

Manor Minutes

Volume 12 Issue 37

September 17, 2021

Dartball – September 21, 7pm @IC St James 2
Stewardship/Finance Ministry – September 21, 6pm via Zoom
Special Board Meeting – September 22, 6pm via Zoom

October Newsletter deadline – September 23

Parking Lot Reserved for Thomas Campbell overflow parking – September 25 10am-5pm
Sunday School The Story – September 26 Chapter 2 Abraham: God Builds a Nation
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.

Marsha Sams



for all you have done for the Outreach Ministry at Fairhill Manor Christian Church. Good luck in your new adventure at Twin Pines Christian Church (DoC).

Marsha's new address will be:
4601 Woodcreek Court, Lexington, KY 40515

Good luck and best wishes!

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:

- September 19: Tag board will be in Narthex. Take a tag or two.
October 3: Return items to church
October 10: Bless the School and Hygiene Kits during worship. Assemble the kits following worship.



Rev. Chris
will be on vacation September 23 – 26.
J.C. Leasure will bring the message on
Sunday, September 26.
During this time, you can reach
Pastor Gena,
your Elder Shepherd
or the office with any
prayer requests or needs.



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

September 19, 2021

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Rev. Chris and Owen Stillwell

Stand firm, children of God.

We come to serve the Lord.

Stand firm, children of God.

We come to stand in unity and love.

Stand firm, children of God.

We come to live faithfully and fully in Christ.

Opening Hymn

“Morning Has Broken”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning.
Praise for them springing fresh from the word.

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden.
Sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Gena

Creating and recreating God,

As we sit in your presence this morning, we breathe deeply.

We breathe in the goodness of your creation. We breathe out all that separates us from you.

Together with the light and the darkness, we praise you. For the rhythm of our days, for times of activity and times of rest, we give you thanks. We hand to you all that makes us anxious in the darkness; we give you all of our misconceptions about those who look darker than we do. Help us to find you in the light and in the darkness and to know that you are there in both.

We breathe in the goodness of your creation. We breathe out all that separates us from you.

Together with the great open spaces, we praise you. For the air we breathe, for the great expanse of the sky, we give you thanks. Lift our eyes upward, expand our chests, open our minds as we take in the vastness of the space around us. For the many things that we cannot see but which are very real, for the many things we need for life itself but take for granted, we give you great thanks.

We breathe in the goodness of your creation. We breathe out all that separates us from you.

Together with the waters and the dry ground, we praise you. For times that are moving and fluid, carrying us along, we give you thanks. For times of standing still and being firmly planted, we give you thanks. Draw us to the wonders of the land and waters all around us, from tall mountain peaks to deep canyons, from rich cool soil to great sand dunes, from quiet ponds to the waves and tides of the great oceans. Give us the grace to marvel and to wonder again.

We breathe in the goodness of your creation. We breathe out all that separates us from you.

Together with all that grows on the land, we praise you. For the wonder of planting a seed and watching it grow, for the wonder of fruit falling from trees and berries growing in the wild, for the wonder of your never-ending provision of food, we give you thanks. Help us to savor every bite of fruit and vegetable, grain and bean, giving thanks for those who tend the plants and trees you have created, giving thanks for the many ways you nourish us.

We breathe in the goodness of your creation. We breathe out all that separates us from you.

Together with the sun and the moon and all of the stars, we praise you. For the warmth and light the sun brings, for the beauty of the great expanse of the night sky, we give you thanks. Thank you for each new morning that the sun brings without fail, an opportunity to start anew. Thank you for those lights that guide us and show us the way, especially when we are lost in despair and fear. Chart a clear course for us, O God, and give us the courage to follow.

We breathe in the goodness of your creation. We breathe out all that separates us from you.

Together with all living creatures, we sing your praises. For the variety of creatures that fill the land and water and air, we give you thanks. Thank you for the great beasts that we admire from afar and for the pets that fill our lives with laughter and love and wonder. Teach us to live with one another and with all of your creatures in ways that honor the life you have placed within each of us. May we find your image in each other and in ourselves and may we live into our vocation as caretakers of your creation.

We breathe in the goodness of your creation. We breathe out all that separates us from you.

Together with all creation, we thank you for this day of rest. Help us to lay aside our busyness and remember that all things come from you. Help us to lay aside our industriousness and agendas and find our rest in you. Teach us of the worth you give us as your children, aside from anything we make or perform or achieve.

We breathe in the goodness of your creation. We breathe out all that separates us from you.

Together we ask for your mercy on those who are suffering and in need of your care. Hear our prayers...

Joining our voices as one in praise of you, our Creator and the one who is always making us new, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying...

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 1:1-31

Donna Stenski

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

Who is in your family? Some of us have brothers or sisters, some of us have a mother or a father. Some of us might live with an aunt or uncle or our grandparents. We call these people family. They care for us and we care for them. What else makes a family a family?

Sometimes we call the church a family. Have you ever heard that? Some of us here are related, but we aren't all related. How can we be a family if we aren't related to one another?

One day someone said something like this to Jesus: "Members of your family are standing outside, waiting for you." And Jesus said, "My family members are those who hear God's word and put it into practice" (adaptation of Luke 8:20-21, NIV). We, who listen to God's word and try to do what God says are Jesus' brothers and sisters. That makes us all family, doesn't it? We are all brothers and sisters because of Jesus. And, for a time, Fairhill Manor Christian Church, is our family home.

But just like in every family, things change in our family here at Fairhill Manor. Sometimes people go away and we don't see them anymore. Sometimes new people come. I wonder if you can think of ways that new people come into our family here. Sometimes new babies are born or families adopt a child, and we welcome them and bless them, don't we? They become part of our family. Sometimes new people come when they are older and we welcome them, too - sometimes as new members, which means we make a commitment to care for each other and help each other become more like Jesus.

Sometimes we say good-bye to people in our Fairhill family. Sometimes people die and we say good-bye to them. We remember them and celebrate their life through a special worship service called a funeral. Sometimes people move away and become a part of a new church family – a new home in a different place.

That's what is happening today. Marsha Sams has been a part of our church family for about 5 years now, but it feels like she has been a member of our family for a long time, doesn't it? That's because she has been such an active part of our church family, leading us and giving of her time and her gifts.

Marsha is now moving back to Lexington, Kentucky. She will be worshipping in a new church family called Twin Pines Christian Church. We feel sad because she is leaving us, but we are excited for her because she is beginning a new phase of her life and, in many ways, going home to a place where she has so many friends. We will miss Marsha so much, but we also know that she will bring so much to her new church family, just as she has added so much to our lives...

(For the rest, join us on Zoom or in person on Sunday morning or look for it in next week's Manor Minutes).

Special Music	"Here I Am Lord"	Jody Mullis
Second Scripture Reading	Genesis 9:8-17	Rev. Stillwell
Sermon	"It All Started With a Big Bang"	Rev. Stillwell

As I mentioned last week, we all love a good story. Whether that story is a book, film or tv show we love to get caught up in a good story, and a good story usually has a good beginning. It was a dark and stormy night is usually a more gripping beginning than once upon a time, but not as good as "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."

The beginning of our journey through the story of the Bible is like the beginning of an action-packed movie. If you miss the opening minutes of a movie with its fast-paced scenes, you will not understand the rest of the story. It is the same with the Bible's grand Story. Right from the very beginning God's story opens with a "big bang."

God says let there be light, and Bang! there was light. In fact, the story starts with a series of bangs. “Let there be a dome” God says, and Bang! there was a dome. Then God said, “Let there be lights in the dome”, and Bang! there were lights. God keeps speaking and Bang! there is land, Bang! there are plants. Bang! Bang! Bang! and there were swarms of living creatures in the waters and birds that flew above the earth across the dome of the sky, living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.

So, the Story begins with no prelude or introduction, no preview or rising action. It all begins with a bang when its opening verse, Genesis 1:1, introduces us to the Story’s main character: God. There is no explanation who God is, but it is clear that God is the most powerful being in the universe since it was God who made it and all the things in it, and it is also clear that God’s actions are not impersonal accidents, but the creative purpose of a personal God.

In the following verses and chapters, the “big bang” of creation is presented poetically and artistically. Days 1, 2, and 3 are places created by God.

Day 1—Light and Dark
Day 2—Sky and Water
Day 3—Land

Days 4, 5, and 6 are the things that fill those places and for which those places were created.

Day 4—Sun and Moon/stars
Day 5—Birds and Sea creatures
Day 6—Animals and human beings

Finally, creation concludes with the biggest bang of all, God’s, which is God’s creation of human beings. The story of the Bible is made up of many stories, as I have mentioned and even stories that we think of as singular, such as creation, are really multiple as well. For here the story changes its language and its perspective to tell the story of the making of the first humans, which has caused many scholars to believe that it was a second creation story told by a different group of Hebrew people that was edited together after the Israelites go into exile many years later. This hypothesis, which is called the Documentary Hypothesis, comes into play again later when the Bible gives us two stories of Noah taking the animals on the ark. I don’t want to get bogged down in the details, but it is important to see what is all there.

It is in the second creation story that we see the care in which God creates human beings and fills them with the breath of life. From this, we see that God’s core passion are the people made in God’s own image. All the beauties of creation are secondary to you. This truth is a self-esteem builder, but it also can be a hubris builder as we will see. What makes the Bible such a unique story is that it begins with the happy ending. It begins with such a wonderful place made for our delight. It is a literal Garden of Eden

“All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.”

That is how the old hymn phrases it, and it is a celebration that what God has made is good and good for us. Each day God made something new and at the end, with the work complete, God saw that it was good. Everything in creation was good, God saw to it, and the descriptions of the Garden of Eden were descriptions of a paradise in which no creature lacked for anything.

So, we learn from the very beginning of the Bible that God is good all the time, and all the time God is good, and God is good to us, by creating a creation that is good, and yet we know that not everything in creation is good. Hurricanes and tornados, yellow jackets and ticks, disease and virus are all part of this creation which sometimes seems to be at war with us.

So, on the one hand we have our hymn that sings of the goodness of God's creation, and on the other hand we have our experience which says that not all things are so good. What do we make of this? There are two things we should make of this I think, and the first is that all things are bright and beautiful to God who made them as God saw fit. So, things that are ugly to us are so, because they are not like us, but God created them for a reason.

The other point to make is that not all things in the world are due to God. Human sin creates things or perverts God's creation so that what was once bright and beautiful can become sullied and stained. Likewise, we hear in our story that all was in harmony when God deemed it good, and so much of what we see in the world today that we would not call good is a result of human beings acting against the way God intended.

This hymn is about creation before the fall. In that garden of Eden all was good. All was bright and beautiful. Terrible things like cancer, flesh eating bacteria, kidney stones did not exist. Nothing was spoiled so there were no polluted creeks and streams, no smog filled air, no landfills or mountains filled with toxic waste.

It is true that God is good all the time and all the time God is good, but much of the time humans are not, and that brings us back to our story. The Bible Story continues with the "big bang" of the Fall, when Adam and Eve, who were created with the freedom and power to choose, chose poorly. A snake, later identified with the devil but not stated so in the story, convinces them to eat from the forbidden "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" and, when this happens God's vision to be with people was ruined. They are kicked out of the garden, and that is the end of the first part of our story. So strange to think of it like that. Usually if a story has two parts, they are closely equal in length and if I said God's story has two parts you would probably assume I was referring to the Old and New Testament, but really the story of the Bible is the story of how human beings have fallen short of the world God intended for them through their sin, and the rest of the story is God's persistent attempt to win us back by saving us even from ourselves. This God will do with the law and kings, judges and prophets, even God's own self in the form of a man, but first . . . God uses a boat.

Flash forward several generations and we see that the world has been overcome by sin like a weed that destroys a garden, and God decides to try again. God chooses Noah to build the ark and God does a "do over" of the human race after the judgment of flood waters. The flood erased the wicked human race, but it did not erase sin, itself, so problems still exist, and God's work to rebuild paradise has just begun but our part of the story ends today with God giving his first sign, his first promise, when he says to Noah:

¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth. ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.

God has now made a covenant with all living flesh, which is to say that there are still many problems, and there will still be many struggles, but God is in this with the people for the long haul. Let that be our joy today. As often as we sin and fall short, God has been with us, and while we sometimes give up on God or ourselves, God never gives up on us. Today our story came in with a bang and went out with a bow which is not how we usually think of it or expect things to go, but stay with us each week as we continue to tell the story of the Bible and I assure you; it will not be the last time something unexpected happens.

Call to Offering

Rev. Stillwell

God has generously blessed us and granted us the privilege of sharing our blessings with others. Thanks be to God for this sacred trust.

Special Music

“Spirit of the Living God”

Jody Mullis

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

As we remember your wonderful works, we are grateful for your many blessings, and are honored to return these gifts to you. As we return these gifts to you, bless them and send them forth, that others may be showered with your love and your grace. In faithful trust, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

The columnist Harvey Mackay said,

“Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it you can never get it back.”

So, what we choose to do with our time is an important decision to make. Therefore, it means a great deal when a person chooses to spend an hour with God in prayer and worship. So many people do not go to church because they cannot find the time, but the irony is that if they looked in the Church, they would find the time they need.

The busier you are I think you will find the more you need God's help. The more you need to do the more you need to find the time to pray because only in prayer is the real power of God available to us. That is why Christ gives us this table to pray and to meditate and to commune with him, and that is why we share in it every week.

God very much wants to spend time with us, so that spending time with our Lord, the maker of Heaven and earth and all things in it will never be time wasted. Share the meal and find that just a few minutes with our Lord can have effects that last a lifetime.

Communion Hymn

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

[Refrain]: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Craig Dotson

Lord we give thanks for this day and the ability to worship. Our scripture teaches us about the gifts of your creation. As we accept the bread and cup during our special time of communion, we recognize that it represents sacrifice which is a vital part of our Christian heritage. We pray for your guidance during the challenging times we face as a world. Help us to accept and act on the sacrifices we are asked to make for the greater good. We pray that we honor your creation as the blessing it is. In your name we pray.

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

"Trust and Obey"

Jody Mullis, pianist

When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
But our toil he will richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

[Refrain:] Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Now may our Savior, Jesus Christ, who died that we might live, touch each of our lives that we might go forth forgiven, renewed and ready to proclaim his glorious good news. In his name. Amen.

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

835 S Main Street, Rm 437
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
Gene 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
Molly Johnson

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.

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

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 &	B — — — ○ — —	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

“ _____ ”

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.