

Manor Minutes
Volume 16 Issue 17
April 25, 2025

- Deficit Task Force – April 30, 5:30pm Library
- Choir Practice – May 1, 6:30pm

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

Rummage Sale & Bake Sale
May 8 and 9, 10am-5pm
May 10, 9am-12 pm

Pay what you WANT.
Take what you NEED.



Bring your rummage sale items
to the church on May 5, 10am-2pm
May 6, 10am-2pm
May 7, 1pm-5pm

Volunteers are needed for setting up on
May 5, 6 & 7.

Volunteers are needed
to help during the sale
May 8, 9 & 10.

Baked Good items are needed for
May 8 & 9.
Cookies, Cakes, Brownies, Cupcakes,
Pies

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Hangers needed!
Please try to bring your clothes with
hangers.



On Sunday, May 4, FMCC will honor **Carolyn Blackhurst and Lela Davidson** each as a Deacon Emeritus for their many years of exemplary service. Join us during the 10:15am service to show them our appreciation.

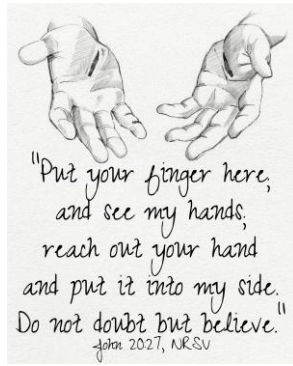


There will be a **Community Blessing Service** on May 4th from 1-4pm under the pavilion on Main Street in Washington (across the street from the Observer Reporter). Several churches from the city will join together for prayer and worship. There will be 6 worship bands, food trucks and free children's activities. FMCC will have a table to share news about our church and to distribute temporary tattoos to children. We need 3 or 4 people to represent FMCC at our table. If you are able to help with this event, please contact Rev. Chris or call the Church Office (724) 225-8610.



**"50 Days of Spiritual Practice:
From Easter to Pentecost"**
by author Traci Smith

It's not too late to sign up. Pastor Gena will be sharing a daily text from this resource embracing Eastertide, the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost. If you would like to receive a **daily text** from Pastor Gena during this time, please sign up in the Narthex with your name and cell phone number.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Connie Sheller, Bread
Sheila Harris, Cup

April 27, 2025 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Gary Ford

Leader: Christ is risen! He greets us with a word of peace.

People: We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!

Leader: Christ is risen! Locked doors and doubting hearts cannot keep him away.

People: We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!

Leader: Christ is risen! He comes to bless us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

People: We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!

Opening Hymn

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Sam Johnson, organist

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne. Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

Holy God, the tomb has been opened, and we dance into your future. Your life has dawned on us, and we surround you with our praise. You reach out your hand, calling us by name, and leading us into joy.

Merciful God, we welcome the Risen Christ into the locked rooms of our faults and mistakes that we are hesitant to open. When we hesitate to speak a word of hope, please forgive us, and give us a voice. When we find it difficult to love one another, forgive us, and give us fresh compassion. When we want to stand always with those who are high and mighty, forgive us, and seat us next to those who are poor and oppressed. When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts, forgive us, and send us out to share your grace. When we cannot believe your Word of new life, forgive us, and fill us with your joy. We give thanks that indeed Christ illumines every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter and with mercy gives us a fresh start.

God of hope, we rejoice in the beauty that surrounds us. Help us attend to the gifts you abundantly provide. Hear our prayers of gratitude for the grace and support of loved ones who get us through difficult days; the joy of laughter, play and good fun; moments to be still and quiet and present right where we are. We give you thanks for your creation that awakens with springtime blooms; for opportunities to follow Christ in meaningful service and lives of purpose; and for the companionship we find in this community of faith.

God of good news, on this second Sunday of Easter, we call to mind those who are suffering. Please hear our prayers for those who are exhausted by their lives and carrying heavy loads; those whose fear and anxiety traps them within small places and small lives; those who are overwhelmed or depressed and cannot find their joy; and those who are in need of the power of your resurrection. We raise to you the names of those on our prayer list, those we have named aloud this morning, and those we name to you in the quietness of these moments... Enter the lives of each of these dear ones, we pray, bringing just what they need. Show us the part we can play in bringing hope, relief, and comfort.

Ground us in your good news, O God, and keep our feet steady on Christ's path. May we return to worship you again and again, and to pray the prayer Christ taught us, 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.

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 150

Serena Dube

Anthem

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives," by Hal H. Hopson

Choir

Children's Message

Pastor Gena

Do you have a pet at home? What is your favorite thing about that pet? What kinds of animals do you see around where you live?

Do you like the forest or the beach better? What do you like about that place?

What is your favorite kind of sky? The one with clouds, or the sky at sunset, or the sky with lightning, or the sky at night with a full moon?

What do you like to do most with water? With snow?

What is your favorite color? I wonder where you might see that color in nature.

What is your favorite thing about yourself?

All of the things we've talked about are parts of God's creation – even us. There are so many wonderful things about creation. At the end of the first Scripture we read today (Psalm 150), it says, "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!" I wonder what it would be like if *everything in all creation* started praising God at the same time. Can you imagine that?

Dear God, together with all of creation, we praise you! Thank you for the wonder and beauty and fun that is all around us. Help us to enjoy all that you have created and to take good care of it for you. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31

Pastor Gena

Sermon

“Living Stories Sermon”

Rev. Gena Sheller

Today’s story comes to us from the Gospel of John, chapter 20. This is the traditional reading for the 2nd Sunday of Easter – the story of Jesus’ appearance to and interactions with the disciples, particularly Thomas.

It is Sunday evening. The disciples are gathered with the doors locked. That morning, Mary Magdalene had reported first that the stone, covering the entrance to the tomb where Jesus body was laid, had been removed. Peter and the other disciple had investigated further, confirming that Jesus’ body was gone, but the linen cloths in which his body had been wrapped were still in the tomb. Then Mary Magdalene came again, announcing that she had “seen the Lord” – alive and talking to her, calling her by name.

The disciples are still in Jerusalem, in hiding and scared for their lives, their leader having just been tried and executed two days ago on Friday.

Let us hear John 20:19-31.

I wonder what it was like to be one of the disciples behind locked doors that Sunday evening. I wonder if hearing Mary Magdalene say that she had “seen the Lord” made them feel more or less afraid.

I wonder why Jesus didn’t knock on the door but instead just came and stood among them. I wonder what it means that Jesus could be touched, seen, and heard, and could also enter rooms like that.

The first thing Jesus said was, “Peace be with you.” I wonder what kind of peace Jesus brings to locked places.

Jesus said, “Peace be with you,” and then showed them his hands (where he had been nailed to the cross) and his side (that had been pierced to ensure he was dead). I wonder what it means to you that Jesus still had wounds, even after having been raised from the dead.

Jesus said, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Then he breathed on the disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” We read something like this about breath in two other places in the Bible. In Genesis 2:7, we read that, in the very beginning, “...the LORD God formed a human from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living being.” In Ezekiel 37, we read that God reconstituted a valley full of dry bones into bodies and then breathed life into them. This was to show the house of Israel that even when all is torn apart, dispersed, and seems dead and without hope, God can resurrect them and restore them as a people. I wonder what it means to you that Jesus breathed on the disciples. I wonder what it means to *receive the Holy Spirit* like that.

I wonder what it was like for Thomas to hear the others say, “We have seen the Lord.”

Thomas is the Hebrew word for twin. Didymus is the Greek word for twin. Perhaps “twin” is this man’s nickname, and his given name was lost to history. Perhaps he is a twin. Perhaps he is just a lot like someone else. I wonder how much we are like this twin. When does it help you to see and to touch in order to believe?

Jesus seemed to know just what Thomas needed from him. I wonder why Jesus came back, just for Thomas. I wonder what it feels like to have Jesus come back just for you.

We don't know if Thomas touched Jesus or not. Thomas's words to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" are as close as we get to someone saying that Jesus is God in the Gospels. I wonder what Thomas meant when he said, "My Lord and my God!"

I wonder how you feel when you hear Jesus's words, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

I wonder where the Good News is for you in today's story.

Keep sharing your stories. Keep asking questions. Keep listening to the silence. God is speaking in all of it!

Call to Offering

Von Lacock

Christ is risen! Hallelujah! Let us gratefully give of our offerings in praise of Christ's ministry through us and for us.

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

Risen and redeeming God, you are gracious and generous in your love. Please accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude. Bless our work on Christ's behalf: may we love as Christ loved, may we serve as Christ served. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

It is natural when we are feeling anxious or threatened to hunker down and lock the doors, to become focused on our own security rather than the risky mission to which we are called. One promise from our story today is that Jesus cannot be stopped by our locked doors. Jesus comes to us as he came to the first disciples, right in the midst of our fear, pain, doubt, and confusion. He comes speaking peace, breathing into our anxious lives the breath of the Holy Spirit.

What is more, Jesus *keeps* showing up. As he came back a week later to provide exactly what Thomas needed, so he keeps coming back week after week among his gathered disciples — in the bread and the cup — not wanting any to miss out on the life and peace he gives. May we sense the presence of the Risen Christ among us today and every time we share this meal together. And may he keep sending us out of our safe, locked rooms, into a world that, like us, so desperately needs his gifts of life and love and peace.

Communion Hymn

"Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us"

Sam Johnson, organist

Sing of one who walks beside us and this day is living still, one who now is closer to us than the thoughts our hearts distill, Christ who once upon a hilltop, raised against the power of sin, died in love as his own creatures crucified their God and Friend!

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Connie Sheller

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord for rising from the dead after being the sacrifice for our sins. We partake of this bread, representing your body, and this cup, representing your blood on that cross. Bless each one today who partakes. We are very thankful for all the blessings you give us. We praise you for continuing to roll the stones away in our lives. 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

"He Lives!"

Sam Johnson, organist


I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today; I know that he is living, whatever others say. I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer, and just the time I need him, he's always near. He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, he lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with my heart.

Benediction

Pastor Gena

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe" (John 20:29). We leave this sanctuary a blessed people. Let us go now and be a blessing to others.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.



PUZZLE

OUR EASTER GIFT


Thanks to Easter, what wonderful gift does God give us?

Directions: Start at the given letter, move one space in the direction each arrow points. Write the last letter in each sequence in the spaces provided. Then write those answers in order on the blanks below to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y

- C→↓↓
- H→↑↑
- V↑→↓
- I←←↑
- T↑←↑
- P↑→→↓
- D↓→↓↓
- T↑←↑←

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us
_____ into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
1 Peter 1:3, NIV



Answer: new birth

Fairhill Manor extends its sympathy to the family of Garnet Withrow who passed away on Sunday, April 20. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.



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

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

Bo & Patty Pryor
880 S Main St, Apt 102
Washington PA 15301

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

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

Doris Sorice
880 S Main St, Apt 336
Washington PA 15301

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 Spowls
Wayne Starnes
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.