

# Manor Talk

A Publication of  
Fairhill Manor  
Christian Church

Rev. Chris Stillwell  
Senior Minister

Rev. Gena Sheller  
Associate Pastor

Karen Thomas  
Administrative Assistant

Gene Sheller  
Congregational Moderator

Brian Shaw  
Financial Secretary

Jim Cope  
Choir Director

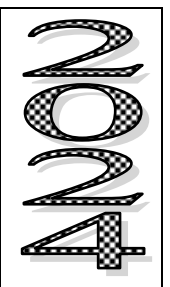
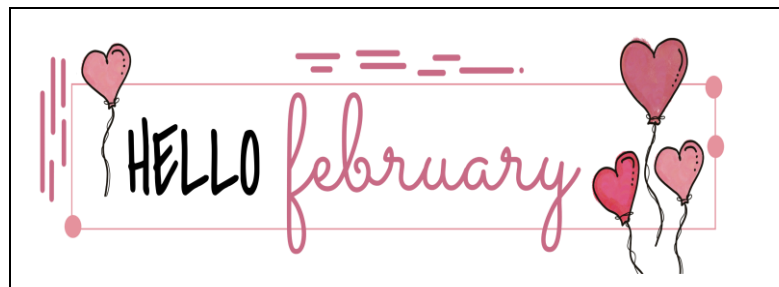
Carson Throckmorton  
Organist

Jody Mullis  
Pianist

Wray Adams  
Custodian

Stacy Thomas  
Wedding Coordinator

351 Montgomery Avenue  
Washington, PA 15301  
724-225-8610  
[fairhillmanor@yahoo.com](mailto:fairhillmanor@yahoo.com)



This a story I love and come back to every winter. It is a reminder we all need.

## The Lonely Ember

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going.

After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail."

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

Just before the pastor was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

Consider this my fire and brimstone sermon.

Rev. Chris

## Ash Wednesday and Lenten Devotionals

It seems like Christmas was only yesterday and already we are preparing for Easter. Of course Easter is still many weeks away, but, just as Christmas has a season of preparation which we call Advent, so too does Easter have a time of preparation which we call Lent, and this year it begins on February 14. Lent marks the time when Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness facing temptation, fasting, and praying before he began his public ministry, and we are invited to spend 40 days honing our faith and going deeper on our walk with Christ. There are many opportunities for us to do so at Fairhill this year.

First is our annual Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of our preparation. The day gets its name from the practice of having the ashes of last year's palms imposed upon our forehead to remind us of our mortality, and that we would be nothing more than ash if it were not for what has been accomplished through Jesus Christ. So I invite you to come to our special Ash Wednesday service February 14, from 5-6pm. We will have song and scripture, prayer and short meditations, ashes will be received and communion will be shared. The service will also be on Zoom, and if anyone would like to receive ashes but cannot make the service, please let me know, and Pastor Gena and I will arrange a time to give them.

Another way for us to go deeper in our faith is through our Lent devotional that we have chosen titled, "Go to Jerusalem," which will help you contemplate what it means to truly follow Jesus. It will be available to pick up at church on Sunday, February 11. We invite you to take one per family and use it on your spiritual journey to Easter. We also hope you will join us in a discussion of the readings which will be hosted by Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena on Mondays at 7pm during Lent via Zoom starting February 19.

And the total  
is.....

**\$1,148.07**

Fairhill Manor collected \$1,148.07 for the Salvation Army while ringing the bells at Giant Eagle on December 14.



## CLEAN & TIDY OUR COUNTY, INC. Upcoming Cap Cleaning & Sorting Event

Please join the Clean & Tidy Our County, Inc. group at the 4<sup>th</sup> Presbyterian Church on Jefferson Avenue in their community room on Saturday, February 3. They are looking for volunteers for 2-hour time slots from 9am-9pm. They need groups and individuals to help get the donated caps ready to go to the factory to get made into benches. For more information, contact Fern Sibert at (724) 456-1780 or [fern@cleanandtidyourcounty.org](mailto:fern@cleanandtidyourcounty.org).

## Children's Bell Choir



The children will be ringing the bells during worship on February 25 for Week of Compassion Sunday. They will practice the bells on February 18 and 25 at 9am in the Sanctuary.

**Bethany Class Luncheon**  
**Tuesday, February 27**  
**Noon**  
**Eat'n Park Back Room**

**Let's Have**  
**Lunch**  
**TOGETHER**



2 Jim & Judy Wheeler  
 14 Dave & Debbie Dague

- 2 Noah Allen  
Doug Graff
- 3 Ruth Cox  
Nathan Dallatore  
Ellodi Keene
- 4 Sam Caldwell  
Shyla Rash  
Jaedan Shetler  
Julia Vanatta
- 5 Lisa Gardiner
- 8 Megan Roach  
Erika Vanatta
- 9 Daniel Riffle
- 10 Anderson Henry  
Grant Weber
- 14 Rick Lewis
- 15 Diane Cope  
Yvonne Jones  
Nancy McCann
- 20 Cameron Meier
- 22 Jack Nelson
- 25 Bob Gregg  
Jill Throckmorton  
Sophie Wolf
- 26 Ivy Lacock  
Ty Lacock  
Gage McDonough  
Avalon Vanatta
- 27 Deborah Knight

*Bring Your Change  
to Make a Change*



**Week of Compassion Special Offering  
February 18 & 25**

Each year in February, congregations across the United States and Canada collect a **Special Offering** for **Week of Compassion**. While many congregations choose to collect their offering during this designated week, the offering fuels Week of Compassion's work and witness throughout the whole year!

Funds received through the offering enable Disciples to respond to disaster when it occurs, because Week of Compassion works with partners to provide grants right away, addressing urgent needs, emergency supplies, water, shelter, and food.

In 2024, Week of Compassion marks 80 years of a single mission: working with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

FMCC will collect a **Noisy Offering** on February 25 during the Children's Message that will be donated to the Week of Compassion Offering.

**SouperBowl Lunch & 2-Person Team Cornhole Tournament**

**Sunday, February 11, 2024 in  
Large Fellowship Hall following worship.**

Sign up in the Narthex to bring a soup for lunch and to enter your team in the tournament. Donations of canned soup or cash will be accepted and donated to the Community Circle Food Pantry. Since 1990 this event has been held on the same Sunday as the football Super Bowl to raise awareness about hunger in our community. **You do not have to bring soup OR enter the cornhole tournament to attend. Just come for the fellowship!**



# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				Choir practice 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am  Rev. Chris at	NA 7pm   Rev. Chris at	Dartball @ UMC West Washington 7pm  Conference-----	NA 6:45pm   -----	Choir practice 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am  SouperBowl CornHole Tournament Noon	NA 7pm	Mardi Gras 1 <sup>st</sup> Christian Church Washington 6pm  Dartball @ Home 7pm	Ash Wednesday Service 5pm	Personnel Committee 3pm  Choir practice 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm	Crop Workshop 4-11pm	Crop Workshop 8am-8pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm  Lenten Devotional Study 7pm via Zoom	No Dartball	Elders Meeting 5:30pm via Zoom  NA 6:45pm	Choir practice 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm	CW&W Training 5-9pm Library & CW&W Sanctuary	CW&W Training 9am-5pm Library & CW&W Sanctuary
25	26	27	28	29		
Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm  Lenten Devotional Study 7pm via Zoom	Bethany Class Lunch Noon Eat'n Park  Dartball @ Washington Alliance Church 7pm	Stewardship/ Finance Ministry 5:30pm  NA 6:45pm	Choir practice 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm		

**Fairhill Manor Christian Church Board Report**  
**Secretary Minutes**  
**January 10, 2024**

**We Assemble in God's Name**

Moderator Gene Sheller called the meeting to order at 7:01pm by lighting the candle representing the Holy Spirit. He opened the meeting with a prayer.

**We Celebrate our Past**

The FMCC Board reviewed the submitted reports from the Senior Minister, Associate Pastor, Board Secretary, and Treasurer.

Moderator Gene Sheller asked if there were any questions regarding these reports or if there were any comments from the person submitting these reports.

In his Senior Minister's report, Rev. Chris mentioned Jill and Owen as new Deacons in 2024. Chuck Riggle asked for Jill's last name and was told it is Throckmorton.

Linda Reese questioned how much money was raised when Fairhill Manor rang the bells for the Salvation Army on December 14, 2023. The Salvation Army will have to be contacted to see if they can give us that information.

A motion to accept these reports was made by Carol Daniels and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Reese. The motion was carried unanimously.

**We Present Our Offering**

The FMCC Board reviewed the submitted Ministry Reports. Reports submitted were from the Elders, Trustees, Stewardship/Finance Ministry and Personnel Committee.

Moderator Gene Sheller asked if there were any questions regarding these reports or if there were any comments from the person submitting these reports.

Jerry Puskarich submitted written bullet-point notes from the Stewardship/Finance Ministry and the Personnel Committee (included with these minutes). He noted that the revised Gifts, Memorials, and Bequest Policy has been voted on twice by the Board already as required by the old policy and will be presented to the congregation for a vote at the Congregational Meeting on January 21. Also, he stated he has completed the scanning of 2022 financial records.

The Stained-Glass Roof Project was discussed. Kevin Puskarich gave an update of the status of the project. We are hopeful to have a final plan in order by the next board meeting.

Rev. Chris expressed wanting to use the Church van during the Sunday School time to pick up Shut-Ins and anyone else who needs transportation to worship.

Gene Sheller let the Board know the Pastors have been given \$25 gift cards (paid for from the Notes of Thanks) to give to those in need. He reminded the Board that what used to be called the Christian Men's Fellowship (CMF) is now called the Disciples Men. The Disciples Men's treasury is now included in the church's Operating Account as an escrow fund named "Disciples Men Fund."

Von Lacock informed the board that a request by a 12-Step Program for usage of the Large Fellowship Hall every Saturday was declined since we could not accommodate this. McDonalds will use the Small Fellowship Hall for two Thursdays in January and two Thursdays in February for employee training for \$100 each day, total of \$400.

A motion to accept the Ministry Reports was made by Connie Sheller and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peggy Oliverio. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Concerns of the Past (Old Business)**

Tammie Wallace had brought up the need for emergency contacts for congregational members in a prior Board Meeting. Pastor Gena revisited this idea and it was discussed and agreed that an emergency contact and voluntary medical information would be requested from each member. Candy Wasalasky is checking to make sure HIPPA laws are adhered to and a form will be developed. This information will be Confidential, stored in the password-protected church database and only accessible by Rev. Chris, Pastor Gena and Karen Thomas. Having emergency medical assistance equipment readily available at the Church was also discussed.

A motion was made to create an Emergency Contacts Program by Candy Wasalasky and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Serena Dube. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Issues of the Future (New Business)**

No New Business brought forth.

### **Leaving in God's Name**

Carmen Oliverio made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol Daniels. The meeting was adjourned by Moderator Gene Sheller. Rev. Stillwell closed the meeting with a prayer.

### **In Attendance**

Gene Sheller (Moderator), Carol Daniels, Serena Dube, Sheila Harris, Von Lacock, Jody Mullis, Carmen Oliverio, Peggy Oliverio, Ed Palfreyman, Kevin Puskarich, Rita Puskarich (on Zoom), Linda Reese, Chuck Riggle, Brian Shaw, Connie Sheller, Tom Ulery, Candy Wasalasky, Senior Minister Chris Stillwell\*, Pastor Gena Sheller\*.

Non-Member: Cara Hritz, Jerry Puskarich, Lois Shaw

\*Indicates non-voting members.

**Next Board Meeting is March 13, 2024, at 7:00 PM.**

Submitted in Christian love,  
Kevin Puskarich, Board Member

**Fairhill Manor Christian Church  
Congregational Meeting  
January 21, 2024**

Chairperson Gene Sheller called the meeting to order with prayer.

A motion to accept the Annual Report was made by Carol Daniels and seconded by Linda Reese. The motion carried unanimously.

The Gifts, Memorials and Bequests Policy has been revised to the Giving Policy as the old policy was not meeting our congregation's current financial need. A motion to accept the new Giving Policy was made by Deb Knight. Kevin Puskarich seconded the motion. There were no questions and the motion passed unanimously.

Rev. Chris Stillwell dismissed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rita Puskarich,  
Board Secretary