

Manor Minutes
Volume 16 Issue 15
April 11, 2025

- Bible Study – April 14, 6pm via Zoom
- Maundy Thursday Worship Service – April 17, 7pm @ First Christian
- Good Friday Worship Service – April 18, Noon @ FMCC

Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



April 14 – **Lenten Bible Study**, 6pm via Zoom. The final session of the Lenten Bible Study will be centered on **Mark 14-16 and Chapter 6** in Amy-Jill Levine's book, "The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News." Feel free to join the study this week even if you were unable to join last week. The Zoom information will be sent on Monday via the Manor Minutes email list. If you do not receive the Manor Minutes via email, contact the Office to receive the link.

April 17 – **Maundy Thursday** "Living Last Supper," 7pm at First Christian Church, 615 East Beau Street, Washington

April 18 – **Good Friday Worship Service** at FMCC, Noon

April 20 – **Sunrise Worship Service**, 7am
Breakfast following Sunrise Service
(No Sunday School)
Easter Worship Service – 10:15am

Bethany Class Luncheon

April 22

Eat'n Park

Noon

Everyone is welcome!

**let's do
lunch**



Count your blessings every day using your **BLESSING BOX**. Need a box? Ask Connie Sheller.



Save your items for the Rummage Sale that will be held on **May 8-10**. All items donated will be put out for sale with the proceeds going to the FMCC General Fund.



We will celebrate Blanket Sunday on **May 11**. This event is sponsored by our Disciples Women's Ministry for Church World Service. The blankets are \$10. The blankets are used in the United States and around the world in areas affected by war, natural disasters and poverty.

A single blanket has so many uses: warmth, a pillow, a room divider, floor covering, shade, a place to store belongings, or a way to carry items. Please give as you can. Envelopes will be provided in the bulletin on May 11. Checks can be written to: Church World Service. Cash is fine also. Or you can give online through Givelify on FMCC's website, www.fairhillmanorchurch.org. Thank you for your helping with this worthy cause.



Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
351 Montgomery Ave.
724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Gary Ford, Bread
Jody Mullis, Cup
April 11, 2025 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Barb Bailey

Leader: With palm branches and joy, we shout:

People: “Hosanna to Christ our Lord!”

Leader: With blessings and songs we come:

People: To worship and to praise.

Leader: With humility and love,

People: Christ comes to meet us now.

Opening Hymn

“Hosanna Loud Hosanna”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang; through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang. To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to His breast, the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

O God, you are our Creator, and we will offer you our praise our whole lives long, for your steadfast love endures forever. Our lives are in your hands, and we are grateful for your provision and care. Our cries of “Hosanna!” will turn to “Crucify him!” and our hearts break with that knowledge. Mend our brokenness, and lead us to faithfulness. Hear our prayers for the brokenness of this world.

We offer prayers this day for people who are hurt by our greed, our judgment, our thirst for power. Help us to mend what we have broken, to repair relationships, to heal society. Hosanna, save us, Lord.

We offer prayers for people in pain and worry and grief. Bring healing, bring comfort, bring wholeness. Hosanna, save us, Lord.

Hear our prayers for the leaders of the world. Whether they serve large or small communities, cities, states, or countries, may they follow your path of peace rather than our warring ways. Give them wisdom, humility, and concern for your people, that they may heal the world rather than take from the spoils. Hosanna, save us, Lord.

We offer these prayers in the name of the one who came to serve who was willing to take on the brokenness of the world in order that it might be made whole. Hosanna, save us, Lord. Amen.

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:

“Glory Be to the Father”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Rita Puskarich

Anthem

“Ride On, King Jesus”

Choir

Chorus: Ride on, King Jesus! Ride on in-a majesty. Ride on, King Jesus, ride on! Redeemer, King we now honor Thee.

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

This morning we will read another part (pp. 26-30) of *Make Room: A Child’s Guide to Lent and Easter*, written by Laura Alary and illustrated by Ann Boyajian, © 2016, published by Paraclete Press.

Lent lasts for forty days and forty nights, plus six Sundays. It takes time to get ready for Easter. Purple is the color for getting ready. We light six purple candles for the six Sundays in Lent. Each week we snuff out another purple candle. This is the sixth Sunday in Lent, so we snuff out all six purple candles.

The last week in Lent is called Holy Week. Holy Week is filled with stories of Jesus. On Palm Sunday we hear the story of how Jesus came into Jerusalem as crowds of people welcomed him. On Maundy Thursday we hear the story of the night Jesus and his friends ate together for the last time. On Good Friday we hear the story of how Jesus died. And on Easter Sunday we hear the story of the wonderful thing God has done!

Dear God, help us to make time to be with you. Help us to make space for your Kingdom to grow. Help us to make room for everyone. Help us as we get ready. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 19:29-44

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Celebrate While You Can”

Rev. Stillwell

So now here we are. Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. 40 days of Lent are almost passed and Easter is near. If this were the week before Christmas, our sanctuary and homes would be all decked out, the stores would be slammed with last minute shoppers, and our TV’s would be constantly airing a special Christmas episode of all of our favorite shows. It’s strange to me how, just a week before the most important holiday of the Christian calendar, it pretty much resembles a normal day. Of course you may still need to color your eggs or stock up on marshmallow peeps, and you may have an Easter bunny on your front door, and there may be an Easter special or two on TV, but there just isn’t nearly as much hype surrounding the week before Easter, Holy week, as there is around the last week before Christmas.

You wouldn’t know it to compare the amount of attention each week gets but Holy Week is more important. For it is here, in the days between entering the city of Jerusalem and being crucified on Golgotha, that Christ’s ministry reaches its apex. It is here that the true nature of Christ’s ministry is revealed. It is in this time that the people learn once and for all that Jesus is the Christ but a Christ who is not a warrior come to restore ancient Israel. Rather he is a savior come to set all people free from sin and death. It is in this week that the saving work of God is done. What began at Christmas culminates at Easter.

Now many will say that none of this could have happened without a birth. After all, if Christ was not born into this world he could not have saved it, yet the Gospel of John has no birth narrative. John tells us that first there was the word and then the word became flesh. The gospel of Mark says nothing about Jesus' time before his baptism. If necessary then, we could do without Christmas. It is not essential to the Christian story, but Holy Week, now that is included in all four gospels in varying detail.

The inclusion of Christ's passion was one of the main reasons that Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were chosen to be the representative gospels included in the Bible among the many others that focused on other things because the events of this week are the ones that speak to the human drama more so than the sentimental story of a baby.

Still, while the early church focused on Easter and didn't celebrate Christmas at all, we give Christmas more attention and excitement today. We do this because Christmas is fun, and Holy Week is depressing. On Christmas there are presents to get and parties to attend. During Holy Week there is fasting, self-denial, confession, and self-examination. During the days leading up to Christmas there is a festive atmosphere made all the more picturesque by the first snowfall that we still are able to see as beautiful. In the days of Holy Week, there is mostly cold and dark, especially if it happens in March.

Secondly, I think we need Christmas in the middle of winter more than we need Holy Week at the end of winter for our own sanity. Imagine a winter without Christmas. Imagine facing the shortening days and the darkening skies without Christmas lights and trees. During Holy Week each day has more sunlight than the next, and Daylight Savings Time is just around the corner or has just passed.

And of course, the last reason I think we give more attention to the season of Advent rather than the season of Lent is, simply that babies are just cuter. None of us here are as good looking now as we were when we were born, and the same goes for Jesus. A couple months ago he was the cute little baby sleeping in his manger. No noise did he make. Now he isn't so cute and adorable.

Now he is making a lot of noise. Now he is awesome and more than a little frightening, because, during this week he enters the city and overturns the moneychangers table and cast the thieves from the temple. During this week he is sad and heavy burdened as he prays in Gethsemane. During this week he is bruised and battered on Golgotha.

And I think that it is this last reason that is the biggest reason we don't celebrate Holy Week the way we celebrate Christmas. For Christmas has lots of joy with only a little darkness. During that season we celebrate the birth of a child who encompasses our hopes and in the midst of this we remember how King Herod tried to kill him, but he escaped.

Holy Week however has lots of darkness with only a little joy. During this week we remember Christ's betrayal, his abandonment, and his crucifixion. The only joy we get during these seven days is today, on Palm Sunday. For the longest time, many protestant churches liked to skip Holy Week altogether going straight from Palm Sunday to Easter. To do that would make it a whole different story. Jesus marches into Jerusalem in all his glory and the people rejoiced, then Jesus walks away from the tomb in all his glory, and the people rejoiced. That is a happy story but one that makes no sense.

Palm Sunday is the only day of Holy Week where the people in the story celebrate as much as the people did at Christmas; even more in fact, for there were no parades at Christ's birth, but there was one at his arrival. Remember that Matthew wrote that when King Herod heard of Christ's birth, "He was frightened, and all of Jerusalem with him," and now Matthew writes, "When he entered Jerusalem the whole city was in turmoil."

They were excited because Jesus was full of potential. The potential that was latent in the child was about to come to full fruition now as an adult, for he was the savior coming into his kingdom, coming to claim his crown.

We love potential. There is nothing more exciting to a sports fan than speculating about the future of a prospect, a rookie, or a recruit. We love “the next big thing”, but the more potential a person has the more room they have to fail. The more expectations we put on someone, the more likely they are to fail in our eyes, and today’s Ben Roethlisberger can quickly become tomorrow’s Kenny Pickett. There is no doubt that, in the eyes of those marching in the parade that first Palm Sunday, Jesus was the biggest of the next big things, but by Friday he would become a has been.

Celebrate today, because from now until next Sunday, this is as much celebrating as we are going to get. Celebrate now for the turmoil of Jerusalem is about to engulf our shouts of Hosanna. This turmoil will make the turmoil of Christmas shopping, cookie exchanges, gift giving, and parties, turmoil that we thought was stressful, look well, like heaven in comparison. For today enjoy the parade, for tomorrow we begin the march.

Call to Offering

Linda Reese

Whether we are bringing a colt or spreading our clothes on the road, whether we are writing a check with many zeroes or dropping a few coins in the plate, our gifts are symbols of welcoming Christ. Every gift is a blessing. Every gift is needed. Let us welcome Christ as we share our offerings with God.

The 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

Pastor Gena

Holy God, sovereign over power and pain, glorious triumph and deep disappointment, we enter this Holy Week bringing our tithes and offerings in the hope you will use them to make the world a more loving and compassionate place. Remind us that your kingdom breaks into the world not as a spectacle for us to witness but as a parade in which we are called to take an active part. We pray in the name of the One who comes not just for the parade, but for the cross at the end of it. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

There is no question on Palm Sunday that we are celebrating Jesus as King. The problem comes when we try to impose our ideas of earthly kings upon him. Jesus is King, but he's a king like no other. He's the King that teaches us how kings should be.

Instead of riding into town with an army and entourage, he rides into town on a donkey, surrounded by the common people. Instead of throwing a lavish feast in his own honor, he has a quiet meal with those he now calls his friends. We still remember that meal today, here at this Table, in part because of how different it was.

Jesus is truly a king, but the Realm of God is not some kingdom for the elite, brought into being by force. The Realm of God is open to all and brought into being by love for each other and for all.

You are welcome to this quiet meal with Jesus. Thanks be to God that Jesus calls us each one of us friends.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Gary Ford

Heavenly Father, today is Palm Sunday, the day when Jesus began His journey towards the cross. As the people shouted, “Hosanna!” Jesus knew that His death was near. Yet, He willingly embraced the suffering for our sake. Lord, as we come to this table of life and take the bread and cup may we remember Your love for each and every one of us. Help us this week to remember the joy, the pain and suffering and the ultimate triumph of the resurrection which gives us the chance for everlasting life. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Words of Institution

Pastor Gena

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 Holy Communion

You will receive the bread and cup together. Please hold them; we will take each together as one body. Disciples of Christ believe in an Open Table. All who profess Christ and follow Him are welcome to share His meal. Gluten free wafers are available in the Narthex.

Call to Discipleship

Pastor Gena

This is the promise of the gospel: God already knows you. God already loves you. God has already gifted you. God has already called you. You are invited—to deepen this knowledge, to feast in this love, to cultivate these gifts, and to follow this calling. There is a place for you among the people of God in this community of faith.

If you have come to know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and you would like to profess that you intend to begin a life of faith, learning to walk in his way of Love, you are welcome to contact one of the Pastors to take this step. If you would like to join this part of the Body of Christ at Fairhill Manor Christian Church, to covenant to journey together in this life of faith, please reach out to one of the Pastors to learn more. We all take these moments to rededicate our lives to following Jesus.

Closing Hymn

“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”

Sam Johnson, organist

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear; things I would ask him to tell me if he were here: scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Go into this week with watchful hearts on the lookout for places where this broken world needs our attention. Be extravagant with expressions of love and care. Be aware of how closely love and betrayal can exist together. Offer chances for redemption. Don’t look away from the pain of the world for God is there.



THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REQUESTS

Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Rev. Chris (412-956-6590) or 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. We are One Body in Christ!

Homebound Members:

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokeley
900 N Cass Lake Rd, Apt 324
Waterford MI 48328

Chuck and Mary Wiseman
880 S Main St, Apt 214
Washington PA 15301

Carol Brown
36 Old Hickory Ridge Rd, Rm 213
Washington PA 15301

Bo & Patty Pryor
880 S Main St, Apt 102
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Doris Sorice
880 S Main St, Apt 336
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Terry Bailey
Bob Bakaitis
Donna Bakaitis
Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Berezney
Jeff Caldwell
Bryan Carter
Wanda Chicone
Ruth Cox
Sue Donaldson
Benjamin Dube
Connie Faust
Kim Fleissner
Gary Ford
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Barb Graff
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Paul Harton
Alberta Haught

Aryn Hess
Danni Iams
Ed Jackman
Von Lacock
David Leonard
CJ Martin
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Dick Pilgun
Betty Riecks
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle

John Samida
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Pat Sorice
Darci Sprowls
Cathy Stewart
Jane Teagarden
Beth Teagarden

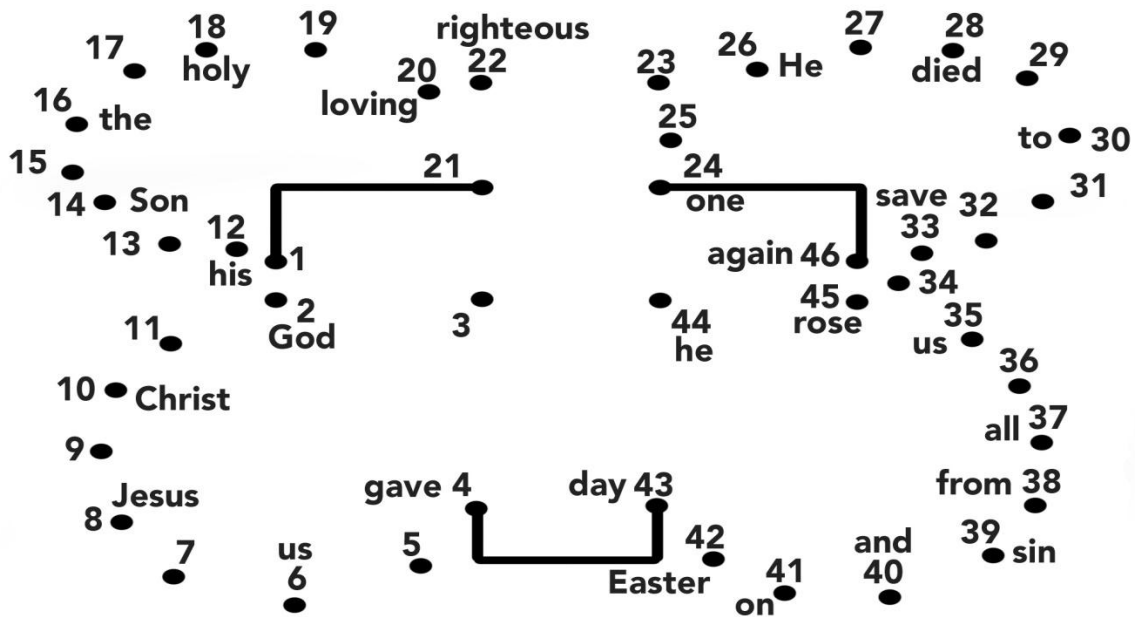
In the Military

Lance Dague	Andrew Gregg
Terrell McClain	Zachary Keene
Brandon Lipscomb	Sarah Lipscomb
Travis Ringer	Emily Chase
Dylan Demain	Noah Rudolph

The brave men and women who serve our country make incredible sacrifices every day. We are forever grateful for their service and dedication. Please remember the military members that are deployed and away from their family that they may return to their homes safely.

Puzzle!

Connect the dots to find two symbols of Easter. Then write the words in the correct blanks to complete an Easter poem.



2	4	6	8	10	12	14
16	18	20	22	24		
26	28	30	33	35	37	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46

Answer: God gave us Jesus Christ, his Son, the holy, loving, righteous one. He died to save us all from sin, and on Easter day he rose again.