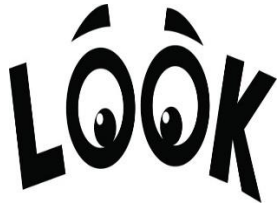


**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 12 Issue 36**  
**September 10, 2021**



Church Picnic – September 12, 1:07 pm Washington Park  
Prayer Shawl – September 14, 10am Fellowship Hall  
Dartball – September 14, 7pm Fellowship Hall  
Stay up to date, check [www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar](http://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.

**Zoom Error**

The "Lock Meeting" button was accidentally pressed in Zoom at some point during Sunday morning worship on September 5. This kept even folks with the Meeting ID and Password from entering or re-entering Zoom worship once the button was pressed. We are very sorry for this - it was a mistake. In the future, feel free to send a brief text to Rev. Chris (412) 956-6590 or Pastor Gena (724) 263-0033 and they will pass the word along to the Zoom hosts.



**Calling Commission for 2021**

Peggy Oliverio  
Linda Reese  
Craig Dotson  
Gary Ford  
Carolyn Blackhurst  
Serena Dube  
Jerry Puskarich  
Rolinda Sprowls  
Kevin Puskarich



Bill Behrens has a **birthday** on October 1. If you would like to send him a card his address is:

Bill Behrens  
Rm 437  
835 S Main Street  
Washington PA 15301



**DONUTS** will be for sale before Sunday school.  
Glazed donuts, \$ 1/donut.  
Please come prepared with cash.

Thank you to everyone who donated money or contributed supplies for our **Church World Service School Kits**. Our goal was to fill 123 kits. Thanks to your continued generosity, we actually filled 150 kits! We will be collecting items for CWS Hygiene Kits soon. Our goal is 125. Let's see if we can surpass this goal also!

**Thank You**



## Fairhill Manor Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)*

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

September 12, 2021

### Prelude

### Welcome

Pastor Gena

### Call to Worship

Serena Dube

Sing of God's mercy and grace. Sing of God's strength and might.  
Praise God with laughter and joy. Praise God with feasting and dance.  
For God protects the lowly and avenges the misdeeds of the mighty.  
God brings forth justice and righteousness, saving the weak from the cruelty of the powerful.  
Sing of God's mercy and grace. Sing of God's strength and might.

### Opening Hymn

*"Lord I Lift Your Name on High"*

Jody Mullis, pianist

Lord I lift Your name on high	You came from Heaven to earth to show the way
Lord I love to sing Your praises	from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
I'm so glad You're in my life	from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
I'm so glad You came to save us	Lord I lift Your name on high

### Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care...*

Loving God, we come for an hour, we come for a few moments, we come to this time of prayer, our spirits longing to meet you here, knowing that you will meet us here. How sweet it is to know that at any moment in our anxious days we can pause and recognize the deliciousness of your presence. We hunger to see our Savior's face and to sit in the warmth of his love. And so, we hasten to this place and gladly take our station here, in this sweet hour of prayer.

*And bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.*

O God, we call you Father, Mother, Parent, because your love is like the love of one who gives us life and loves us more than life itself - and yet your love is even so much greater and all-encompassing. In your love we sit while we share with you our every care. Our cares are so many and they weigh us down. So we hand them one by one to you to carry for us, as you offer and promise to do. We give you our earth itself and the pain with which it is groaning. We give you those who are suffering in the fury of hurricanes and wildfires. We give you those who are suffering in the quiet desperate advance of drought and famine. We give you all of our arguments and wars, our misunderstandings and our hatred for each other. We give you the privilege and safety and health that we take for granted. We give you the disease and illness and old age that is taking the lives of those we love. We give you the stress of our family life, our work life, the countless decisions and moral dilemmas we face every day. We give you the hidden hurts, the painful secrets, the desperate thoughts only we know about.

*In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer.*

We come to sit in your presence, especially when we don't have time to, when we don't feel your presence, when we are vulnerable and looking for anything to fill our emptiness. For in those moments, you hold our cares and fill us up with gifts only you can give – peace, joy, self-control, goodness, patience, gentleness. These are what we need. Come, Lord Jesus, come and bless our waiting souls.

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care...*

In this time with you, give us a sense of your grandeur and your majesty, of how long your story has been running and the small part we play in it. Help us to lean on the stories of your faithfulness throughout the generations, of your constant longing to be in a relationship with your people, of the creativity of your attempts to show us how much you love us. Help us to place our trust in you, our Creator, the one who promises to never leave us. Give us courage to take back from you the pieces of work you give us to do as we push back the darkness just a little bit more, revealing your future of hope, justice, mercy and peace.

Call us into your presence, not just today, not just when we can sit in and see this Sanctuary, but every day, every moment. May we taste the sweetness of trusting in you, waiting for you and hunger all the more for it. In Jesus' name we pray, praying together with one voice the prayer he teaches 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**

**Psalm 119:97-106**

Kevin Puskarich

**Special Music**

Dan Baker

**Children's Message**

J.C. Leasure

I have a pocket New Testament that was printed in 1942 for the use of soldiers in the U.S. Army. The words on the cover are pretty faded and the pages are turning yellow, but I think it's still pretty cool. I think the coolest thing about it is there is a letter from President Franklin Roosevelt printed on the first page! In the letter he tells the troops that it is a good thing to read their Bibles. Roosevelt writes, "As Commander-in-Chief I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the armed forces of the United States.....It is a fountain of strength and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul." Just think of all the important things the military was doing, and had to do during WW2, the president told the troops that it was important to read their Bibles.

When we read Psalm 119, we heard that it was important to read the Scriptures. We see in the last verses it says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (v105)" The psalmist is saying that the words of God (scripture) helps to guide them in everything they do. I think we see a similar message in what the psalmist says and what the President wrote in his letter.

It is important to read your Bibles. You shouldn't just read it on Sundays, or in Sunday School and Tween Team. You should try to read your Bible every day. The Bible was given to us to help us in everything we

do. We can find answers to some hard questions and words of comfort in the Bible. If we read and study our Bibles as much as we can, we will be able to see how much God loves us and how he is always here with us. When we make the Bible our guide, we will not only see the love of Christ but also show others the love of Christ.

## **Second Scripture Reading**

**Deuteronomy 31:9-13**

Rev. Stillwell

## **Sermon**

### **“The Greatest Story”**

Rev. Stillwell

When I was growing up I learned the Bible by learning the stories. Throughout church and Sunday school I learned who Jesus was and that God loved me, but I also learned about Moses and the Israelites, Joseph and the coat of many colors, David and Daniel and more through the stories that we would read. I still have my children’s Bible that Mrs. Drum gave to me when I was in third grade upon completion of her Sunday school class, and it even came in handy when I was in college.

While at Bethany I took a class that was an overview of the Bible, and I cannot say I read every word of the Bible throughout the course of a semester. Instead we would have overviews of each book and the events that took place in them, but it was helpful to me to remember the stories in order to remember the context of each book. So I would use the chapter structure of the children’s Bible as a guide to what stories and sections of the Bible I should focus on to get the gist of the story.

Reading the Bible in this way is not complete, and I have since filled in the parts that my children’s Bible didn’t get to by reading each book of the Bible including the law in Leviticus, the census taking in Numbers, the Psalms, and the epistles. But ultimately I have always been and remain drawn to the stories. They are what stand out because they contain heroes to whom we can relate or aspire. Sometimes there are bad guys and action. Usually they have a point or a message that is clear. That is why we like stories, and why we come back to them again and again.

That is not to say that I always understood the stories or knew why we kept telling them. Joseph and David I got, but Samson and Delilah? That one sounded like a soap opera to me. Moses was riveting but Jonah seemed strange to me. What I also learned when I finally did sit down to read the Bible is that stories with which we are most familiar are really just the tip of the iceberg, and there are many stories we rarely talk about in church. The story of the Levite’s concubine, Jephthah and his daughter, and the time that the prophet Elisha had a bunch of children killed by bears because they called him baldhead are all stories that are rarely told for a reason. Then there was the story of Jesus which itself contained many stories and often involved Jesus telling stories, himself which may or may not been about him. Considering all this it suffices to say that some stories made more sense to me than others, and it was more apparent why some were retold than others.

As Christians we value the New Testament over the old, but we read the Old Testament to understand the new. Therefore we need to have more than a passing familiarity with the contents of all of scripture, for one story leads to the next and when Jesus finally arrives two thirds of the way through our Bible the reader will have no understanding of why Jesus came if they hadn’t been reading what came before.

Imagine any movie or story you read. They usually start in the middle of the events and fill in the back ground as it goes. We need to see Jesus as the most important part of Gods story but still only part. In Christ we see the culmination, the climax as it is described in narrative criticism, but we need to know the climax of what? If we opened up our favorite story near the end to find out that the ring had been destroyed, or that the monster was really a man in disguise, or that everybody on the train was the murderer we would have the most important information but we wouldn’t know what it meant.

That is why we should know the whole Bible. But of course many of us have, so why read it all again? Moses told the Israelites in a speech just before they crossed into the Promised Land that they should read the law every seven years.

<sup>10</sup>Moses commanded them: ‘Every seventh year, in the scheduled year of remission, during the festival of booths, <sup>11</sup>when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. <sup>12</sup>Assemble the people—men, women, and children, as well as the aliens residing in your towns—so that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God and to observe diligently all the words of this law, <sup>13</sup>and so that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are crossing over the Jordan to possess.’

Moses gave this command so that the people will not forget, and so that new generations and new converts will know the law and we should do the same for our sacred story. We may learn, we may remember, and we may also be encouraged and comforted. When I was in college my thesis was on film as a new form of mythology. It is a way in which we tell stories and share meaning and build community and the result is that we often watch our favorite movie over and over again. In it I cited a scene from my favorite TV show, Northern Exposure, in which a character named Ed, who is feeling anxious, keeps rewatching the classic film, Citizen Kane. When asked why he watches it so much he tells his uncle that it makes him feel relaxed, helps him forget his troubles, and inspires him to try. He says: “It’s a great story. It’s beautiful, fearless. You know that quote in the beginning where Kane says, “It might be fun to run a newspaper?” Well, I think that’s the way Orson Welles approached this. “It might be fun to make a movie.” He didn’t know what he was doing, and yet he did something that was perfect. Makes you think about what’s possible.”

I get that sentiment. I go back to my favorite stories because they never fail to help me, and inspire me. I go back to middle earth and Narnia and other places I have only ever read about, and I imagine I could live in those worlds and be in those lands and, for awhile at least, I am.

Those are great stories to be sure but they are not the greatest story. God is great and God’s story is the greatest. Not only is the story of God’s love for us so great that it spans the millennia, it is great because we are part of it. The story that we read in our Bibles is not just a good fairy tale or an account of things that happened somewhere else to someone else whom we will never know. It is our story too. So we should read it to know that our lives are part of a story that stretches back past 4000 years of recorded history and all across the world. It has been written in two languages and translated into thousands more, and it is still being written today.

The story of Jesus and his love is a story that we have not just heard but one that we live.

My preaching professor, Joey Jeter, used to tell us that when Sundays come at us like lines on a highway and we aren’t sure what to say, or when we have read the same passage three ways to Sunday and we don’t know what we can add that people haven’t heard before, just tell a story. Just tell the story. Tell the story of the passage upon which you preach and tell how that story fits into God’s story because God’s story is our story.

Just tell a story he said, and that is what we are going to do. We are going to hear the stories of scripture in Sunday school and in church and many of them will be stories you have heard many times, and there will be stories that we will cover that you may have not heard before, and others that you have forgotten. Still other times we will hear details we had not heard or noticed before which causes us to see them in a new way. Always we will connect the dots as to how one story leads to the next culminating in the

resurrection. I am so looking forward to gathering with you each week to hear the old stories and knowing that, when we do, we, ourselves, are adding another chapter in the old, old story of God and God's love.

### **Call to Offering**

Serena Dube

With hearts filled with song, let us bring forth our gifts and offer Christ our very lives, that God might work miracles of hope through our giving and our living.

### **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**

Rev. Stillwell

Merciful God, transform this offering into hope and joy for a troubled world. Receive the blessings we return to you this day, and transform our ministries into instruments of your grace. Through our giving, may places of sorrow and mourning know the sound of love and laughter. Through our living, mold us into your people—a people of promise and hope.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Rev. Stillwell

I know many of us have longed to return to worship as normal, and today we take a step in that direction by having communion served by the elders and the deacons to the gathered body of Christ. It is a significant step because I have heard more than one person say that they like the silence of the church in the moment as the trays are passed. Those could be hard words for a preacher to hear, but I understand the sentiment because I share it as well. It is easy to appreciate the music of worship, the prayers of worship, and the preaching of worship. All of these things have their place but we must also acknowledge the importance of the silence of worship.

We have had time to pray together and collectively give thanks and petition God for help. We have had time to hear God's word read and explained, and we have had time to meet and greet each other in the fellowship of the faith, but perhaps most important is this time now that we have to meet Christ at this table, to rest in his presence, to acknowledge the gift of "God with us", and to let that encounter change our hearts for the coming week if not our whole life. We have had much to say, and pray, and sing, but let us now, as we share in this meal, share in the time of silence so that nothing will distract us from the feeling of God's present among us.

### **Communion Hymn**

*"I Love to Tell the Story"*

Jody Mullis, pianist

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.	I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.	I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation From God's own holy word.

[Refrain] I love to tell the story,  
'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.



## Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Linda Reese

God of grace, we thank you for your word that is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Your word is shown to us because of the sacrifice of your Son on the Cross. Bless the bread and cup at this table, where we find your love shining through this sacred meal. Bless us by your Spirit as we leave this place.

## 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

*"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"*

Jody Mullis, pianist

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.  
Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love;  
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know  
that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

## Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

As you go forth from this place, plunge into the waters of life unafraid, move forward in life with purpose and passion, live as people of powerful hope, for God goes with us.

---

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)



**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

### Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center:

Bill Behrens Rm 437  
835 S Main Street  
Washington PA 15301

Don Ainsley  
Ed Alexy  
Avery Allen  
Donna Bakaitis  
Tom Barnhart  
Bill Behrens  
Bristol Allan Berry  
Abby Blanchard  
Susan Britko  
Mabel Brooks  
Denise Charles  
Wanda Chicone  
John Collar  
Emily Cope Robinson  
Coretta and family  
Ruth Cox  
Irma Davis  
Jessica Duke  
Libby Eberhard  
Fred Engle  
Jay Freudenberg  
Jett Fuller  
Derek Gardiner  
Lois Gayman  
Nora Graff  
Joe Greene

Nancy Gregg  
Judy Grover  
Sloan Amelia Hagy  
Kyle Hallam  
Connie Hanning  
Aryn Hess  
Ed Jackman  
Family of Caleb Jackson  
Dallas Jacobovitz  
Bob Lanning  
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &  
Ty James Lacock  
Libby LeDuff  
Frank Lippert  
Lee & Betsy Martin  
Dave McConnell  
Don Melvin  
Michaela Nixon  
Ruth Mikuta  
Georgette Murray  
Deborah Patterson  
Cathy Rentgen

Betty Jo Riggle  
Dave Ross  
Jim and Barb Roupe  
John Shadeck  
Theresa Shape  
Connie Sheller  
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



Fairhill Manor Christian Church  
extends its sympathy to Crystal Glover  
on the passing of her father, James  
“Cliff” Herschell on August 28, 2021.  
Please keep this family in your  
thoughts and prayers.

**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



## Sunday School News.....

We will be journeying through the Bible using *The Story*, a book of selections from the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible, arranged chronologically, that reads like a novel. *The Story* will help us get the overall storyline of the Bible, understanding God's story and how our story fits into it. All of **our Sunday school classes and our worship services** will be based *The Story*. The adult books will be on sale in the Narthex for \$5. Please come prepared with exactly \$5 cash. You may sign up to purchase the other books in the Narthex; they will be ordered as needed. Feel free to purchase/order books for yourself and/or your family regardless of whether or not you will participate in Sunday school or another study opportunity; your worship experience will be enhanced by reading the chapters ahead of each Sunday's worship.

Sunday school is a great way to get to know others in the Fairhill congregation while learning about the Bible and growing in your faith. **Sunday school will begin at 9 am on September 12.** Here are this year's classes, teachers, rooms and books:

### Kindergarten – Grade 3

Teacher: Cara Hritz

Room: Children's Classroom (downstairs near pop machine)

Book: *The Story for Little Ones* (up to age 5) or *The Story for Children* (ages 5-8)

### Grades 4-5

Teacher: Pastor Gena

Room: Shepherd's Classroom (end of upstairs hallway across from Choir Room)

Book: *The Story for Kids* (ages 8-12)

### Grades 6-8

Teacher: Rev. Chris

Room: Youth Room (downstairs across from the Chapel, near the Small Fellowship Hall)

Book: *The Story: Teen Edition*

### Adult - Bykota Class

Teacher: Connie Sheller

Room: Small Fellowship Hall

Book: *The Story* and *The Story Study Guide* (Study Guide will be provided in class on the first Sunday)

### Grades 9-12, Young Adult

Facilitator: JC Leasure (This age group will meet with the Bykota Class but will have opportunities for discussion and fellowship amongst themselves as led by JC within the class)

Room: Small Fellowship Hall

Book: *The Story*

**Adult – Bethany Class** (to be determined)

### 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, beginning

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