

Manor Minutes
Volume 12 Issue 12
March 26, 2021

In-person worship

Those with last names beginning with **A-E & P-Z** worship in the sanctuary **March 28** at 10:15am. The Worship Schedule can be found at: <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/sanctuary-schedule>

ZOOM – LIVE at 10:15 am

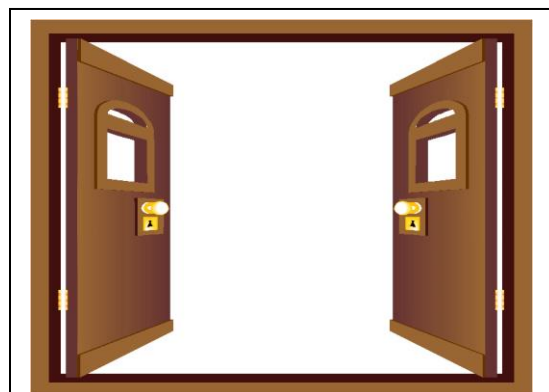
Zoom log in information is available on the last page of the Manor Minutes.

- Lenten Bible Study with Rev. Chris – March 29, 7pm via Zoom
- Weekly Lenten Service – March 31
- **Maundy Thursday** service – 7pm via Zoom
- **Good Friday** service – 7pm via Zoom
- **Easter Sunrise** service – 7am
Outdoor Worship open to everyone. Weather permitting, front lawn.
Masks required. Bring your own chair.
- **Easter** service – 10:15am (F-O and P-Z)



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

Fairhill Manor extends its heartfelt sympathy to the Wheeler and Doria families. Word has been received of the unexpected death of Kristen Stock in Florida. Kristen is the daughter of Mary Ellen and Carl Grebner. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.



The front doors leading to the front driveway of the Church must be locked with a key. If you leave through these doors after service, please let someone know that can lock the door behind you.

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

March 28, 2021

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship*

Kevin Puskarich

O give thanks to our God, who is good. God's steadfast love endures forever!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
For Christ has opened the gates of righteousness, that we may enter.
He has emptied himself for love of us.
Christ took human form, that we might know we are known.
Holy One, you are our God, and we give thanks to you.
We give thanks to our God, who is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever.

Opening Hymn

"All Glory Laud and Honor"

Audra Allen, organist

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
You are a child of Israel, Great David's greater Son;
you ride in lowly triumph, Messiah, blessed One!

The company of angels are praising you on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.
The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Pastor Gena

"Hosanna! Save us! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"
Come, come this way into our city, into our homes, into our church, into our lives.
Come and save us.

We worship you, we welcome you, we lay down what we have to prepare a path that is just a bit more special for you, for we are glad you are coming this way!
We open our hearts again to receive you, this time a little more willingly than the last.

Holy Lord, forgive us for misunderstanding what your kingdom is about.

Forgive us for relying on power and might, prestige and merit.

Forgive us for admiring those who have the newest and biggest and best, for comparing ourselves with those who have the best photos and most interesting profiles.

Help us to see that without anything, without any achievement, without any accomplishment, we are enough. We are your children and in you we have everything we need.

Give us the courage to be ourselves as you have created us, willing to be vulnerable, willing to depend on you, willing to show others love and mercy and grace. Willing to lose and to serve in your name.

We give you thanks for inviting us to walk this journey with you this week, knowing how easily our thoughts and emotions, our loyalties and commitments change. You know this about us and yet you still

call us on the way. We want to do it right this time but even if we could, that would not earn us your love any more. Your love is already here for us. And so we lift our voices in thanksgiving that this week shows us that nothing we can do can separate us from your love or earn it for ourselves any more. Help us to rest in your endless love, to bask in it, to share it and live it, as we walk with you.

Holy God, your son humbled himself, even to death, to show us the power of loving service. Guide those holding positions of power, that their decisions might help all of the world you so love to flourish together.

Healing God, the violence your son endured continues in our violent world each day. Raise us to a new and rightly ordered world through the reconciling love of Christ, where all victims of violence, persecution, shame, or terror may stand together with you in peace. Heal our wounds and our anger, we pray.

Grieving God, your son consoled others in life and in death. We pray for all who are distressed, broken, or sorrowful, that together with Christ in his suffering we may be healed and raised in you.

Compassionate God, we know the comfort of your presence and strength in our lives and we so want others to experience that too. So please be with these we name now in your presence... You know what each one needs. Show us how to love and care with each other in your name.

Loving God, in Jesus' passion and resurrection, you show us there is no place you have not been and no place you fear to go. Morning by morning, awaken us more deeply to this truth. And then send us into the world this day and every day with the courage and wisdom to be a faithful witness to your coming reign of justice, mercy, and peace.

We ask all of this in the name of Jesus, who teaches us to pray 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.

Anthem

Children's Message*

Pastor Gena

Have you ever heard an echo? Can you describe what that was like?

Sometimes we say that we read something and in it we hear echoes of something else. It reminds us of that other time when we heard those same words. Memories come to mind or feelings come to our hearts. Something about that other experience is ringing in our ears now like an echo coming from far away. Something about this time and that time are similar.

Sometimes we hear echoes in Scripture. We read one thing and we hear another verse coming alive and speaking to us. This part we are reading reminds us of another part. I wonder if we can hear some echoes in Scripture this morning.

We are going to read a part of Psalm 118. Psalm 118 is a poem in the Bible that called people together to worship God. It is a song of people giving thanks to God as they come into the temple to worship God. When you hear words that you've heard somewhere else or that make you think of another Bible story, wave your palm branch....

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!
This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Hosanna (save us), we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.
The LORD is God, and God has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.
O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.
Psalm 118:1, 24-29, NRSV, *adapted*

Today is Palm Sunday, a special day in the church when we tell the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. We've heard echoes of the Palm Sunday story in Psalm 118, haven't we? On Palm Sunday, crowds waved branches of palm trees and shouted, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" when they went out to meet Jesus at Jerusalem's gate.

The people remembered those words from their holy scriptures, and they used them because they believed Jesus was God's anointed one the prophets had spoken about. They actually thought Jesus came to get rid of the Roman government, which was hurting and killing the Jewish people. But while Jesus did come in God's name, he didn't save the people from the Roman government as they expected. Instead, Jesus came to share the message of God's love and justice for all people.

I wonder when people look at our lives if they hear or feel echoes of Jesus? I wonder if they are reminded of God's love and peace?

Dear God, thank you for all of the ways your love echoes through our lives, as we read your Word in our Bibles, as we love and care for each other. Thank you for sending Jesus as a living message of your love for us. We love you. Amen.

Scripture Reading*

Mark 11:1-11

Kevin Puskarich

Sermon*

"In Like a Lion, Out With the Lamb"

Rev. Stillwell

"In like a lion, out like a lamb" has always seemed a straightforward enough proverb: when March starts, it's still winter, and by the end of the month spring has begun. True, in many climates the weather hasn't quite reached the lamb stage by the end of the month. But we get the idea. This year, "In like a lion out like a lamb," has been a pretty accurate motto for the month of March.

The month began with winter biting hard on our heels. After about two months of snow and abnormally cold temperatures February ended with snow, rain and ice that caused me to need to have repairs done on my roof. Of course no one could get up there to do the work until the weather improved which could have been weeks, but, after the beginning of the month continued to give us snow and cold, soon it transitioned to a month of little snow but bitter cold and high winds.

But now, it is the last week of the month, and it is warm and sunny. For most of the last two weeks it has been this way and has even gotten into the sixties on occasion. I have daffodils growing in my front yard, and the trees and bushes should be coming along in no time. Maybe the cold will return but, if it does, it will be only temporary.

Because of this, March is the most transitional of months with its end looking so different from its beginning, and that is why it gets the motto “in like a lion and out like a lamb” because you cannot get much different than a lion and a lamb.

The lion is called the king of the jungle, because he is so large and imposing a creature. He is fierce and violent and scares any other animal that encounters him including humans. He speaks with a thunderous roar that is heard from far away and scares away enemies. He carries himself with regal grace and implied power; for while he spends most time sleeping or lounging, when the lion wants to strike he does so with speed and precision that is unmatched in the animal kingdom. And when he wants to strike he does so against other animals for the lion is a meat eater and feasts on smaller, meeker animals.

Unlike the lion, small and meek are two words that describe the lamb. The lamb is shy and little and speaks in cute, quiet bleats and bays that scare no one except perhaps itself. It is not the king of anything; it isn't even a fully grown animal being that it is the young form of a sheep. It is passive and hunts no animals preferring to eat grass, and lambs are frequently the target of other animals that do hunt.

The lamb does not live near the lion but, if they did, it would not go well for the lamb. It suffices to say that lions and lambs are natural enemies or would be if lambs lived in the jungle or lions roamed the pastures. No one would ever confuse a lion with a lamb, yet they are frequently grouped together. Isaiah, for instance, mentions them when he speaks of the time when the messiah will come. He says on that day:

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them. (Isaiah 11:6)

but he could just as easily have said “the lion shall lay down with the lamb.” The point is that there will be peace among natural adversaries, enemies will become friends, death and killing will cease, and the world will return to that paradise that was Eden.

In the garden, Adam and Eve were vegetarians, and the fact is that all creatures then were vegetarians for there was no killing, no food chain, and no dog-eat-dog world. Lions and lambs lived together in harmony, and that paradise will be recreated when the Messiah comes. If those two animals can live together, then certainly when Christ enters Jerusalem, the Israelites and the Romans could stop their fighting, or at least that was the hope and the expectation of the Israelites who greeted Christ's entry into the Holy City with palms and shouts of Hosanna.

Of course, Christ's followers longed for peace with the Romans, but they thought this would come only after Jesus defeated them and subjugated them to God's will, but the words of Isaiah still rang in their minds and their hearts if not their lips that day. Isaiah's prophecy is significant not only because it invoked the image of lions and lambs in this vision of the messianic being, but because lion and lamb are also two names given to the one whom we believe is God's messiah, Jesus the Christ.

Jesus is not called a lion very often, in fact only once in Revelation when Jesus is called the lion of Judah. Jesus is often portrayed as one, however. Lions are the kings of the jungle and Christ is called king of kings. On much medieval armor, shields, and crests, the lion appears as a sign of Christ signifying his might and grandeur as well as his divine kingship. In the C. S. Lewis' classic tale of wonder and grandeur, “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe,” the lion, Aslan, who is crucified on a stone table only to live again, is probably the most famous Christ figure in literature.

Then there is the lamb. Lambs are creatures that were sacrificed in Jesus' time as an offering to God. On Passover in particular, a lamb was sacrificed and its blood placed on the door of the enslaved Israelites in order for the angel of death to Passover their home. Jesus is often called the Paschal lamb which is the lamb sacrificed on pass over. The word Paschal comes from the Hebrew term "pesah" meaning deliverance, but instead of saving the first born son of each family, as the Passover lambs did, Jesus saved everyone.

My wife's family comes from Eastern Europe, and, in the Byzantine Catholic tradition, of which they are a part pf there are many different foods that are made to celebrate Easter, and one of them is the lamb cake. Once my mother in law made one but it was so heavy that the head of the lamb kept falling off. Her daughters thought it was kind of funny, she was frustrated and upset, but I think that is rather appropriate, for when we think for Jesus as a lamb it conjures up nice, sweet images of a cute lamb in our head, and not the more appropriate but less pleasing image of a lamb led to the slaughter.

So in Jesus is both lion and lamb and the promise of those two lying down together, but you could also describe Jesus' time in Jerusalem before the crucifixion as being in like a lion and out like a lamb. On Palm Sunday he entered the city like a lion; the only roars that day came from his admirers. Here Jesus was finally being treated as the king that his disciples knew him to be. Here the disciples were finally getting what they had bargained for, what they hoped would happen when they agreed to follow him. This celebration, this coronation, was even approved of by Christ himself.

Up to this point when performing healing or when spirits would recognize who he was, Jesus often told them to be silent. But when told by Pharisees who worried that shouts of Jesus as King of Kings might upset Herod or the Romans, to silence the crowd he said 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

By Good Friday, however, he left the city like a lamb, sacrificed in the same way as the lambs for Passover were, only with not as much dignity. Whereas the lambs were sacrificed in the temple and allowed to die quickly, Christ was slaughtered on a cross, naked and humiliated for all to see. No one recognized him as king that day, and he roared at no one.

Going from lion to lamb is as complete a change as can be, but, whereas, the month of March gives us 31 days to prepare for such a change, Holy Week gives us only six.

There will be plenty of time to think of and remember Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God. We will have a service on Maundy Thursday where we will remember Jesus going so far as to restrain Peter from resisting the soldiers with violence. Then there will be the Good Friday service where we will commemorate Jesus being led like a lamb to the slaughter. There will be specials on television that will mostly focus on the crucifixion, death, and burial. We will continue to examine ourselves and maintain our Lenten vows.

But today on Palm Sunday is our chance to roar in celebration of the lion, the king of the jungle, the king of the ocean, the king of the desert, indeed the king of the whole world. Now is our time to shout out Hosanna to the king of our hearts so that the stones will not have to. Soon enough we will whimper and bleat like lambs, but today, with the power and glory of a lion, let us lift up our eyes and proclaim, **Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

Call to Offering*

Kevin Puskarich

Gracious God, you have given us blessings beyond measure: hearts of mercy, hands of grace, and the presence of Christ in our souls and in our lives. We can never repay what we have received, so help us

carry it forward. May we use the gifts of hearts and hands to sustain the weary in word and in deed. May we be awakened to all who long for God's peace, and have courage enough to walk with them.

Dedication of Offering*

Rev. Stillwell

Gracious God, as we give these offerings we recognize that our possessions belong not only to ourselves, but to our brothers and sisters as well, for you have called us to be instruments of your grace.

Invitation to Communion*

Rev. Stillwell

The Phoenix of ancient myth is a creature known rising from its own ashes. It is a bird whose life came out of death and is now a symbol for any type of rebirth or renewal. In fact the city of Phoenix got its name from the fact that it was built upon an old, Native American city.

There may be no birds in this sanctuary, but there is something that has risen from the ashes. For on Ash Wednesday, ashes from last year's Palms were used to remind us of what becomes of our physical body after death. Therefore we should focus on our spiritual health during Lent. Today ashes that we spread on our foreheads have turned back into the palms that we wave as we shout Hosanna for the King of Kings.

We do this all at the time that our world is being reborn physically with the springtime and at a time that we pray it will be reborn spiritually. Jesus Christ brought renewal to his people and he brings it to us as well. He has the power to bring life even out of death and because of this we, like a Phoenix, may rise out of the ashes of our lives. The people on Palm Sunday experienced this renewal for a day and then fell away going from shouting "Hosanna" to "Crucify Him!" within just a few days. Let us learn from their mistake and ask Jesus to renew us not today but for the rest of our life.

As we share in this meal may it renew us in spirit if not in body that we may shout Hosanna not just for a day but for all of our days.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

J.C. Leasure

Lord,

We celebrate your triumphant entry. We feel the warmth of the sun on this joyous occasion. We feel the excitement in the air. We hear the thunderous shouts of the crowd. "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" In the near future we can see the reason why you came. As we partake in Communion with you, remind us of the weight of your love. Don't let us think of your grace and mercy in this moment as mundane. And as we travel from this table, let us reflect the love you showed us in your death. Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen

Words of Institution*

Rev. Stillwell

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)

Closing Hymn

"I Will Call Upon the Lord"

Jody Mullis, pianist

I will call upon the Lord. Who is worthy to be praised. So shall I be saved from my enemies. (repeat)
The Lord liveth and blessed be the Rock. And let the God of my salvation be exalted! (repeat)

Benediction*

Rev. Stillwell

As you leave this place remember your lord as he was greeted that day in Jerusalem. Do not miss your opportunity to roar like a lion and shout "Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna forevermore!"

* You can listen to these pieces of worship at <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/worship-audio-files>
Previous Worship services can also 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!

Gary Anderson
Avery Allen
Donna Bakaitis
Bill Behrens
Bristol Allan Berry
Abby Blanchard
Mark & Susan Britko
Jordon Burk
Mary Chase
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Sue Donaldson
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Lois Gayman
Rose Ann Gorby
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg

Sloan Amelia Hagy
Judy Hanning
Aryn Hess
Ed & Harriet Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Bob Lanning
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy & Ty James Lacock
Cheryl Leach
Pastor Michael Lehman
Stanley & Dolores Majeski
Lee & Betsy Martin
Don Melvin
Michaela Nixon
Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Georgette Murray
Deborah Patterson
Joyce and Denny Paul

Betty & Charles Riecks
Betty Jo Riggle
Chip Rogers and his parents
Jim and Barb Roupe
John Shadeck
Theresa Shape
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Steve Smith
Cathy Stewart
John Stewart
Beth Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Sarah Wittenberg
Marcie Yocum
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash

Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center

Bill Behrens Rm 437
835 S Main Street
Washington PA 15301

Homebound Members:

Phyllis Cimino
317 Wellness Way
Strabane Trails #325
Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

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

Fairhill Manor has entered a new era: the age of anytime, anywhere giving. We are now signed up with **Givelify**, the mobile giving app for places of worship and charities.

Givelify gives you a beautiful, easy giving experience using your smartphone. There are no frustrating web forms to fill out, and recurring gifts are easy to set up and modify. Even better, it's free to download and use. It's safe and secure and gives you access to your complete giving record.

Want to see how it works? [Watch the demonstration video](#) that shows you all about how to make and track donations.

Ready to get started? [Download](#) the Givelify app for Android or iPhone.



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 a – 2 pm. The Church phone is forwarded to Karen's cell phone.

Pastor Gena is off on Friday.

Vacation: April 5 - 18

Rev. Chris is off on Friday.

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

Children Worship & Wonder

We invite children age 3 – Grade 5 to participate in Children Worship & Wonder. Join CW&W on Zoom around 10:30 am (contact Pastor Gena for the login information). To learn more and register your child(ren), <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/children-worship-wonder>

Tween Team

Gather online via Zoom with 4th-7th Graders on Sunday evenings from 5-6 pm. During the Easter Season we will continue centering our time together around, "Faithful Families: Lent and Easter Devotions." JC Leasure and Pastor Gena are the co-leaders. Tween Team will NOT meet on April 4.

Lent

To mark this special time of the Christian year, a time of examination and preparation leading to the celebration of Easter, we have two exciting opportunities to grow stronger in our faith and spirituality.

Zoom Bible Study

On Monday, March 29, from 7-8:15pm via Zoom, Rev. Chris will conclude the Lenten Bible Study on the Gospel of John. The curriculum is written by Rev. Adam Hamilton based on his book, "John: The Gospel of Light and Life". Click on the zoom link which will be emailed on Monday.

Weekly worship services

We are teaming up with other Disciples of Christ congregations in the area to provide a weekly mid-week worship service during the season of Lent. Each church will take a turn to lead a worship service each Wednesday at 7 pm to be shared to all churches via Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, whatever their method is. Details on how to watch each service will be emailed each week so stay tuned! The schedule for these services is as follows:

Mar 31 - Christian Church in Uniontown

Lent Devotionals and other resources are available at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/lent

Username: fairhillmanor@yahoo.com

Password: lent2021

ZOOM – LIVE

Zoom Worship this Week - Live from the Sanctuary at 10:15am!

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45 am 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 Pastor Gena (724) 263-0033. She will share these during worship. At 10:15 am, mute yourself on Zoom (Not sure how to do that? Login at 9:45 am and someone will help). Those on Zoom are visible to each other for the entire worship service. If you would like to see but not be seen, click Stop Video on your Zoom screen.

Special Easter Offering: You can send a check to Fairhill Manor with "Easter Offering" in the memo, donate on the "Givelify" app, or donate directly to Disciples Ministries at:

<https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give/>

Easter Offering

a special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund
March 28 and April 4, 2021



supporting general ministries of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Thank you to everyone that has already received their vaccine and called. Contact Karen at the Church Office (724) 225-8610 after you have been fully vaccinated. She will keep a confidential list. This will help future decisions on increasing in-person Worship attendance