

Manor Minutes
Volume 12 Issue 40
October 8, 2021

This week begins our time of **stewardship** emphasis. For the next three Sundays, we will discuss the ways in which we give to our church and our Lord and culminate on **October 24** where we ask you to make a pledge of commitment for the coming year. Our theme is “Go and do the same”, which comes from the parable of the Good Samaritan. In it we see how one man uses his gifts both material and spiritual to help someone who would least expect it.

The Good Samaritan demonstrates that all that we are: our life, our talents, and all that we have, our money, and our possessions do not belong to us, despite what our culture tells us. Instead, it comes from and belongs to God, who has entrusted these gifts to us to manage and use to further God’s loving, saving mission in and to the world.

This is what I have seen during this pandemic – our people and our churches, like the Good Samaritan, being outstanding stewards of God’s resources to bring the love and justice of Jesus to a hurting world.

Let us go and do the same as we continue to steward God’s resources in ways that bring glory to God and further God’s saving mission of love, justice, healing, and wholeness.

Rev. Chris

**The Story – October 10 Moses:
Deliverance**

Prayer Shawl – October 11, 11am Parlor

Stewardship/Finance Ministry – October
12, 6pm Library

Dartball – October 12, 7pm @Bethlehem
Lutheran

Elders – October 13, 6pm via Zoom

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

TRUNK OR
TREAT

October 24
2-3 pm
Parking Lot

Sign- up sheet for cookies and/or candy is
in the Narthex.

Help Us, Help Others

Hygiene Kits for Church World Service

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

- 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 10, 2021

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Donna Stenski

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. That love is deep and abiding, unconditional and eternal. Responding to that love leads us to a path of discipleship, which includes the stewardship of giving. When we love someone, we want to give them the desires of their heart. Jesus desires our hearts. He tells us, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." To use our treasure in ways that show our love for Jesus brings us closer to him and brings the realm of God closer to us. May we give with loving and grateful hearts.

Opening Hymn

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Audra Allen, organist

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee;
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
God ever-living, through eternity.

Blessing of School and Hygiene Kits

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

Beloved God, we gather in the shelter of your love, grateful for the banquet of worship you have prepared for us. Focus our hearts and our minds on the beauty of this time, the blessings of our lives, and the fullness of your message. Strengthen our call to fulfill our role as your partners in ministry to the world.

Lead us, gracious God, as you know how we confuse our roles, miss your invitation, and ignore your banquet of grace and abundant love. Clear the clouds from our eyes, that, we may see clearly your call to partner and serve with you. Clear our calendars, that, we don't miss your invitation to love and serve the world. Clear our minds and soothe our troubled souls, that we may remember and treasure the opportunity to receive your abundant grace and your loving nourishment.

Nourish us with your forgiveness and your mercy, that, we may rejoice fully in this time of worship.

Help us, O Lord, 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.

And teach us, Generous Giver, how to be good stewards of your gifts. We know that all we have received is from your hand. You, our God, call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously.

As we pray for ourselves so we pray for others as we pray now. Give them strength and healing. Give them guidance and peace. Help them to see that you have all that they need and help us to help them as we can.

Continue to show us how to be our brother and sisters keeper, and to follow the example of the Samaritans of this world. Where there is love and mercy, where there is comfort and healing, let us dedicate ourselves to go and do the same. As you have said so shall it be. This we pray as your Son taught us . . .

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

Exodus 3:1-15

Jeannie Allison

Children’s Message

J.C. Leasure

Have you ever witnessed a miracle? What happened? If you haven't, what do you think a miracle would look like? What do you think a miracle is?

In today's Story we get to read about a very cool miracle. When the Israelites were leaving Egypt, after Pharaoh released them from their slavery, Pharaoh changed his mind and wanted to recapture the Israelites. The Egyptians caught up to Moses and the Israelites at the Red Sea. The only way to escape the Egyptians was for the Israelites to cross the Red Sea. How would you try to cross? The Red Sea is very large and you can't exactly jump over it like you would a small creek. It wasn't named the Red Puddle for its size.

The Israelites must have been very scared because they did not have boats, and I'm sure not all of them were great swimmers. So Moses stretched out his hand and God parted the waters so the Israelites could walk through the sea! I didn't see that coming, and neither did the Egyptians! At the end of our story, the Israelites saw what the LORD had done and believed him. We'll hear more about Israel's relationship with God later on in the Story, but we see that God performed a miracle to help out his chosen people. God performs miracles all throughout the Bible so his people know that he is always with them.

As Christians we are part of God's chosen people, and guess what, God is always with you and he is still in the miracle business. So if you ever witness a miracle, or hear of one happening, let it remind you that God is always with you.

Special Music

“Pie Jesu,” by Gabriel Faure

Jim Cope

Second Scripture Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“I Am Who I Am”

Rev. Stillwell

God showed Abraham the stars and promised to make a nation of him with more descendants than stars in the sky, and as we close out the book of Genesis and move now to the book of Exodus, God has done just as God promised. Once Jacob and his sons move to Egypt they begin to multiply and grow until, after

400 years, the nation had grown to the point that it faced extinction. How can that be? How can something grow so much that its very life was threatened?

It is because they were strangers in a strange land even after all these years and the new Pharaoh, who did not know Joseph, said, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' The Egyptians held power, and they feared the loss of that power. So they used it to oppress the Israelites, but God establishes in this story that our God is the God of the oppressed and not the oppressor, the God of the slave and not the slave owner when God began to set in motion the second greatest story of deliverance in all the Bible.

Did these 400 years of slavery take God by surprise? No. God had revealed to Abraham that this would happen. "The Lord said to Abram, 'Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; ¹⁴but I will bring judgement on the nation that they serve, and afterwards they shall come out with great possessions.'" Since God predicted the slavery, you may ask, did God cause the slavery? No. It resulted from the sinful fear of the other of the Egyptian people.

God is with them in their suffering and uses it as an opportunity to make a name for himself, so to speak, but also quite literally.

In our story God reveals himself in three ways. God reveals his name, his power, and his plan. God reveals his name when speaking with Moses through the burning bush. Moses feels disqualified for the task of speaking to Pharaoh, but that is for the better since the glory of what will happen will go to God above all, but then Moses says to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' That is a great question, because up to this point in the story we do not know God's name. It is very interesting to think about. For 400 years this originally tiny tribe of people worshiped a god they could not name. In a world of many gods of many things there were many names Baal, Set, Dagon, Mamon just to name a few who will be mentioned in the Bible, but the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob simply referred to their God as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, or the God of our fathers. God references this when God answers Moses by saying, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you" But first God reveals the divine name when God says 'I am who I am.' 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you.'" The Hebrew word for this is, Yahweh, and from this name we learn that God simply is and always will be.

After revealing the divine name God reveals the plan. God chooses Moses to lead the deliverance, but God tells him to go to Pharaoh and say to him, "The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; let us now go a three days' journey into the wilderness, so that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God." I know, however, that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders that I will perform in it; after that he will let you go. I will bring this people into such favor with the Egyptians that, when you go, you will not go empty-handed; each woman shall ask her neighbor and any woman living in the neighbor's house for jewelry of silver and of gold, and clothing, and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters; and so you shall plunder the Egyptians.'

So that's the plan, and if anyone else came up with such a plan you would have called them crazy, but God is not just anyone, and still Moses isn't so sure, but then God declares that 10 plagues will be used to reveal God's power against the gods of Egypt, and this is key, because, in Moses' time there were no atheists. People believed in god or, most likely, gods. The key question was "Who is the most powerful god?" Yahweh used the plagues to reveal great power but at first Pharaoh's magicians did the same by

their secret arts. After the plagues of blood and frogs God began to do things through Moses and his brother, Aaron, that not even Pharaoh's gods could do with plagues 3 through 9, and you would think that would be the answer but instead Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not let the people go, and do you know how was hardening his heart? I am was. Yahweh. The God of our ancestors.

Sometimes it is hard to understand the way God acts in the Old Testament. The early church theologian, Marcion, went so far as to say that the God of the old and the God of the new were two different gods. Often times when people speak against God they cite examples in the Hebrew Scriptures of killings and specifically that idea that God hardened Pharaoh's heart which caused much unnecessary suffering. The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land, and this led to plague after plague culminating in the death of every firstborn of the Egyptians.

It is hard to understand, but I believe that God changes tactics based on what God thinks will work. Jesus' sacrifice is impressive because it stands in such stark contrast to that which had gone before, but I do not believe that it could have been understood or appreciated without the bloodshed of the Old Testament not because God needed blood, but because humans did.

The backdrop of the Hebrew Bible is a harsh and brutal world, and much of what we see as harsh about the law actually was an improvement on the surrounding cultures. The law of an eye for an eye is often used to describe a violent and vengeful society, but it actually was intended to limit the vengeance a person could take. It was not as radical as turn the other cheek, but perhaps humans could not turn the other cheek unless they took only an eye for an eye first.

All this is to say that God's plan is a continuing one in which no step can be skipped. At this time no one even really knows who God is as evidenced by Moses' question at the burning bush, and the sending of the plagues is explained by God as being "in order that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

So God's might and vengeance is displayed by the tenth plague, but so also is God's deliverance. The shedding of a lamb's blood saves the Israelites and lead to their deliverance, and this is a prelude to both the sacrificial systems set up in the book of Leviticus when the Israelites receive God's law, and, of course, Jesus who would fulfill the law.

For now we end the story with the happy ending (for the Israelites at least) in which God parts the Red Sea and leads them to safety and out of Pharaoh's grip. There is a lot demonstrated in this story. First, is that God hears the people cries, but in God's own time. Second, is that God is with and will be with the people. Third, is that God has great power more than any of the other gods commonly worshiped. Finally, the fourth is that God shows that great power is even over death, itself.

So now we know what kind of God with which the Israelites and we are dealing and we even know that God's name; Yahweh, I am who I am. We now have the nation that was promised to Abraham and that nation has a name, Israel, which means wrestles with God, which is perfect because that is what they will be doing metaphorically at least. All that's left is to find a place for that nation to settle. As it turns out it, like much of things we experience in life, it will be a little harder than expected

Call to Offering

Donna Stenski

The Bible teaches us in various ways that our ownership of things is neither absolute nor eternal. With this in mind, let us present some of our holdings to God.

from <https://centerforfaithandgiving.org/created-to-be-a-steward-third-quarter/>

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, who first of all loved us, your love has touched us, and now we have love to give away. Take whatever we can offer – gifts that we have yet to find, skills that we are slow to sharpen, talents of our hands and minds, things made beautiful for others in the place where we are. Take our gifts and let us love you by loving others - all your children. Amen.

Adapted from <https://centerforfaithandgiving.org/created-to-be-a-steward-third-quarter/> and based on the hymn, “Take My Gifts,” *Chalice Hymnal* #381.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

When I lived in South Sudan, I was acutely aware of the stereotype of the “African dictator” who took advantage of his (almost always) position of power to amass great wealth for himself. So when I visited small villages and saw the relatively larger hut of the chief and his larger herd of cattle, I assumed that greed had reached the grassroots as well. But I was quickly told that chiefs are supposed to be one of the wealthiest and well-off people in the clan, not for the sake of themselves or their family but for the sake of their people. A chief is responsible for having a lot of resources so that he can be in a position to help in any moment. A good chief is stable and well-resourced so that...

What I have learned about stewardship of my time, my money, my skills and abilities, is that if I am a good steward of these resources, then I will have what I need and I will have even more to share with others. When I manage my money well, taking care of yesterday’s debts, choosing wisely how to spend within my means today, planning for life without a steady income now or in retirement, then I slowly begin to free up more and more money that I can use to bless others. When I manage my time well, getting enough sleep, choosing wisely how to spend my time today, taking time to prepare healthy meals and experience meaningful body movement, then I slowly have enough balance inside myself that I can truly be present in conversation and in companionship with others. When I hone the gifts and abilities God has given me, learning and growing, stretching myself and even taking the risk of “looking stupid” now and then, then I slowly have more openness and curiosity, experiences and patience to contribute to causes I care about.

Our faith and our relationship with God blesses us, yes. It certainly does. But that’s not all it is intended to do. As God told Abraham, we are blessed to be a blessing. We are blessed so that we can bless others.

This table is not an end in itself. At this table, we are served, so that we can go and do likewise, loving one another as Jesus has loved us. At this Table, we are offered grace, so that we can extend that grace to others. We are fed, so that our lives can overflow with food and drink, nourishing others who are hungry and thirsty for something that truly satisfies. We are welcomed, so that we can open our arms and welcome others. As we share in this meal, let us meditate on the so that. What is God calling us in this moment to better steward in our lives? Better steward so that more resources, more space, more time, more energy come pouring forth as a blessing to others?

Communion Hymn

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

Audra Allen, organist

For the bread, which you have broken,
for the wine, which you have poured,
for the words, which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

By these pledges that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
consecrate our lives, O Lord.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Jackie Nelson

Holy and Almighty Lord God, thank You for another day to gather together at Your table. We believe that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures. He will come again according to the scriptures. "Jesus loves me this I know for the bible tells me so." Thank you Lord God for the Bible, Your love letter to us. Holy Spirit be with us as we partake this bread and cup and remember together. 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

"More Precious Than Silver"

Jody Mullis, pianist

Lord, You are more precious than silver;

Lord, Your life is divine, eternal.

Lord, You are more costly than gold;

Lord, Your life regenerated me.

Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds;

Lord, Your life is growing within me,

And nothing I desire compares to You.

Until I am fully conformed to Thee.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

As partners with God, go to serve God's world. As friends of Christ, go to share Christ's love.

Recorded worship services can be found on the Church website or on YouTube,
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) 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

Bill Behrens
835 S Main St, Rm 437
Washington PA 15301

Ed Alexy
Avery Allen
Lisa Amistade
Donna Bakaitis
Jim Banish
Tom Barnhart
Bill Behrens
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

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

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	



Thank you so much for all of the get well soon cards, letters and calls. I cannot express how grateful and touched I am by these gestures.

I am making a slow but steady recover.
Every day I get a little bit better and stronger.

Getting back to college full time has also been a huge help with my recovery, and since the start of the year I've made lots of new friends.

All my Christian love,
Derek Gardiner

We thank everyone who said prayers, called, emailed, texted, and/or sent cards during my recent knee and shoulder surgeries and Gene's Watchman procedure. We are very blessed to have such caring friends at Fairhill!

Thank you,
Connie and Gene Sheller

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 ☺

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.

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.

The DRIVE-THRU NATIVITY will not be held this December.