

March 2022

Manor Talk

A Publication of Fairhill Manor Christian Church

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Here is a joke that is close to something I told my parents once and what my kids are often telling me. A little boy sits in his room, all his toys and clothes in piles on the floor, when his mother walks in and says, "Your room is an absolute mess, clean it up now!" "But I like my room this way. It keeps me organized and I know where everything is" says the boy. "How in the world do you know where anything is?" "Well mom, if everything's on the floor I know where it is."

Now that I'm an adult I spend a lot of time cleaning up. I clean up after myself and after my children. I enjoy having a clean and organized room now more than I ever did as a child, yet I must confess that not only am I still good at making a mess, I am even better at living in one, but the mess I make is not so much the result of a room full of scattered toys and cluttered books, but an unclean heart soiled by sin and stains that I cannot clean myself.

It seems to me that this is the perfect time to talk about the need to clean the mess of our lives because we sit now at the beginning of Lent, which is a time for repentance, and we each must be honest about our need to repent. Sometimes we are uncomfortable with the word sin because we don't want to admit that we are sinful, but sometimes sin can easily be described as making a mess of our lives and then living in that mess without making an attempt to clean it up, or making such a mess that we don't even know where to begin to clean it. Like the boy in the story, we need to get our room in order but how? Charlotte always tells me it is too hard to clean her room, but it wasn't too hard for her to make the mess. Jessi and I usually end up helping her, but we won't unless she starts to clean up the mess herself.

We all like a clean house and we assume God does too, since we have heard the phrase "cleanliness is next to Godliness" and internalize it like it is scripture rather than an attempt to sell soap. Consequently, many people are reluctant to mess up God's house with their messy lives and messy hearts. Too often we think of the house of God like a museum that needs to be kept spotless, but I like to think of it as a vacuum that helps to make clean all who encounter it. This does not happen simply by sitting in its pews, but by prayer and confession. Even the apostle Paul confessed, "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do."

God can help us clean up our mess, but we must start. Let's do some spiritual spring cleaning this Lent in order to get our house of faith in order. Let's clean our spiritual house by continuing to come to God's house where we can bring our dirt and leave it knowing that the house of God is not defiled or dirtied by the dirt we bring in rather the God who is already present there makes us clean. Therefore, let us ask Christ to help us drive out unclean spirits and sins that make a mess of our lives. He wasn't there to help us make the mess, but he will be there to help us clean it up. In fact, he is the only one who can.

Rev. Chris



MARCH 2022

- 1 Vanessa Duchess
- 4 Nyka Rash
- 7 Nicole Fowler
- 8 Chris Lewis
- 9 Dana Hess
- 11 Mallory Jones
Jordan Keener
- 12 Jessie Simpson
- 14 James Hritz
- 15 Brian Ashmore
- 20 Sandy Harton
Evelyn Ringer
- 21 Sandy Cope-Yokoyama
- 22 Pat Donahoo
- 23 Trenton Shriver
- 24 Ashley Fowler
- 25 Ruth Campbell
- 27 Patty McConnell
Anthony Mountain
- 28 Cathy Duchess
Adeline Dye
Amanda Henry
Darlene Yater
- 29 Terry Houston
- 30 Maggie Graff
- 31 Debbie Dague

Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 15 Matt & Tiffany Shetler
- 17 Jason & Erika Vanatta
- 20 Paul & Sandy Harton



There is a saying "Many hands lighten the load!" Thanks to J.C. Leasure and Owen Stillwell for volunteering to help in the sound room. Craig Dotson, who has been a part of running sound for Sunday morning services for years, is taking a well-deserved retirement. So, thanks to Craig for his service and thanks to J.C. and Owen for stepping up!" - Gary

Youth Activity

The youth will be doing their part to beautify our church and to celebrate in the joy of God's creation. On Sunday, April 3, youth from ages 5 and up are invited to stay after church for lunch and games (children under 5 are also invited with a parent or guardian). Afterwards they will plant daffodils on the church property. We hope that this will be something they can look at every spring when they come forth in all their beauty and think to themselves, "God did that . . . and I helped." Please let Rev. Chris or Pastor Gena know if you child or children will be participating. The activity will start at the conclusion of the church service and end at 1pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY *Worship*

Ash Wednesday Service March 2 at 7:00 PM

Lent is a time of preparation for Christians as the celebration of Easter nears. In the same way that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness facing temptation, fasting, and praying before he began his public ministry we are invited to spend 40 days honing our faith and going deeper on our walk with Christ. Lent begins every year on Ash Wednesday, which this year is March 2. The day gets its name from the practice of having the ashes of last year's palms imposed upon our forehead to remind us of our mortality, and that we would be nothing more than ash if it were not for what has been accomplished through Jesus Christ. Last year Pastor Gena and Rev. Chris imposed ashes in the parking lot on a cold February day because of Covid, but this year we are pleased to invite you to an in-person Ash Wednesday service on March 2 at 7pm. We will have song and scripture, prayer and short meditations, and ashes will be received and communion will be shared. The service will also be on Zoom, and if anyone would like to receive ashes but cannot make the service, please let our ministers know, and they will arrange a time to give them. So mark your calendars and begin the season of Lent as Christians throughout the ages have done.

Lent Devotional And Discussion

The devotional for Lent this year is titled; "Gifts of the Spiritual Wilderness," which will help you contemplate, process, and explore how Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness intersects with our own experiences today. The spiritual wilderness is a term that seems to describe where many of us have found ourselves these past two years. While it has been hard, we should affirm what gifts we have found, how a spiritual drought can create a more meaningful Lent experience, what fasting, sacrifice, and temptation look like in our daily lives, and how we prepare to experience new life on the Lenten journey.

It will be available to pick up at church this Sunday, February 27. We invite you to take one per family and use it to celebrate the ways in which God has blessed us and helped us during our time in the spiritual wilderness. We also hope you will join us in a discussion of the readings which will be hosted by Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena on Mondays at 7pm during Lent via Zoom starting March 7. If we find that a number of people wish to have a second time during the day we may set up another time for discussion. The Zoom link will be sent out in a separate email.

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Dartball 7pm @ Laboratory	NA 6:45pm Board Reports Due Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	Choir 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	Prayer Shawl 11am Parlor Lent Devotional Discussion via Zoom 7pm NA 7pm		Elders 6pm Shepherds Room Board Meeting 7pm Library NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	Lent Devotional Discussion via Zoom 7pm NA 7pm		NA 6:45pm	Choir 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	Prayer Shawl 11am Parlor Lent Devotional Discussion via Zoom 7pm NA 7pm		NA 6:45pm	NA 7:30pm		
27	28					
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	Lent Devotional Discussion via Zoom 7pm NA 7pm					