

October 2021

Manor Talk

A Publication of Fairhill Manor Christian Church

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Visit us online at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org

Rev. Chris Stillwell

Senior Minister

Rev. Gena Sheller

Associate Pastor

Karen Thomas

Administrative Assistant

JC Leasure

Congregational

Moderator

Brian Shaw

Financial Secretary

Jim Cope *Choir Director*

Audra Allen *Organist*

Jody Mullis *Pianist*

Wray Adams *Custodian*



With the coming of October, we are approaching my one year anniversary with the church, and it is hard to believe it is here already. It has been a great experience meeting so many new and friendly people, learning your traditions and stories, and becoming part of your story as well. It has also been hard, as you can imagine.

Normally, by this time, a minister has a grasp on the congregation and its customs, but I must say that I still do not. It is better than a year ago, but there are still so many things that we have not been able to do and until we do, I do not think I will feel truly comfortable.

But ministry does not wait until one is comfortable. In fact, ministry can well be defined as comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable, and certainly we have done much of both of these things together in the past year. Much comfort has been needed as we mourn the loss of loved ones from Covid and the loss of church traditions from Covid. We have also had to do new things and try new ways of being the church, which disrupted the comfort of our previous lives.

I do not know when this will all be over, but until then I think it is important that the church find ways to do what it can even if it isn't exactly like before so that we do not get too comfortable with the reduced activity of the church. With that in mind, I give thanks that Sunday School has returned, and I am grateful for Pastor Gena's leadership and the work of our teachers. The church picnic was a joy. I am grateful for the return of our Deacons serving communion in worship and the efforts being made to resume our choir. In particular, I am excited that we have a membership class and can look forward to baptisms come November. There is also plans for something new, a "Trunk or Treat" event, which you can read more about in this newsletter.

All of this is happening even as we begin our time of stewardship emphasis and while the calling commission is looking to finalize its slate of officers for the coming year. I don't think any of us are comfortable with how things are at the moment, but I hope you will not wait until you are completely comfortable to be involved in the work of the church as comfort is the enemy of progress. Let us take this time to do what we can with what we have and what we have is this moment and this church. Let us make the most of both, together.

Rev. Chris

Dear Fairhill Family,

Soon you may be contacted by a member of this year's Calling Commission, a group of Elders, Deacons, and several members of the congregation at large, whose responsibility it is to prayerfully consider who in our congregation might have the gifts and skills needed to serve in 2022 as Officers (Moderator, Vice Moderator, Congregational Secretary, Elder, Deacon, Trustee, Church Clerk, Assistant Financial Secretaries, and Church Historian).

What should you do if you are called upon to consider serving in one of these ways?

1. Keep breathing. Thank God for the opportunity to ponder how you are a part of the ministry of Fairhill Manor Christian Church. Ask God to guide your discernment.
2. Ask questions. What specific tasks will you be expected to do in this role? What responsibilities will you have? How much time should you plan to set aside to serve well? (Please do not believe anyone who tells you "don't worry; there's not much to do in this role." If the role weren't important, we certainly wouldn't be asking you to consider serving in it!)
3. Ask for the name of someone who has served in this position recently and talk with that person about his or her experiences.
4. Spend time thinking about your own gifts and skills. What type of work have you done? What hobbies do you have? What gives you energy and enjoyment? What really frustrates you about the church (i.e., about what do you say, 'If it were me, I would do ... differently')? Just as we are told not to leave our faith at the door on the way out of church, so we also are not to check our abilities and skills at the door on the way into church. Bring who you are – all of your experiences and talents – and offer them in service to the church!

"Your vocation in life is where your greatest joy meets the world's greatest need."
~ Frederick Buechner, a Presbyterian minister, author and theologian

5. Ask God; is this what you have for me to do in this time and in this place? I believe that God gifts our congregation with just what we need for the work to which God is calling us. So, the work of the Calling Commission is really that of a matchmaker – matching the work which is to be done with those who have the gifts, experience and energy to do it.

Please, please do not serve out of guilt. But please do not refuse to serve out of fear.

6. If you decide that this is the work to which God is calling you this year, give the Calling Commission the good news. If you decide that you aren't a good fit for the role, ask your Pastors how a person with your gifts, interests and experiences might serve. Maybe a new ministry is just waiting to break forth. But whatever you do, don't miss the opportunity to serve! Your faith will grow, deepen and bring you more and more joy as you put it into action!

Together in Christ,
Pastor Gena

2 Dave & Carol Davis
6 Kevin & Lauren Kunkle
10 Ian & Ashley Howsare
Jerry & Bette Jo Puskarich
14 Samantha & Nathaniel Dye
29 Troy & Lisa Shriver



Fairhill Manor Christian Church
Board Meeting
Secretary Report
September 8, 2021

We assemble in God's name

Moderator J.C. Leasure called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM with the lighting of the Christ Candle. J.C. opened with prayer.

We celebrate our past

The FMCC Board reviewed the submitted reports from the Senior Minister, Associate Pastor, Board Secretary, Treasurer (from the Financial Secretary), and Church Clerk.

A motion to accept these reports was made by Jerry Puskarich and 2nd by Von Lacock. The motion carried.

We present our Offerings

The FMCC Board reviewed the submitted Ministry Reports. Reports submitted were from The Pastor's Cabinet, Elders, Deacons, Trustees, Stewardship/Finance Ministry, Evangelism/Outreach Ministry, Personnel Committee, Disciples Women's Ministries, Disciples Men's Ministries and FMCC Croppers.

Linda Reese noted that the Evangelism/Outreach Report should include the addition of 24 units of food brought to the First Church of the Nazarene by Donna Stenski on August 28th.

A motion to accept the Ministry Reports was made by John Anderson and 2nd by Ed Palfreyman. The motion carried.

Concerns of the Past

The Pastor's Cabinet presented the following updated and improved Covid Protocol recommendations to the General Board for approval.

"The main objective of the Cabinet throughout this pandemic has been the safety of everyone who enters the church. Continuing with that goal, the Pastor's Cabinet makes the following recommendations to the General Board for its acceptance and approval.

1. These revised protocols will become effective upon Board approval.
2. Entrance and exit from the church will be by the rear door.
3. Masks will continue to be required by everyone entering the church. This is to protect the children, who cannot yet be vaccinated, as well as other vulnerable groups.
4. Beginning Sunday, September 12th, the church will return to the practice of four deacons collecting the offering from the congregation in the pews. Additionally, communion cups will continue to be offered but communion trays will be passed, as in the past, to the congregation by the deacons. A small table, with bulletins, will be at the entrance to the Narthex.
5. Commencing Sunday, September 12th, two elders will return to present the bread and cup. After the blessing, the elders will provide the communion plates to the deacons for distribution. The elder serving the bread will have the prayer at the table. The elder serving the cup will be responsible for registering attendance of all who come for worship.

6. Everyone entering the church building is required to wear a mask and sign in on the sheet available on the bulletin board. At Sunday worship, attendance will be registered by an elder.
7. We will continue to social distance by leaving every other pew empty. The red yarn previously used will be removed and the pew cushion, in an up position, will indicate the pew is to remain empty. Guides will continue to seat everyone entering the Sanctuary and will also excuse worshippers, by row, at the end of the service.
8. We will continue to enjoy worship music without congregational singing. We hope that congregational singing and the choir will be added back to worship during the Fall.
9. Children may go to the front of the Sanctuary for the Children's Message. Children Worship & Wonder is now available and participating children will leave by the side door.
10. Water fountains will remain closed.
11. Outside groups will be permitted to use the church, under the same conditions as set forth above (including entry/exit, wearing masks, signing in, and social distancing in the Sanctuary). Weddings shall not be permitted yet; however, memorial services requested by members of the congregation will be permitted. Upon request for the Sanctuary to be utilized for a memorial service, the funeral director or whomever is making the request will be informed of the required protocols.
12. The Literacy Council has restarted its classes. All participants must be vaccinated, masks must be worn at all times, except when one on one tutoring is taking place, and class sizes have been reduced. The Council currently utilizes two rooms as offices and three rooms for tutoring. If additional space is required a request must be made through the church secretary.
13. Zoom services will continue for worship and meetings if desired.

A motion to accept this revised Covid Protocol was made by Linda Reese and 2nd by Connie Sheller. The motion carried.

Issues of the Future

1. The list of 2021 Calling Commission Members was presented to the Board by Moderator, JC Leasure.

2021 Calling Commission Members

“A calling commission of four elders, three deacons, and two members of the congregation, who are not members of the general board, shall be appointed by the moderator, approved by the board, and announced to the congregation at least eight weeks prior to the annual congregational meeting to nominate candidates for office of the congregation.” – Section D Article, 1 Constitution & Bylaws

As moderator of Fairhill Manor, I recommend the following people as the 2021 Calling Commission for the general board's approval.

Elders

1. Craig Dotson
2. Linda Reese
3. Gary Ford
4. Peggy Oliverio

Deacons

1. Serena Dube
2. Carolyn Blackhurst
3. Jerry Puskarich

Congregational Members

1. Rolinda Sprowls
2. Kevin Puskarich

Respectfully submitted,
JC Leasure, Board Moderator

A motion to accept these candidates was made by Ed Palfreyman and 2nd by Diane Palfreyman. The motion carried.

2. Rev Chris Stillwell spoke concerning an outside small group of woodworking guys needing a weekly meeting place. Ed Palfreyman will meet with them to discuss this further.
3. The trustees spoke about the work and cost of a project to eliminate water which has been coming in the basement at the front of church. Piping will be replaced and tied into the downspouts. concrete will be redone. Rhododendron and tree roots are pushing on the wall of the church. These will be removed. The cost of this project is \$6580. Jerry Puskarich reminded the trustees that the company would need to fill out the W-9 tax form. A motion to accept the bid of this project was made by Linda Reese and 2nd by Peggy Oliverio. The motion carried.
4. Senior Minister Chris Stillwell emailed the attending board members on Sep 9, 2021 about an important item which he forgot at the meeting. Rev Thad Allen, our regional minister, is available on Sunday, November 7 for his installation. Sometimes that involves a separate service in the afternoon, but Rev Chris does not think that would be necessary. He was thinking that Rev Allen would take part in our regular service and would lead the act of installation as part of that service.

Leaving in God's name

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM was made by Carmen Oliverio and 2nd by Diane Palfreyman. Associate Pastor Gena Sheller closed the meeting in prayer.

In Attendance

J.C. Leasure (Moderator), John Anderson, Serena Dube, Von Lacock, Dan Leasure (by phone), Jackie Nelson, Carmen Oliverio, Peggy Oliverio, Diane Palfreyman, Ed Palfreyman, Jerry Puskarich, Linda Reese, Chuck Riggle, Connie Sheller, Associate Pastor Gena Sheller*, Senior Minister Chris Stillwell*, Sandy Todaro

* Indicates non-voting member

Next Board Meeting: Nov 10, 2021

Submitted in Christian love,
Sandy Todaro, FMCC Board Secretary

Fairhill Manor Christian Church
Special Board Meeting
September 22, 2021
Secretary's Report

This special board meeting was called to order at 6:09 PM by Moderator, J.C. Leasure. J.C. lit the Christ Candle and opened the meeting with prayer.

The purpose of this meeting is to hear about "Trunk or Treat", a family friendly outdoor event at our church. Rev Chris Stillwell presented this idea to the Pastors Cabinet. Tonight, he presented the idea to the Board. It would consist of 10-15 decorated cars in our church parking lot. Community kids would be invited to Trick or Treat on Sunday October 24th from 2-3 PM. We would need donations of treats for the kids, and possibly cookies and hot cocoa. Gary Ford said that it is a great way to reach out to the community and generate interest in our church. Visiting kids could also donate canned goods to our Outreach. Several members of our Board are interested in decorating their cars and supporting this event. Gary Ford made a motion for the board to approve Rev Chris Stillwell's idea for Trunk or Treat on Oct 24, 2021 from 2-3 PM in the church parking lot. Linda Reese 2nd the motion. The motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:19 PM by Peggy Oliverio and 2nd by Diane Palfreyman. The motion carried. Rev Chris led us in closing prayer.

Submitted in Christian love,
Sandy Todaro, Board Secretary

Those in attendance via Zoom:

JC Leasure, Moderator, John Anderson, Gary Ford, Janet Houston, Cara Hritz, Von Lacock, Carmen Oliverio, Peggy Oliverio, Diane Palfreyman, Ed Palfreyman, Bette Jo Puskarich, Jerry Puskarich, Linda Reese, Chuck Riggle, Sandy Todaro, Associate Pastor Gena Sheller*, Senior Minister Chris Stillwell*

*Indicates non-voting member

1	Bill Behrens	18	Colby Meier
3	Cameron Jones	19	Charlotte Stillwell
4	Nancy Sherman	20	Rose Ann Gorby
5	Lois Shaw	22	Terry Allison
7	Nadine Teagarden	25	Anna Houston
8	Wanda Chicone		Cori Houston
	Andrew Cope	28	Bo Pryor
	Janet Houston	30	Walker Newman
10	Abby Graff		
12	Jodi Barlow		
	Colin Britko		
	Cara Hritz		
14	Zachary Houston		
	Jim Wheeler		
16	Steve Barlow		
	Linda Reese		
17	Richard McCann		



TRUNK OR TREAT

This has been a challenging year to say the least, and with it much of our church life has been diminished and disrupted. With the virus continuing to be a problem we have not been able to return to normal as hoped, but, as the fall approaches, I wanted to find something we could do as a church that would allow us to have fun together while also serving as a way to interact with the community. An activity that I think would meet all the needs of bringing us together, having something to work towards, giving our youth something in which they can be involved, reaching out to our community and keeping everyone safe is a Trunk or Treat.

If you are not familiar with the idea it is simple. People park their cars in the church parking lot in a semi-circle with their trunks facing toward the center of the semi-circle. The trunks are open and decorated in a theme (fall, Halloween, football, etc.) The owners of the cars stand by their trunks and hand out candy to the children who come to trick or treat.

We are looking for people to help make this event a success, and the best part is that it does not require much work to do. Here is what we need:

10-15 people who will volunteer to decorate their trunks and hand out candy. We are already about halfway there.

People to donate candy.

People to donate cookies

2-3 people to make hot chocolate and hand it out along with cookies.

Look for a flyer in the Manor Minutes and if you know of a place that has a bulletin board please put it up for us, and tell your neighbors, family, and friends.



October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm	Trustee & Stewardship/ Finance 6pm Library Dartball 7pm @ Home	NA 6:45pm	Calling Commission 10am via Zoom NA 7:30pm		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	Prayer Shawl 11am Parlor NA 7pm	Dartball 7pm @ Bethlehem Lutheran	Elders 6pm via Zoom NA 6:45pm	Life Line Screening Lg Fellowship Hall 8am-6pm NA 7:30pm		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm	Dartball 7pm @ Home	NA 6:45pm	NA 7:30pm		Food Collection @ First Church of the Nazarene 10-11am
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am Trunk or Treat 2-3pm	Prayer Shawl 11am Parlor NA 7pm	Dartball 7pm @ Taylorstown				Food Distribution @ First Church of the Nazarene 10-11am
31						
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am						

