

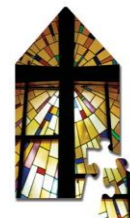
Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 17

April 17, 2020

Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Pastor Darwin (412-337-4293) 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 and only to Pastor Darwin and Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

The Pastoral Search Committee is still working through this time to find our new pastor. We have received a few new candidates that we are taking into consideration, but at the same time we have a small list of qualified candidates that we are looking further into. Please pray for us as we are getting closer to finding our new pastor and we thank you for the prayers and support that you have already given to and for us. – JC



PASTORAL
SEARCH
COMMITTEE

Hey FMCC Church Family - When our Church family comes back together, we will kick-off our monthly collections by collecting items that will go into the 120 Hygiene Kits which will be assembled and sent to Church World Service (CWS). Items needed for this year's kits are -



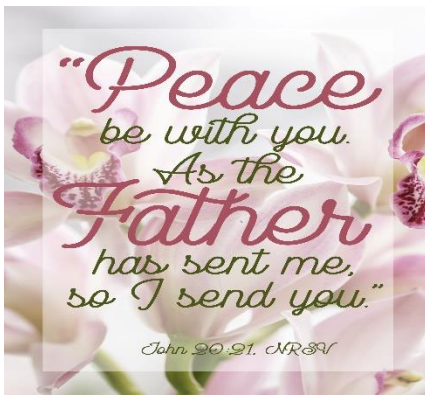
unscented or low-scented bar soap, i.e. Ivory, Dial, wash cloths, hand towels (no micro fiber, fingertip, bath or dish towels), combs, finger and/or nail clippers and gallon bags to pack the items in. Also, CWS has a \$2.00 processing fee for each kit, so \$240.00 is needed to cover that fee. We have assembled and sent approximately 300 kits to CWS over the last 3 years for them to distribute to those in need who have been affected by

natural disasters, violence and/or grinding poverty and with the current weather going on the kits will be needed. Linda Reese is taking the lead on the assembly of kits so if you have any questions please contact her at 724-228-3643 or lfreese01@hotmail.com.

TYLERDALE FOOD PANTRY - Due to the Greater Washington Food Bank's distribution of food boxes last Saturday, April 11th, there will **NOT** be a food pantry this coming Saturday, April 18th. Any questions please contact Marsha Sams by calling/texting at 859-421-7227 or msams822@gmail.com.



Instructions for Zoom Worship and CW&W are attached in a separate document.



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
April 19, 2020

Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

Call to Worship *

Jeff Caldwell

The Tomb was empty!
But what does this mean?
Jesus has risen!
But what does this mean?
Jesus comes to us, saying, "Peace be with you!"
But what does this mean?
Come, let us walk the journey of faith, acknowledging our doubts but holding on to hope,
for Christ is Risen!

Pastoral Prayer*

Rev. Collins

O God, you who experienced the fears and darkness of the Cross, but transformed them into the light and glory of an empty tomb, grant to us, we pray, the renewed victory of Easter that changed the symbol of shame into the sign of new life, to gain triumph from our worst defeats, to turn darkness to day, to make temptations into redemptive opportunities, to transform tragedy into faith, freshly made graves into hope, and all bitterness to love.

We so desperately need our own empty tomb this day. For the world that we thought we knew has changed and become a place that is threatening and frightening. Calm us to know that although there is distance between us that the love that you shared in Christ Jesus can bridge any gap, overcome any disease, and bind us as one to one another and you.

We pray for those who valiantly carry on in the face of fear...for the health professionals who work for health and healing in the face of disease and death; for those who offer their work to feed us and provide our essential needs; for those who protect us and serve us even as they put their safety after the needs of others; dear God, be near them and grant them your courage. For those who lives are threatened by this pandemic, in homes, hospitals and nursing homes...be present to them even as they are denied the close comfort and their loved ones. It is a time when we long for close companionship and yet are restricted out of concern for the safety of one another. This is the time we need the reassurance of your promise to be with us always...as close as our thoughts and breath.

Hear our prayers, O God, for those in need of your healing and loving presence and care as we lift them now before you....

Give us the peace of the resurrection that calmed the terrorized hearts of your children, and as we wait upon you, speak calm to our souls. Because Christ lives, we, too, shall live, and so we

rejoice. Until the day dawns, grant us brave hearts and constant spirits, as we lift our hearts to you in praise and thanksgiving, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer*

Rev. Collins

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.

Anthem "Cornerstone," by Shawn Kirchner, sung by the Florida All State Chorus
<https://youtu.be/18fit6xD6bc>

Children's Message *

Gary Ford

Good morning. Today's lesson is one of the most recognized stories from the Bible. It is all about trust!

Do you kids trust your parents? Why do you trust them? Because you have learned that they want what is best for you. So, if your parents tell you not to do something, do you always listen? Well, I know from personal experience that I did not always listen to what my parents told me. I remember one time when my mom was ironing clothes and the phone rang. Before she left the room, she told me, "Do not touch the iron because it is hot!" So, when she left to answer the phone, what do you think I did? Yep, I touched the iron and burned my hand. I ran crying to my mom. She put some salve on the burn and asked me, "Why did you touch the iron? Didn't you believe me when I said it was hot?" Through my tears I just shook my head. I had not trusted her.

Today's lesson talks about how a lack of trust became complete and total trust. The story is about the first time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was crucified. The Bible tells us that Jesus had told his disciples, many times, that he would be killed, but that on the third day he would rise from the dead. But now it has been days since Jesus was taken down from the cross, and the disciples were frightened. Jesus was gone. They were afraid that they too would be killed. They were scared, hiding together in a dark room. They did not know what to do next. Then, Jesus magically appears in the room. I wonder if they recognized it was Jesus? But He spoke to them, and they knew it was He. Can you imagine how happy they must have been? Jesus was dead; now he was standing right in front of them! But not all the disciples were there. Thomas was away from the room when Jesus appeared. When he returned, the other disciples told him that Jesus had been there. And what did Thomas, doubting them, say? He said, "I don't believe it! I cannot believe it until I see the nail holes in his hands and feet." The next time Jesus appeared Thomas was there. Thomas saw the holes in Jesus' hands and feet, and suddenly, Thomas believed. It was true; Jesus was alive! For Thomas, seeing was believing. And how did Jesus respond to Thomas? Jesus said, "Thomas you believe, because you have seen. Blessed are those who believe and have not seen." Jesus told his disciples He would rise from the dead, but they did not believe until they saw Him. They had not trusted Him.

We learn to listen to our parents. We listen because we know they want the best for us. We have to learn the hard way, by touching the hot iron, but we learn to trust them. In the same way we need to trust Jesus. We were not there, and we did not see Jesus feed the 5,000 with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. We were not there and we did not see Jesus heal the sick and make the blind see. We were not there, and we did not watch as Jesus died on the cross, and we did not see the empty tomb. But, we believe what we read in the Bible because we trust God. It's easy to trust

God, because we know that all things are possible with God. For some folks, it takes longer and they will learn the hard way, but in the end, they learn to trust God and not touch the hot iron!!

Let's pray: Dear God, thank you for your Love. We do not always do what is right but we know that you still love us. Thank you for helping us to trust and believe even in what we cannot see. We especially thank you for Jesus and in His name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading*

John 20:19-31

Connie Sheller

Sermon*

Pastor Gena

"I wasn't expecting them to start so soon," the frazzled mother said. "I expected the really hard questions to hold off until the teenage years, but they've started already. What if God isn't even real? Why can't God stop this coronavirus? What if Jesus is just ... the dreaded word ... a myth?"

It was so much easier when he delighted in Bible stories and songs. Why does he have to question everything? Why can't he just go along with what I'm telling him and teaching him? What if I don't know how to answer him? What if he never comes to believe?"

People who ask questions about faith make us nervous. They expose all of those places where answers aren't easily found. They take us back to our own struggles with the same questions and perhaps the incomplete explanations we've learned to live with. We don't really want to go back and stir up old dust that has long since settled.

People who question our long-held beliefs, our very way of looking at the world and living in it, make us defensive and even angry. If we cannot prove what we believe and convince someone else of its truth, then maybe we ourselves are mistaken and foolish.

People asking questions about faith ... we feel responsible to answer them. What if we had the opportunity to lead someone to faith in Jesus and we failed to convince them with our stellar answers? Would we be responsible for the "eternal consequences?"

Our passage for today is read on the Sunday after Easter in all three years of the Lectionary cycle. While we face nearly every other Scripture just once in three years, this one comes up every year, just after Easter, poking holes in our Easter joy and certainty. Can this thing, which seems to be against all logic and counter to our understandings of how the world works, really be true? Is Jesus our Lord risen, indeed?

Mary Magdalene is the first. Upon going to the tomb, she sees the stone rolled away from the entrance and Jesus' body gone. Her response? Go and get back-up. The disciple "whom Jesus loved" arrives next. He bends over, looks into the tomb and sees there strips of linen, devoid of the body around which they had been so lovingly wrapped. His response? Let Simon Peter go first. And so, on the third try, we go into the tomb with Peter and we see that, indeed, Jesus' body is not there.

Mary Magdalene is the first. Jesus' body is not in the tomb; this has now been confirmed by Peter and the other disciple. So his body must be somewhere else, but where? Surely not standing behind her, looking like a gardener and trying to help her in her distress. But at the

sound of her name, she knows he is! Her teacher and her friend Jesus is alive! Her response? Go and tell the disciples that she has seen the Lord. Their response? Lock themselves up in fear.

The disciples are next. Into the midst of their fear, into their locked room, Jesus comes, showing them his hands and side. Their response? Tell Thomas that they have seen the Lord. His response? Ask for his own experience of the risen Jesus.

It is obvious, according to John's Gospel, that Thomas isn't the first person who had difficulty grasping and understanding the good news that life is truly stronger than death, that love is stronger than hate, that Jesus is risen, indeed. He is far down the chain of people who saw, couldn't fully understand, and then came to believe when they experienced Jesus for themselves.

At the end of five eight-hour days of sitting among hundreds of his clan-mates in a plastic chair under a huge tree, listening to one person after another stand in the center of the circle and give his or her support for or against peace between four clans that had been fighting for years, Maker (ma-CARE) stood up at the 11th hour. Peace had all but been decided, the Governor was on his way to witness the signing of the agreement, the food, prepared by a team of women over wood fires since before the crack of dawn, was ready to be served in celebration.

And that's when Maker stood up and said he was not "for peace." I couldn't believe it. Surely the others would dismiss his doubt and tell him to get over his fears, for the other 599 people in the circle were ready to sign, celebrate and move on into new life.

But they didn't. The Governor waited, the food was held, and the moderator of the discussion allowed Maker to speak his mind. He spoke for more than 30 minutes, and then, one by one, the circle spoke. Maker listened. After another hour or two, Maker "became convinced" that this peace was real and could be trusted.

Because those speaking were doing so in Dinka, I don't know what exactly was said that made the difference for Maker. But I can tell you that giving Maker time and space to express his doubts was the best thing that circle ever did for peace. From that time on, Maker was the most powerful, persuasive voice for peace as it spread throughout the villages. He led the way and walked many miles on behalf of peace, sharing the good news and testifying that it was real.

Asking questions, expressing doubts. These are the unsettling and often painful steps we must go through to move our faith from one that has been handed to us to one that is our own. Mary, the disciples, Jesus – none of these berated Thomas for saying he would need more evidence in order to believe. They heard him, they gave him the opportunity to doubt and question. They shared their experiences. And then Jesus gave Thomas a firsthand experience of himself and his wounds.

Questions and doubts are uncomfortable and intimidating. *But they are not unfaithful.* We need them to grow into disciples who have not only received the gift of faith but who will also share it with others.

We likely will not have the "luxury" of seeing Jesus in physical form, placing our hands in his wounds. But we can still ask God to help us to experience Jesus in a personal way, for ourselves. And sometimes we need that because, let's be honest, it's a leap from the evidence all around us (domination, use of force to get what we need from scarce resources, avoidance and fear of suffering, death as the final answer) to believing that God cares for us, that we gain life by losing

it, that true leadership is serving and caring for others, that we often sense God as present with us most in our suffering, and that life ultimately wins.

The Gospel writer John tells us that Thomas was known as Didymus, which means “twin,” but we never hear anything about Thomas’s twin in Scripture. I’m sure you’ve met his twin, though, haven’t you? (I think his name might be Isaac). Perhaps *you* have even been Thomas’s twin at some point, maybe even right now. If so, let your prayer be like his, “God, let me see you. Show yourself to me in ways I can see and understand. Help me to *know* you.”

May God bless you with a community that gives you time and space to question and doubt. But know this for sure: God is definitely involved in the process of our coming to know God for ourselves. Just ask and see for yourself.

Call to Offering*

Gene Sheller

Last week during this time we heard how Jesus’ resurrection means many things to us. Linda Reese told us for one thing, how our offering is part of our witness about that resurrection: that Jesus is our living Lord, and that we are committed to spreading the good news to all people.

In today’s bible lesson, Jesus’ disciples were twice in a locked room because of fear. Yet Jesus appeared with them and told them to “Fear not.” We all have experienced fear at some time. Recently we all really have experienced fear from the unknown; we are not sure what we should do, where we should go, or how to really keep ourselves safe.

In Jesus’ words, “Fear not.” But at the same time do not be foolish. Please, do all you can to try to keep yourself and others safe.

Jesus wants us to tell the story to others about His miraculous life. Even that can be fearful to us because of how unbelievable His story is. But the disciples eventually became bold and came around to telling that story because they had seen the healings, the miracles, and His resurrection.

May we also become bold and tell His story. Even the giving of our tithes and offerings can be bold, because it allows our congregation to keep on telling Jesus’ story in the many ways that we do here at Fairhill Manor Christian Church.

Invitation to Communion*

Rev. Collins

The four Gospels have a variety of episodes of the risen Christ meeting with his followers. The primary witness is from the women, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary and then his disciples. Added to these shared accounts there are those more personal encounters between the resurrected Christ and individuals...Thomas, Peter, the beloved disciple, the two on the road to Emmaus...and interestingly, the temple guards who report to the high priests of the resurrection who are bribed never to repeat the testimony. Several accounts take place in the upper room familiar from Thursday evenings meal...or in a meal...the Emmaus encounter that recalled that meal in the breaking of the bread...and then there was also the beach fish fry, when Jesus was revealed in the meal. In all cases, it appears the disciples were troubled or afraid, at first unable to believe the reality of the risen Christ, and unsure of his presence...and in every instance, it was Jesus, who by offering his gift of peace or in the meal, opened their eyes glazed over by doubt and fear...the Risen Christ still comes in the bread and cup to reveal God’s eternal love that does not end with doubts or is not defeated by any virus. Come, eat and drink and have revealed to you, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Kevin Puskarich

Dear loving God, by his resurrection from the grave, you declared Jesus Christ to be your son and our savior. This spring morning, we gather at our individual tables to break bread and share the cup with each other in remembrance of the one whose life and teachings is the model by which we strive to live our own lives. We look forward to the day that we can gather together in your house and at your table to fellowship with each other and worship you. In the meantime, we are comforted by our faith that you are with us always no matter what the circumstances. We thank you, we praise you, we love you. AMEN

Words of Institution*

Rev. Collins

On that holy Thursday, gathered in the height of an intense week in Jerusalem, Jesus gathered his followers around the table to share a holy meal. He took the bread and offering a prayer of thanksgiving to God, broke it and gave it to them and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you." After dinner, he likewise took a cup and offering a prayer of thanks to God said, "Take and drink, this is my blood of the new covenant shed for many for the forgiveness of sin." In your home, with the risen Christ present, eat the bread and drink the cup in remembrance of him.

Benediction*

Pastor Gena

We go now, sent by the one who was sent by God,
Telling our stories of when we have "seen the Lord,"
Forgiving the sins of all,
And living at peace with one another.

And may God bless you with life abundant and eternal;
May Christ breathe his Spirit and peace into you;
And may the Holy Spirit lead you in the light of God's love.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.



Please keep the Pastoral Search Committee in your prayers:

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

Please continue to pray for Judy Hanning as she continues her chemo treatments, and must face much of that treatment alone. May we go with her as we surround her with prayer.

If anyone is in need of food or knows of anyone who is, please contact Marsha Sams. She can be contacted by phone/text message at 859-421-7227 or e-mail at msams822@gmail.com.



We extend our sympathy to Anna Berg and her family on the passing of her sister, Elizabeth Pechulis, on April 9.

Prayer List:

Avery Allen
Bill Behrens
Bristol Allan Berry
Kassidy Brightwell
Mark & Susan Britko
Jim Chase
Emily Cope Robinson
Nick Cross
Phyllis Doria
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.

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

Givelify
Tap. Give. Done.



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 26:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

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

Cell: (412) 337-4293

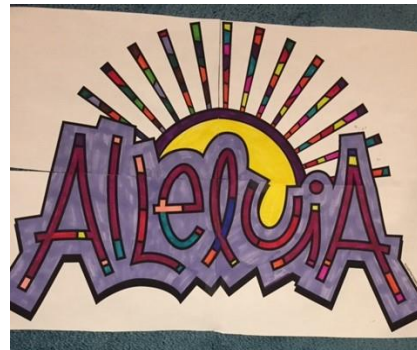
Email: wdar1950@gmail.com

Easter Posters and Projects

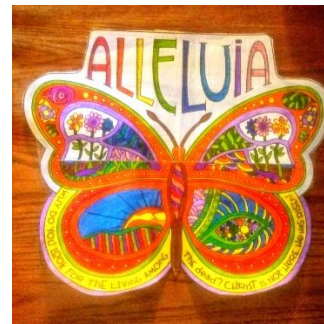
Thanks for sharing!



Made by Isaac Mayen



Made by Connie Sheller



Made by the Caldwell Family

Easter Flowers were not ordered. If you would like reimbursement for your order, please contact the Church Office or you may order Altar Flowers in memory/honor of your loved one(s) at a future date



The "A Gathering of Women" celebration scheduled for May 2 has been cancelled.

Marsha Sams delivered 116 pairs of socks to the City Mission for the homeless. The Disciples Women's Ministries thanks everyone who contributed to this needy cause. We will be collecting socks again at some time this year.



Puzzle!

Use the food key to complete Acts 14:17, NIV.

KEY

THANK YOU, LORD



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A C T S 1 4 : 1 7 , N I V

Answer: "He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Acts 14:17, NIV