gather in prayer to thank God with a grateful heart for our blessings and ask that God will bless our gifts as we give to others as God has given to us. We hope you can join us in this celebration.

Rev. Chris

### **The Story – October 24 – Chapter 6 Wondering: A Long Road Trip**

Pastor Gena on retreat – October 24

**Trunk or Treat – October 24, 2-3pm Church Parking Lot**

Prayer Shawl – October 25, 11am Parlor

Stewardship/Finance Ministry – October 26, 6pm Library

Dartball – October 26, 7pm @ Taylorstown

Calling Commission – October 27, 10am via Zoom

Stay up to date, check [www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar)

Our annual **Service of Remembrance** will be held on All Saints Sunday, November 7. If you have lost a loved one since last year's service (November 1, 2020), and would like to include him or her in this special service, please provide the following information to the Church Office by Wednesday, November 3: name of loved one, relationship to you/your family, date of passing and any remarks you would like included in the bulletin.

**ALL  
SAINTS'  
SUNDAY**



**If you have not done so already, please let Rev. Chris know if you are decorating a vehicle for Trunk or Treat.**



The Notes of Thanks concert will not be held this year. Looking forward to having it in 2022.



Fairhill Manor Christian Church  
(*Disciples of Christ*)

351 Montgomery Ave.  
724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor  
October 24, 2021

**Prelude**

Audra Allen, organist

**Welcome**

Rev. Stillwell

**Call to Worship**

Von Lacock

With hearts ready to serve, God turns our mourning into singing and our sorrows into laughter. With hope and expectation, God turns our weeping into celebration and our grief into shouts of joy. Come before the Lord with yearning, with hearts ready to serve.

**Opening Hymn**

*“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

Audra Allen, organist

O God, our help in ages past,	Under the shadow of thy throne
our hope for years to come,	still may we dwell secure;
our shelter from the stormy blast,	sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our eternal home!	and our defense is sure.

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

Rev. Stillwell

Eternal Mystery, before the mountains were brought forth and the seas began to roar, you were God. You make us like grass, which flourishes in the morning and fades in the evening. In the blink of an eye, we turn back to dust, for a thousand years in your sight are like a watch in the night. Restore us and heal us with your saving love, for we are your people, and you are our God.

May your love, Eternal God, move all that stands before it. We yearn to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, but often find such love beyond us. Nurture us in your healing love, that fear may hold no sway over us.

We ask that you remove all fear as we pledge to you our gifts, our time, and our very selves. Some of us have more than we need, and others have too little. Your sure intention is that we each have all that we need, that we learn not to want what others have, but learn to want what we do have.

Let us know our daily food as manna, as miracle, and as abundance. Let us know our daily rest as life-giving, as restoration, and as Sabbath. Let us acknowledge each member of your family as a beautiful facet of your creation, even those from whom we are estranged, and hear our prayer for those who don't have enough. Let us play our part in the return of their abundance.

As we pray for others, Dear Lord, we pray also for ourselves. You know that we struggle, we stumble, we stray, we question, we complain. Pardon us, we pray, for our waywardness and helplessness, then strengthen us to walk the godly path with integrity and resolve.

Help us, O God, to leave behind all unworthy thoughts and desires, so that with clear minds and a clear conscience we may learn what you want us to learn, to understand what you want us to comprehend, and to become what you want us to be.

We give thanks to you, Our Savior, for your love is everlasting. It is a constant source of comfort, a companion in hard times, and a candle in the dark. You are our strength and song, and we turn to you in our time of joy and our time of need.

*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**

**Numbers 14:1-10, 26-35**

Linda Reese

**Children’s Message**

Cara Hritz

Good morning!

Before we get started, I wanted to make a line where everyone can sit. Let me use this tape to do it. The line needs to be long enough for everyone. I’m having a hard time reaching, can anyone help? Thanks that was going to be really hard to do on my own!

Have you ever tried to do something that was just too hard to do by yourself? Sometimes, we need some help to get things done. In our Bible story today, we learned about how God sent Rahab to help His people. God knows that sometimes we need help. He’s here to help us and he also gave us a lot of other people in our life so we can work together and help each other. Our church family is full of people who help us. Our family at home helps with a lot. At school, you have teachers and friends to help too. Let’s pray and thank God for giving us people to help.

**Special Music**

“Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah,” arr. by Witkowski

Jim Cope

**Second Scripture Reading**

**Deuteronomy 34**

Rev. Stillwell

**Sermon**

**“God’s Way or the Long Way”**

Rev. Stillwell

Whenever we embark on a long trip there are things that we can do to make it go faster. We can listen to the radio, a podcast, or a long audio book. We can play games with the other riders. We can of course drive faster or find a shortcut. One thing that will not shorten your trip even one little bit is complaining. Whether complaining about how long the trip is, how bored or hungry you are, or that your brother is sitting on your side, your trip will not take any less time, and yet we are all tempted to complain when things begin to get difficult.

There comes a point in every trip that my kids begin to complain how long it takes to get there and I threaten to slow down every time they do. It is a helpful tactic. Certainly I have added a few minutes maybe even a half an hour to a trip or two that way, but at least I am not like the Israelites were in the desert long ago.

The Israelites have been complaining ever since their trip started. They had escaped from four hundred plus years of slavery in Egypt thanks to God through Moses, but, just as they are about to escape they see the Egyptian chariots bearing down on them, and they announced to Moses who had risked everything to free them from the yoke of slavery, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us

away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, “Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” (Ex 14:11)

The Israelites, descendants of father Abraham, witnesses of God’s amazing power, and freed from their captivity as slaves in another land on the precipice of a new life, cried out in despair and anger towards Moses who they saw as having gotten them into this mess in the first place. After all this, they could not see the power and faith of God.

After they escaped that predicament still they complained. “What will we eat?” they ask. They get hungry and exclaim, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” (Ex 16:3) God causes Manna to fall from the heavens to eat.

They continue to complain and it culminates in the ultimate transgression when they worship a golden calf while Moses speaks with God on the mountain. Moses spares their life by interceding on their behalf, and still they do not seem to appreciate it much. God has provided bread for them. God provides laws and commandments and a way to worship. After all of that Moses’ brother, Aaron, and sister Miriam become jealous because God spoke only to Moses.

The complaining stops for a while just long enough for Moses to take a census of the people thus giving the book of Numbers its name until, predictably they tire of manna every day and again they cry out this time saying, “If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>Remember all the free fish we ate in Egypt and the cucumbers, watermelons, leeks, onions, and garlic we had? <sup>6</sup>But now we’ve lost our appetite! Everywhere we look there’s nothing but manna!” (Nu 11:4-6) Once again God hears the cry of the people, and God provides meat for them to eat by sending quail.

God has thus far provided the Israelites with all they need, and now God is providing the last piece of the puzzle. God has led them to the Promised Land about 38 years before they actually enter because, when the Israelites get to Canaan, the land of Abraham, they send spies to scout out the land and the inhabitants therein. While the scouts, Joshua and Caleb, trust that God will provide a victory the other ten give a fearful report and which creates a fearful frenzy amongst the people so much so that they say. “Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup>Why is the Lord bringing us into this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become booty; would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?” <sup>4</sup>So they said to one another, ‘Let us choose a captain, and go back to Egypt.’ (Nu 14:3)

This complaint is the final straw for God. This act causes God to declare that none of that generation will see the land to which God was leading them, and as a result the entire nation of Israel had to wander in the desert for 40 years until every member of that generation was dead. When that day finally comes, Moses points out that it should have only taken eleven days to get from Egypt to the Promised Land. It was a bitter reminder that put his speech into proper context, for he gathered them to remind them to trust in God and remember the law when they entered the Promised Land. Failure to do so would certainly make their lives much harder.

If we get nothing else from this story let us remember that complaining won’t get you there any faster. How many of us have done something similar? Something comes up in our life which is not what we want and we complain. We don’t have to be happy about it, but does complaining change anything? No. How many times could we have gotten through things much quicker, but because of our hard-heartedness and selfishness, we end up prolonging our situation? Instead of seeking forgiveness after we have done

wrong, we maintain a prideful mentality and stay or become further estranged in relationship. In doing so we forfeit the promised land of reconciliation.

Eleven days or 40 years. God leads us in our life every day, and if we go astray there is never a time in which God says, “Well you’re stuck now”, or “you can’t get there from here”, and certainly never “You’re on your own now.” No matter our waywardness, like a GPS, God can recalculate based upon our actions and give us a way back to the righteous path. Sometimes it takes longer to get back, but complaining about it only makes the journey longer.

Eleven days or 40 years. God’s way or our way. If we want to get to any promises that God has for us, we need to go the way he wants us to, otherwise, what should take a short while comparatively speaking, may take the better part of our lives. Sometimes the hardships we experience are there to teach us so that when we complain we not only prolong our struggle but miss the point and the lesson as well.

Eleven days or 40 years. The right way or the long way. As Christ taught us to reach out to those who have been marginalized and overlooked by the world let us not rebel by valuing the powerful above the powerless. As the Holy Spirit filled the disciples and gave them the energy to do their work let us not rebel against this Spirit by choosing to neglect this Spirit so that it does not grow in us but rather withers and dies. As God leads us closer and closer to the Promised Land despite temporary setbacks and the losses that we experience on the way, let us not, like the Israelites, be so quick to complain and cry out. If we want to follow God there are two ways to go about doing it; the right way and the long way. The long way might be a nice thing to take on a beautiful day, but it is not something we want to be on in the desert moments of our life when things are difficult, and the Promised Land seems so far. Although many a mess has been made by complaining, it has never freed us from our trouble. We may not like the situation in which we find ourselves, but complaining only prolongs our time experiencing them. Let us give thanks that despite all of our waywardness, stubbornness, and complaining, God still shows the way out of our deserts.

### **Call to Offering**

Von Lacoek

We have heard what we must do: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And . . . you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” May the offerings we bring this day be a sign of our commitment to be known by our love. Amen.

### **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 and Stewardship Pledges Prayer**

Rev. Stillwell

As we give, let us remember the words of Jesus, “Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.” We give, not to gain prestige or to obtain a good name for ourselves, but to express our role as servants, helping others in your name. Bless these offerings and our living in your holy name, we pray.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Rev. Stillwell

When we read through the Bible there are stories and incidences that are sometimes hard to understand, and I believe that there is nothing wrong with saying that we do not understand why this happened, or why God did something. We do not need to have all the answers, and I believe that we cannot know all the answers concerning the mind of God who is so much greater than we.

One example I can give you is that I do not understand the way God treats Moses in this story. Moses was chosen by God to do incredible things and, while he was hesitant, he did agree to do as God told him, and

I believe he did it well. He does his fair share of complaining to be sure, but to shepherd a nation of people through the desert for 40 years he deserves to be a saint, and yet, when it came time for the Israelites to enter the Promised Land, he is not allowed. He is able to look into it from a mountain top, and some see this as a grace since no one else from his generation got to do even that. Still it doesn't seem right that the one who led them to the Promised Land should not get to enter it.

The traditional understanding is that the reason for this is when the Israelites were crying out for water, God told Moses to strike a rock to get water. Moses did as he was told, except that he struck the rock twice. So a man who killed another man, and who often argued openly with God was not worthy to enter the Promised Land, because his second strike was seen as a lack of faith in God.

As I said I don't get it. All I can do is give thanks that the gospels tell me that God does not judge us so harshly. By the measure with which God judged Moses there is no way that Peter would see the Pearly Gates. Thomas' doubt would have doomed him, but Jesus blesses him. Paul would have stayed Saul, and the scales would have forever stayed on his eyes. When I come to this table I acknowledge how little I understand, but I take comfort in knowing this. Jesus is faithful and his grace is sufficient for all of my transgressions big and small. If that is all that you understand than it will be enough to share in this meal.

### **Communion Hymn**

*"When You Do This, Remember Me"*

Audra Allen, organist

You my friend, a stranger once, do now belong to heaven. Once far away, you are brought home into God's family. When you do this, remember me.	Now my Lord is also yours, my people are your own; embraced together in God's arms, I enfold you now in mine. When you do this, remember me.
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### **Prayer for the Bread & Cup**

Tammie Wallace

Lord, As we come to this table today let us partake in this bread and cup and let it help us remember that you will replace fear, anxiety, and anxiousness with faith and trust in you, and trust in your love and promises. God help us to choose faith over fear in every area of our lives. God help us to trust and obey you. Help us not to rebel against you. Amen

### **Words of Institution**

Rev. Stillwell

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)

### **Sharing in Communion**

#### **Closing Hymn**

*"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"*

Jody Mullis, pianist

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.	God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings, protecting, hide you, daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.
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[Refrain] Till we meet (Till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet;)  
till we meet (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,)  
God be with you till we meet again.

## Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

God's love sends us forth. God's love sets us free. God's love makes us whole. God's love brings us hope. God's love blesses our lives. God's love brings healing to our world. Go forth to share this love.

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Recorded worship services can be found on the Church website or on YouTube,  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih\\_fzHCC2X0Jhc\\_sfniJ7C1O3X](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih_fzHCC2X0Jhc_sfniJ7C1O3X)

## PRAYER REQUEST

**Do you have a prayer request or need help?** Please feel free to contact Rev. Chris (412-956-6590) and Pastor Gena (724) 263-0033 directly and confidentially. Or scroll down on the opening page of our website ([www.fairhillmanorchurch.org](http://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  
Strabane Trails #325

Alice Cokeley  
149 Meadows View Rd  
Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Mary McDonough  
949 Bruce Street  
Washington PA 15301

Ed Alexy  
Avery Allen  
Lisa Amistade  
Terry Bailey  
Donna Bakaitis  
Jim Banish  
Tom Barnhart  
Abby Blanchard  
Susan Britko  
Mabel Brooks  
Denise Charles  
Wanda Chicone  
John Collar  
Emily Cope Robinson  
Ruth Cox  
Irma Davis  
Jessica Duke  
Libby Eberhard  
Fred Engle  
Jay Freudenberg  
Jett Fuller  
Derek Gardiner  
Lois Gayman  
Joe Greene  
Bonnie Gregg

Kyle Hallam  
Connie Hanning  
Aryn Hess  
Ed Jackman  
Dallas Jacobovitz  
Family of Pam Kloss  
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &  
Ty James Lacock  
Bob Lanning  
Marylee Lawrence  
Libby LeDuff  
Frank Lippert  
Lee & Betsy Martin  
Dave McConnell  
Don Melvin  
Michaela Nixon  
Ruth Mikuta  
Georgette Murray  
Deborah Patterson  
Bo & Patty Pryor  
Kayda Richards  
Cathy Rentgen

Betty Jo Riggle  
Dave Ross  
Jim and Barb Roupe  
John Shadeck  
Theresa Shape  
Hannah Simpson  
Doug and Tracy Smith  
Cathy Stewart  
John Stewart  
Beth Teagarden  
Nadine Teagarden  
Gary Weaver  
Nikki Wells  
Tom Williams  
Chuck & Mary Wiseman  
Sarah Wittenberg  
Marcie Yocum  
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash  
Owen Stillwell  
Eli Graff  
Molly Johnson

### In the Military

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

**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.

**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.

# Puzzle!

Complete each friend pair from the Bible, using the verses as hints. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below to complete Proverbs 17:17.

David &	—	—	—	—	—	○	—	2 Samuel 15:37
King Agrippa &	○	—	—	—	—	—	—	Acts 25:13
Naomi &	○	—	—	—	—	—	—	Ruth 1:22
Paul &	—	—	○	—	—	—	—	Acts 16:25
Joshua &	—	—	—	—	—	○	—	Numbers 14:6
Peter &	—	—	—	—	—	○	—	Luke 5:8-10
Job &	○	—	—	—	—	○	—	Job 2:11
Elijah &	—	—	○	—	—	—	—	2 Kings 2:1-14
Zophar &	—	—	○	—	—	—	—	Job 2:11
Jonathan &	—	—	—	○	—	—	—	1 Samuel 18:1
Peter &	—	—	—	—	—	○	○	Luke 5:8-10
Jesus &	—	—	○	—	—	—	—	John 11:20
Jesus &	—	—	—	—	—	○	○	John 11:5
Timothy &	—	—	—	—	—	○	—	2 Timothy 1:1
Jesus &	○	—	—	—	—	—	—	John 11:5
Mary &	—	—	—	—	—	—	○	Luke 1:39-40
Job &	—	—	—	○	—	—	—	Job 2:11
Aaron &	○	—	—	—	—	○	○	Exodus 4:27

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
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PROVERBS 17:17a

Answer: Hushai, Festus, Ruth, Silas, Caleb, John, Bildad, Elisha, Job, David, James, Mary, Martha, Paul, Lazarus, Elizabeth, Eliphaz, Moses; A friend loves at all times.