

Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 21

May 15, 2020

Coronavirus update: Beginning on May 15, Washington County, along with most of the counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania enters the 'yellow' phase of re-opening. What this practically means for our congregation and our church building is modest, but critical. As Gary Ford mentioned last week in his article in the Manor Minutes, Fairhill Manor will use this time to plan for future re-opening of the building, supplying the necessary cleaning and sanitizing items, and putting into place the best practices for a safe and comfortable re-opening. There will be the opportunity in this phase for cleaning and restructuring our layout to make the building safe for our members and our community to return once again. Some smaller groups will have the opportunity to use specific rooms for their gatherings of less than 25 people. And a protocol will be set in place for the sanitizing of the rooms after each use. Our three task groups of building preparation, worship/sanctuary preparation and communications have begun their work toward an eventual re-opening for us to gather for worship once again. In this 'yellow' phase as we clean, plan, and prepare, I would ask for your prayers for our leaders and for our community as we seek to move through this 'next' normal. Life is constantly changing from one experience that we recognize as normal to another. This coronavirus has forced upon us a most rapid and unwelcome change, but together, watching out for one another, we can move carefully and responsibly into the next normal and all the 'next' normals after that as God's faithful people caring for one another.

God's blessings upon you all,

Darwin

ZOOM

Worship Service

SUNDAY at 12:30 PM

Zoom Worship
Meeting ID: 932-4557-4206
Password: 026316

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93245574206?pwd=cHdQMmlPWURmWkdqQUZmRXlMeGdudz09>

Sunday at 11 AM

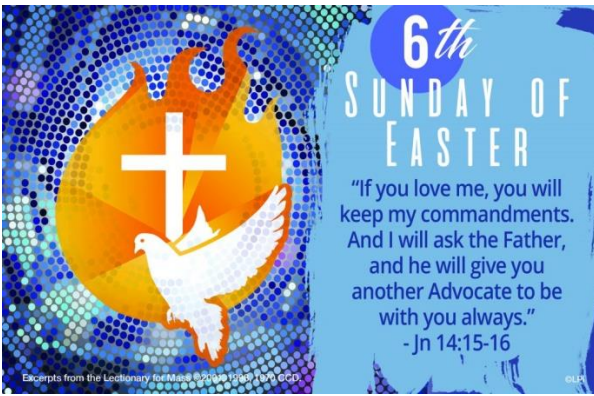


Meeting ID: 735-805-8215

Password: 550943

Board Meeting
Wednesday May 20
7 pm

If you did not receive a Zoom email
Invitation to this meeting, please
contact the Church Office.



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
 May 17, 2020

Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

Welcome*

Rev. Collins

Call to Worship*

Von Lacock

Come, look for God in this place; search for God's love and peace. It is here, given for you out of God's absolute love for you. Lord, help us receive that love and then to take it to others.

Opening Hymn*

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

organ by Audra Allan

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
 there is no shadow of turning with thee;
 thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
 as thou hast been thou forever wilt be
 Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed thy hand hath provided
 Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
 sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love,
 Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed thy hand hath provided
 Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Rev Collins

Lord of love, you have asked us to keep your commandments and to share the good news of your redeeming love to all. In your life you demonstrated the power of love to effect healing, redemption, and hope in the lives of all your people. And in Christ and through your Spirit, you have called us to share in the wonder of your ministry to the whole world. Even with your Spirit and the promises of Christ, we are so unsure of the gifts that you have given us for ministry that we wonder if we can really do what you want us to do. We are a strange mixture, Lord. We are arrogant in our demands of your mercy and timid in our awareness of the blessings and gifts you have given to us. That's why we come before you in prayer. We really want to sense your presence and receive courage truly to be your people in this world that you have loaned to us. Remind us as we bring these names of our loved ones and their special circumstances before you that we also accept the responsibility to offer our love and care for them, as well. You have called us to be your people extending your presence and care to all. Lay your healing hand upon those in need of your healing, your courage, and your peace. We offer in silence these ones so precious to us and you...Especially we pray for our uncertain world as we seek to return to the life we had known, but fear expanding the spread of this virus. Dear God, grant us wisdom and vision for the decisions that lie before us. Strengthen our hearts and spirits. We place our lives and our trust in you, O God and boldly continue to pray as 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.

Anthem* “If Ye Love Me,” by Thomas Tallis performed by Tallis Scholars
<https://youtu.be/cpjy5siUJ2Q>

Children’s Message*

Pastor Gena

Hello, children of God! Have you ever spent time away from someone you love? Maybe in the past you had a sleepover, or you went on a trip where you weren’t in your home. Right now, you might be separated from a lot of people you love – your friends, maybe some family members. We miss the people that we’re separated from, don’t we? Sometimes even if we can see the people we love, we still can’t give them a big hug like we’re used to doing. That’s hard, isn’t it?

Do you have something that reminds you of the loved ones you’re missing? Or, if you’ve gone away from home before, have you ever taken something with you that felt like home? Maybe you have a special blanket or stuffed animal or a photo that does this job, comforting you and reminding you of things and people you love that aren’t with you.

Sometimes having a little something with you helps, because it makes you think of what you’ve left behind at home or the people you are missing, and it reminds you that you’ll be together again sometime. Even though you might not see your family or home for a little while, these items give you a little part of them, and bring you peace because you know they still care for you.

Did you know that Jesus did something similar for us? Before he died, Jesus told his disciples that he was going to give them a special helper. Jesus said that he would be leaving, and they wouldn’t see him, but that he wasn’t leaving them alone. Jesus said he would give them his spirit to comfort them and help them.

That message was not just for the disciples; it’s for us, too! The Holy Spirit helps us to pray, guides us, and comforts us. We feel our special comforter, the gift Jesus gave us, when we pray, read our Bibles, and worship together. We are not alone! And do you know when we seem to feel our helper the most? When we are loving each other just like Jesus loves us!

Dear God,
Thank you for all of the words of Jesus.
Thank you for the comfort of your Spirit.
Help us to love and comfort each other.
We love you, God!
Amen!

Scripture Reading*

John 14:15-21

Becca Caldwell

Sermon*

“Another Advocate?”

Rev. Collins

If nothing else, this coronavirus has given all of us a good scare. So, what do we do in the face of fear? Some may cower and seek to hide away, while others seek for truth and make preparations. I’m not talking about the hoarding runs of March with toilet paper and bleach. I’m referring to how we live our lives and make preparation to be safe and provide for our families.

I read a news item last week that there has been an increase in interest among people to set their lives in order...to get a will created, to set down their advanced directives for medical care. Faced with a threat to our lives, we can take constructive action to plan for the future.

That's the purpose of our text for this Sunday. John in these chapters, set in that same Upper Room, around that same table from which we preserve our most precious and sacred remembrance of the Eucharist, this Gospel writer greatly expands this intimate scene with Jesus' last sermon. Many call it Jesus' Farewell discourse. I call it Jesus' final preparations...calling his family together to tell them personally of his love for them and what he hopes for them and what he has done to prepare.

He builds off his words from last week as he paints a picture of the relationship between himself, God...and his disciples, yes, even us. It's a relationship founded upon, what else, love. The word Jesus uses more than any other word...and interestingly, he uses it most often as a verb...love for Christ is an action...lived out, not a subject of warm emotion. It produces something for the benefit of the one loved. And to Jesus, at least in the Gospel of John, it is 'the' commandment. When he is asked for the greatest commandment, it is love...for God, for the other and for oneself. It's how people will recognize his disciples, he says. In the 15th chapter, he repeats the supreme importance of them loving one another, just as he has loved them. This repetitive teaching is not an accident...as William Sloane Coffin, the great 20th century preacher wrote, "If we fail in love, we fail in all things."

So, pretty clear what Jesus is urging his disciples to do after his death...and even after his ascension to heaven. So, if we want to evaluate our lives as followers of Christ, there is one clear and obvious standard to measure... "In what ways did I share, or perhaps, not share love?"

Ok, so Jesus shares his hopes for us...to love as he loves, but what of the inheritance? How can we ever get along without Jesus present with us? Remember, at the moment these words were shared, the disciples seemed oblivious to the reality that Jesus was to be crucified and to die, but it was, as it is with those we love, critical that Jesus make preparations for those left behind. So, he speaks with them about another advocate?

This word advocate in this passage is an interesting one, *parakletos*, in Greek has many meanings...comforter, advocate, counselor, helper...all of them good...maybe today we would add partner, supporter, companion...BFF! This word only appears five times in scripture...four of them in this extended passage from John. So, the author is saying to us...heads up, this is important.

So, if this is the other advocate...who was the first? I don't think we need much clarity as we look again at those synonyms for advocate...it could only be Jesus himself. And now in preparing his disciples for their unknown future, he shares the estate by promising an advocate, equal to...no, he says even better than himself, not merely to be nearby, but consider these connections...with you forever, you know him, he will be with you, not orphaned, I am in you and you in me. Earlier Jesus said that with this other advocate we will be able to accomplish more and greater things than did he.

Considering Jesus miracles and wondrous teachings that promise seems a bit overstated...and yet. This other advocate is not limited to one location or working through one person, rather, as a spirit, can be 'in' each of us...if you will, extending that love of God that marks us as Christ's followers. There is no distancing with God...a close relationship of oneness with the Trinity. Not so much imitating Christ, but Christ at work in and through us.

Wow, could it be that with God's Spirit being within each of us and us being called to share God's love through our actions each day...are we perhaps, another advocate—an advocate for one another?
Thanks be to God!

Call to Offering*

Gene Sheller

Jesus promised us that we will have an advocate who will be with us forever. God protects and provides for us. We are God's treasured possession. We are God's children, brothers and sisters of Christ Jesus. We're friends of Jesus. Jesus promised He will never leave us orphaned. He promised to be with us always through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, [15] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." So, how we live out these commandments of loving God with all we are and loving our neighbors as ourselves, is the proof of our love for Christ. It's not simply saying we love Him. It's doing what He told us to do. That's the measuring rod of our faithfulness.

"They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me." We at Fairhill Manor Christian Church have always shown our love for Jesus by the things we do. We are especially doing that now in many ways. Our elders care for our sheep; our trustees care for our building; our outreach workers care for needy people in the area; the Stewardship/Finance ministry cares for our congregational finances, worship leaders and worship participants prepare and listen to audio of worship, participate in Zoom worship meetings, or read our weekly worship services; all members seem to step up and do more or care more; and the pastoral search committee is doing the very important and hard work of seeking our next pastor. Their task is even harder because of covid-19. We are all stepping up "during these trying times."

Now, in this time of considering our offerings please be aware that the General Budget Fund is in an approximately \$1,000 better position than it was a month ago. 21 people are using the online giving platform Givelify, and people are sending their offerings to the church or Brian Shaw. We are to be congratulated for our love of Jesus and each other. Keep up the good work!

Invitation to Communion*

Pastor Gena

We cannot see Jesus himself with us as we gather around our Tables, and yet he has left us many gifts that help us to remember him and know that he is near, even if unseen. We feel his Spirit here with us, comforting us and guiding us. We feel Jesus here in this meal that he too shared. In this bread and cup, we sense again his great love that even death cannot stop. We hear his voice as we say the words that he said in that Upper Room: "This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me. This cup is my blood, my new covenant with you. Each time you drink this cup, remember me." And, perhaps most comforting of all, we see Jesus' body right here in front of us as we look at each other, the Body of Christ. Thanks be to God for the gift of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Advocate. And thanks be to God for this meal, for these words, and for each other. Come, Jesus invites you to this, his Table.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup*

Rita Puskarich

Holy and Awesome God,

Our thoughts and voices praise you for the Spring of the Earth, for the anticipation of warmer days, the bursting forth of bright, tiny leaves, the encouragement of purple flowers and the excitement of seeing Scarlet Tanagers or Blue birds. We *need* to see this confirmation of new life to brace our souls. We miss being with friends and family. How long, O Lord?

Thank you for continuing to feed us with your word and saturate us with your Holy Spirit. Even if we feel lonely, we are never truly alone. Your Holy Spirit dwells in us and props up our souls against such scary times as this virus and required quarantine. We have lots of time to reflect on the life of your Son,

Jesus and His prayers and His sacrifice for us. We now take the bread of His body and the Cup of Salvation for the forgiveness of our sins to be cleansed, encouraged and renewed.

We receive Your grace. How long, O Lord? ...for eternity. Amen

Words of Institution*

Pastor Gena

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, 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, ESV)

Benediction*

Pastor Gena

Listen to the promise Jesus makes:

"I will not leave you as orphans—I will come to you.
Even though the world will not be able to see me,
You will see me.
And because I live, you also will live." (John 14:18-19)

Let us go now in the comfort of knowing
that we do not go alone:
the power and presence of God goes with us.
Never alone – we go to love a world so in need of comfort!
Amen.

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



Please keep the Pastoral Search Committee in your prayers:

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

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.

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!

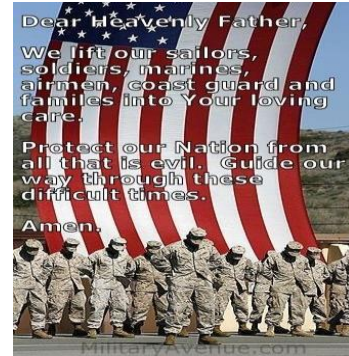
Prayer List:

Avery Allen
Bill Behrens
Bristol Allan Berry
Kassidy Brightwell
Mark & Susan Britko
Diane Cope
Emily Cope Robinson
Nick Cross
Fred Engle
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg
Judy Hanning
Aryn Hess
Ed & Harriet Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Tom Lane
Cheryl Leach
Lee & Betsy Martin
Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Jody Mullis
Elinor Newman
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.

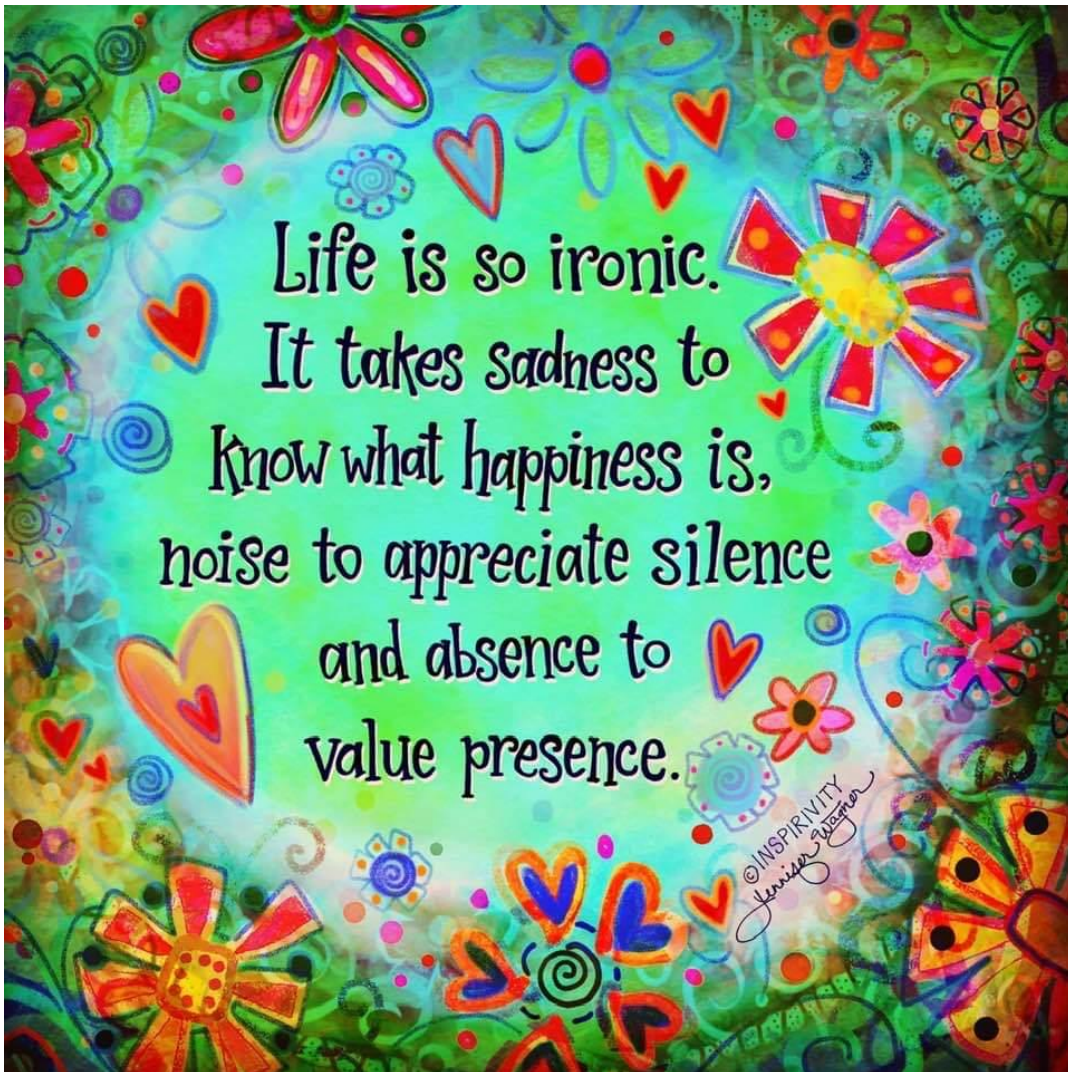
Ready to get started? [Download](#) the Givelify app for Android or iPhone.



May 15 Gannon McDonough
Connie Sheller
May 17 Dick Moninger
Peggy Oliverio
May 18 Alexis Bakaitis
Terry Hershell

Scriptures for May 24:
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

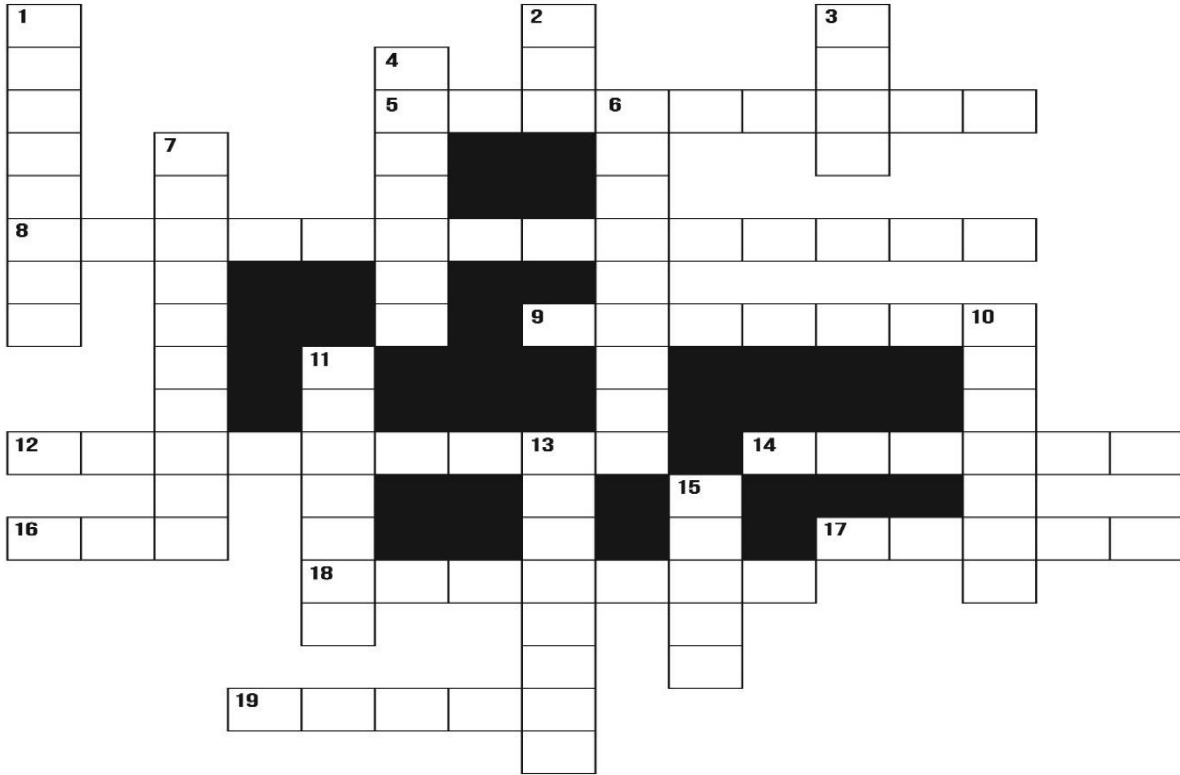
Rev. Collins is available to you for your pastoral needs.
Cell: (412) 337-4293
Email: wdar1950@gmail.com



Have a great day! Choose happy 😊 Karen 5/15/2020

Puzzle!

Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God." Complete this crossword that emphasizes the natural phenomena of God's created world.



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. windy snowstorm | 12. mass of snow, earth or rocks sliding down a mountain |
| 2. thick, obscuring mist | 13. the degree of moisture in the air |
| 3. frozen rain pellets | 14. a spring that spews boiling water and steam |
| 4. an area's normal weather conditions | 15. condensed water vapor in the atmosphere |
| 5. sudden electrostatic discharge in the sky | 16. frozen water |
| 6. violent tropical storm | 17. deluge |
| 7. shaking of the earth's crust | 18. when day and night are of equal length |
| 8. northern lights | 19. frozen dew or vapor |
| 9. partial or full blockage of the sun or moon | |
| 10. wearing away of the soil | |
| 11. large mass of snow and ice | |

Answers: 1. blizzard, 2. fog, 3. hail, 4. climate, 5. lightning, 6. hurricane, 7. earthquake, 8. Aurora Borealis, 9. eclipse, 10. erosion, 11. glacier, 12. avalanche, 13. humidity, 14. geyser, 15. cloud, 16. ice, 17. flood, 18. equinox, 19. frost