

Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 13

March 27, 2020

God is not confined within a building or present in only one place. God meets us wherever we are. The church may worship in many forms, including when distancing is a loving act. So, for now, the Fairhill Manor Christian Church meets in homes, apartments and rooms scattered across miles, but we are united by our love of God...and more importantly, God's love for us.

In this issue of the Manor Minutes, find the elements of a worship service that we all can share in our scattered settings. If you choose, you may find the Fairhill Manor website, www.fairhillmanorchurch.org and find this service spoken. This is on the home page and is easily accessed for your use.

With the continuing health crisis and the need for physical separation, our Church leaders will continue the suspension of Church activities, including our worship services, through April 17. We will continue to monitor circumstances and inform you of changes. Please watch for updates on our services in each week's edition of Manor Minutes. And, as always, if you have need of anything call the church office or our pastors.

In preparation for sharing in this Sunday's worship, place a lighted candle before you as a reminder of God's presence with you, find bread and juice for the celebration of Communion. And may God's Spirit be with you always!

Pictures From Your Homes



Picture from Jackie Nelson



Picture from Shirley Cavanaugh





Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(*Disciples of Christ*)

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Dr. W. Darwin Collins, Interim Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

March 29, 2020

Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

Pastoral Prayer*

Pastor Gena

Living God, we gather in worship, knowing that you *have been* here, knowing that you *are* here, knowing that you *will be* here with us.

Living God, we praise your name, for you are the one who sets us free from all that binds us,
you are the one who can breathe new life into the bleakest of situations,
you are the one over whom death holds no power.

Forgive us, God, for the unhealthy ways we have separated our hearts from you and from each other this week.

Forgive our hoarding and our quick judgments.

Forgive us for assuring our own security and wealth at the expense of others.

Forgive us for the certainty we assume about how and when and in whom you will act.

Merciful God, the river of your love and your forgiveness flows deep and wide.

Wash over us and cleanse us, we pray.

Thank you for setting us right with you and with each other through Jesus our Savior.

Thank you for hearing our cries for help.

Thank you for allowing us to speak honestly and openly with you, especially when we do not understand what you are doing – or not doing.

Thank you for receiving our questions, for being patient with us and yet driven in your purposes.

Lord Jesus, thank you for crying while you lived among us.

Thank you for giving us this gift of crying that allows us to feel deeply and release our pain, our hurt, our anger to you.

In you we find someone who has loved deeply and grieved openly.

Thank you for leading us by your example of what it means to be fully human.

Compassionate God, we feel an urge to tell you when those we love are ill and in need. We feel the urge to reach out to you, to call for you, knowing that you care and can do something to help.

And so, we pray today for those who are ill or dying;
We pray for caregivers and for researchers;
We pray for those who continue to work and those who are without a paycheck;
We pray for parents, guardians, teachers, and children;
We pray for those who do not have what they need today and for those who have the power to help;
We pray for those who live in fear and those who are in crisis;
We pray for those who are addicted and those seeking recovery;
We pray for your Church all over the world and for our congregation.

And now we lift into the light of your love, these concerns weighing on our hearts today...

God, it is hard to show love by staying away.
It is hard to see others ill and not be able to do anything.
It is hard to tell you about our concerns and not see you doing anything that we recognize as making a difference.

But, O God, you know the stones that are to be rolled away today.
You know those who need to have their bindings loosed.
Show us how to help and we will – whether by doing or by being still.

In our openness to you, in our following you, help us to bring others along that they might come to know your mercy and love.
Show us how these scattered bones of your Church might come together in new ways.
Breathe your breath in us again that we may live.
Give us new hope for a new time.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, who taught us to pray this way:

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

Scripture Reading*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Connie Sheller

John 11:1-45

Sermon Reflections*

“If You Had Been Here”

Rev. Collins

The scene painted for us in Ezekiel is about as bleak and depressing as any in scripture. A valley of bones, lifeless and very dry. This deposit of skeleton remains had spent some time in the sun without life or anyone’s concern. This was not a place of encouragement or hope, but despair and death.

This valley of dry bones is a powerful image and is a perfect match to our Gospel reading of the death of Lazarus...and even more as a forecast to the death of Jesus. Over every passage that we read in Lent is that dark shadow of Jesus' walk to his death. Ezekiel may have had his dry bones, but Jesus walked the path to the cross. And in times when we are grieving, or troubled, or without hope, it may seem we too are wandering in that Ezekiel valley or that cross path.

Today's stop on that path is not a valley of skeletons, but the call from Jesus' friends, Mary and Martha, to hurry to Bethany to heal their brother, Lazarus. Oh, how, we can identify with these grieving sisters. Like those who call for a doctor but can't get an appointment for months, these loving sisters send out a call for Jesus to come and heal their seriously ill brother. Now, we know that Jesus cared for these three. He had visited in their home before and been warmly welcomed.

But Jesus delays his visit. He seems so nonchalant about this call for help. He doesn't rush but stays two days longer before he turns his direction toward Bethany and his friend in dire need. And, as if from a script, both Mary and Martha greet him on his arrival with the same words- "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Or in a bit clearer language, "Where the hell were you?" "I thought you loved our brother?" And in a reference to last week's text of the healing of the blind man, the neighbors join the rebuke of Jesus, "This is the man who healed the eyes of the blind man, couldn't he have kept this man from dying?"

I don't know about you, but this pandemic in which we all find ourselves leaves me at times asking similar questions...where is our God as people suffer and die? Where is our hope of getting back to normal? If only Jesus, you had been here...you could surely have stopped this.

And Jesus' response to these women, the neighbors, and to us...is not to rebuke or criticize us...but interestingly, to share our pain and sorrow, as John relates, he was "...disturbed in spirit and deeply moved." And Jesus himself began to weep.

Notice Jesus didn't spend time trying to defend himself of those critical of him, he didn't answer all the questions, he doesn't explain his delay...he shows his grief and sadness...and then John says, he acts.

Approaching the grave people raise several concerns about why it's too late, to them there is a finality to death...if only you had been here before...at the beginning you could have done something. But to Jesus death has no finality, it is never too late, there isn't a time constraint to action...but he acts...and brings life from death. Oh, Jesus is a healer. Scripture affirms that, but most importantly, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. From dry bones...God's spirit breathed new life. After all hope is gone, our God, can create life and hope.

You see there is no tragedy, no loss, no fear, no anxiety, no separation too great that we are beyond God's infinite love and abundant life in Christ Jesus.

In Christ, no matter the way we feel or the darkness or signs of death that are around us, God's presence is always here...if only you had been here? Yeah!

Service at the Lord's Table

(We invite you to prepare a roll of bread or a cracker with a glass of juice or a beverage. Place it on the table before you and your family and share it after repeating the following prayer offered by Tammie Wallace, our Elder, and the Words of Institution.)

Invitation to Communion*

Can you imagine what it would be like if, on the next time we are able to gather as Fairhill Manor, we each came from our households bringing our tables and chairs that we have used as places to celebrate Communion during this time apart? Imagine us unloading them all in the parking lot from the beds of our pickup trucks, from the roofs of our cars, from the rental trucks we hired to carry them. There would be a lot of noise and clattering and a feeling of new life as we pushed all of our Communion tables together to make one big table and arranged the chairs around it.

Much like the bones in Ezekiel's field, our Communion tables are scattered, far from each other, today. But unlike those bones, our tables are not dry and lifeless. Our tables are full of the life promised to us by Jesus abundantly now and forever in him. Our tables are tables of hope that declare with the bread and cup that even in the face of death, even in death, God remains faithful and brings new life. In Jesus, we know that death does not have the final word. Life and love always do.

As you sit at your Communion table today, imagine it as pushed together with a bunch of other tables to form one big table where Jesus is the host. Because that is just what it is.

Prayer for the Bread and Cup*

Tammie Wallace

We are one body in Christ
That means we have the same flesh and the same bones as our savior.
As we partake of the bread and cup on this day,
may it remind us of us being ONE.
In Christ's name we pray
Amen

Words of Institution

"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."
I Corinthians 11: 23-25

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Benediction*

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3: 20-21

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

Photo Challenge for This Week: Share visible signs that Spring is Here!!

The flowers outside of Karen Thomas' house (Administrative Assistant) are not blooming yet, but her house plants are showing off their colors.



Let's share a photo of your flowers (inside or out) to spread a little joy.

Last week's reflection question,

When and how have you known God's persistent love?

Response from last week's question:

I have felt God's love throughout my life by being placed in different situations on my journey. People who I have met have either come into or left my life at the right times. Since I have been an adult, I have always had to take care of myself. As Oprah Winfrey said once, "I have had no failures in my life, only great lessons." I fall back on this quote often. I think the greatest lesson I've learned is that I will always be taken care of as long as I listen for and to the Spirit and stay aware of the world around me and where I can serve.... Thank you, God. Marsha Sams

Reflection Question for This Week: What new life do you sense around you this week?

PRAYERS NEEDED:

Please keep the Pastoral Search Committee in your prayers:

J.C. Leasure (Chairperson), Becca Caldwell, Jackie Nelson, Diane Palfreyman, Rolinda Sprowls and Mike Sweeney

PRAYERS NEEDED:

Avery Allen
Bill Behrens
Bristol Allan Berry
Mark & Susan Britko
Jim Chase
Emily Cope Robinson
Fred Engle
Bonnie Gregg
Judy Hanning
Ed & Harriet Jackman
Tom Lane
Lee & Betsy Martin
Dick Moninger
Jody Mullis
Ed Palfreyman
Joe Palfreyman
Denny Paul
Jeannie Riffle
Lori Riffle
Betty Jo Riggle
Barb Roupe
Shirley Sanders
Beth Teagarden
Melissa Teagarden
Shirley Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash

In the Military

Lance Dague
Terrell McClain
Brandon Lipscomb
Daniel Robinson
Shawn Dallatore
Andrew Gregg
Zachary Keene
Sarah Lipscomb
Travis Ringer
Emily Chase

During this time of precaution and limited visitation, take a moment to send a card or note to those in nursing homes or who are homebound to let them know that you are thinking of them.

In Care Centers:

Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center, 835 S Main Street, Washington PA 15301

Bill Behrens Rm 437

Rev. Marge Frank

Homebound Members:

Phyllis Cimino

317 Wellness Way

Strabane Trails #325

Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Mary McDonough

949 Bruce Street

Washington, PA 15301



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.

Scriptures for April 5:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31

Matthew 21:1-11

Matthew 27:11-54

Rev. Collins is available to you for your pastoral needs.

Cell: (412) 337-4293

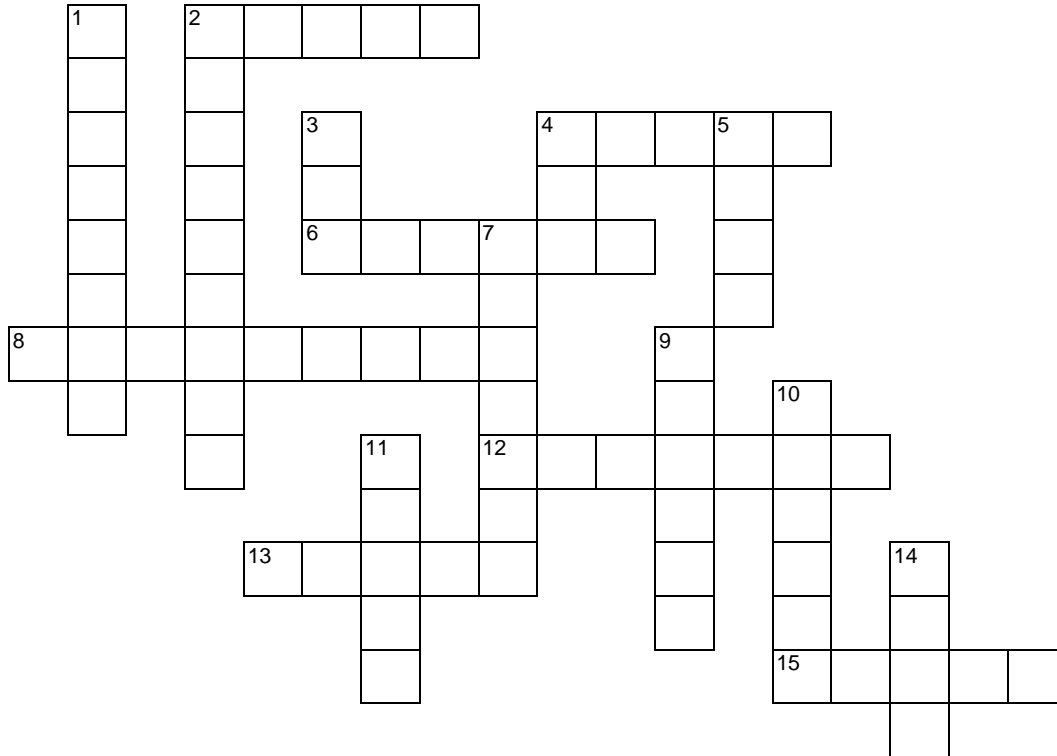
Email: wdar1950@gmail.com

**A little bit of fun for
everyone.
Keep scrolling.**

Verse to Remember

Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.
—Isaiah 40:31

CROSSWORD: All of the clues and answers are taken from the story of Job, the book in the Bible that comes right before Psalms.

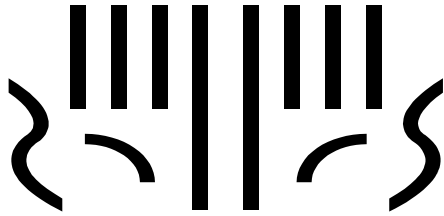


ACROSS

- 2. Cause of Job's trouble
- 4. Twinkling, heavenly lights
- 6. The Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
- 8. Creature of the deep, (41:1)
- 12. The Temanite, a friend (2:11)
- 13. Sores
- 15. Job had 7,000

DOWN

- 1. The One who ever lives (19:25)
- 2. Affliction
- 3. Had seven sons
- 4. Ocean
- 5. Precipitation
- 9. The Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
- 10. Job had 3,000
- 11. Job's 4th friend (32:2)



Nevertheless, the righteous
will hold to their ways, and
those with clean hands will
grow stronger.

J o b 1 7 : 9

Down

1. Redeemer
2. suffering
3. Job
4. sea
5. rain
7. donkeys
9. Zophar
10. camels
11. Elihu
14. oxen

Across

2. Satan
4. stars
6. Bildad
8. Leviathan
12. Eliphaz
13. boils
15. sheep

Answers to the Crossword Puzzle

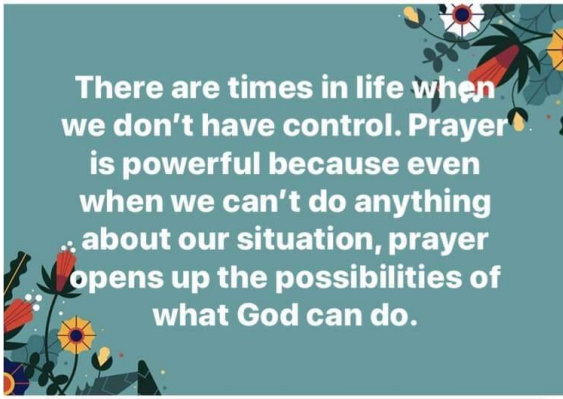
Just a little note to say hello!

*And we know that for those who love
God all things work together for
good, for those who are called
according to his purpose.*

Romans 8:28, ESV



If you have a printer, print this card and send to someone to show you are thinking about them.



Have a great day!
Choose Happy 😊
Karen
3/27/2020