

Manor Minutes
Volume 15 Issue 19
May 12, 2024

- Stewardship/Finance Ministry – May 13, 5:30pm
- Tri-County Men’s Dinner (Connellsville) – May 16, 5:30pm
- Choir Practice – May 16, 6:30pm

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



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)


Tri-County Men’s
Christian
Fellowship Dinner
May 16, 2024
RSVP by May 13



Registration 5:30 PM	Pasta Bar Dinner
Meeting 6:00 PM	Cost: \$15



<p><i>Christian Church Of Connellsville</i> (Disciples of Christ)</p>	<p>212 S. Pittsburgh St. Connellsville, PA (724)-628-3802 disciples1st@yahoo.com</p>
---	---

*Celebrate with us the oldest hymns sung by the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
played on our grand pipe organ!* 



Blanket Sunday, May 12

Our congregation has always supported the CWS Blanket Sunday to change lives in our country and around the world. These blankets cost \$10 each. They are used for folks experiencing displacement, war, famine, natural disasters, homelessness, etc. This special offering will be received during the **Children’s Message** during worship on May 12. Checks can be written to Fairhill Manor with “blankets” in the memo or you can donate online through Givelify (on the church website under the More tab, and Give). Please give as you can.

“And don’t forget to do good and share with those in need.” Hebrews 13:16



**PENTECOST
SUNDAY
May 19**

- Baptisms
- Last day of Sunday School
- Sunday School Teacher & CW&W Volunteer Recognition
- Pentecost and Sunday School Celebration Cookout after Worship (sign-up sheet in the Narthex)
- Wear **RED**



Fairhill Manor will be celebrating **Graduate Sunday** on **June 9**. If you are graduating or you have a family member who is, please contact the Church Office to let us know. You can call the office or send an e-mail with the name of the graduate, school they are graduating from and their relationship to Fairhill member. Information is needed by **June 2nd**.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Jody Mullis, Bread
Linda Reese, Cup

May 12, 2024 – 10:15am

Prelude

Carson Throckmorton, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Gene Sheller

Leader: We come to you, O God, to thank you for what is good.

People: We come to you, O God, to cry out for what is wrong.

Leader: We come to you, O God, to ask for help and restoration.

People: We come to you, O God, with aching hearts and glad souls.

Leader: Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart. I want to see You. I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart. I want to see You. I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up shining in the light of Your glory.

Pour out Your power and love as we sing, “Holy, holy, holy.”

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Gena

Loving God and Parent of all, we are grateful today to gather as children formed in your image, blessed offspring of your creation. As a mother hen gathers her brood under her wing, so today gather us in, joined together to hear your teachings and experience your love.

We thank you for the women among us and around us in whom you have gifted the privilege and the challenge of being mothers and mother figures. Especially today, we thank you for all mothers, everywhere. Strengthen them in the ways they raise their children: grant them wisdom for the lessons they teach, discernment in the ways they discipline, patience and energy when they need it. May others grant them the thanks and honor they deserve – today and everyday.

We thank you for grandmothers, sisters, aunts, teachers, adult mentors, big sisters, and anyone, everywhere, who plays a mother’s guiding role in the life of another person. Grant them the ability to model the example of Christ for all within their influence, that they might share the love that you have so freely shown to all of us.

We pause to remember those for whom Mother’s Day is a source of discomfort, perhaps even anxiety and pain. We pray for those for whom this day brings melancholy remembrance of their own mothers who have died. We pray especially for those who are encountering this Mother’s Day for the first time without their mother. We pray for mothers whose children have died. We pray for those whose children are far away and those whose relationship with their children is not what they had hoped it would be. Grant your peace and comfort, we pray, and surround these with joyful and treasured memories.

We pray with those for whom Mother's Day is a painful reminder of their own singleness, or their own inability to have biological children. Remind each of these that all women have always had a special place in your concern, especially throughout the history of the Bible. Give them your special care and love, and grant them your assurance that they are not alone; neither are they without ability to make a lasting impact on the world.

And to those for whom their experience with and memory of their own mothers has brought enduring pain, remorse, and guilt, grant the power of healing and forgiveness, we pray. Remind us all of the wrongs we have done to each other, and of the power we have, in your name, to bridge even the deepest divides.

Parent God, please be with these, your children, who need your special care today. We pray for those we have named loud, those on our prayer list, and these who are in our hearts and on our minds... God, you are a loving mother and father to us all. Thank you for your ever-present and unconditional love. It is in the name of your son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, that we pray together....

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 Reading

Exodus 20:1-12

Rita Puskarich

Anthem

“Come Flood This Heart of Mine,” by Craig Courtney
Accompanied by Dale Hertrick, saxophone

Choir

Children's Message

Pastor Gena

Skit: What a Blanket Can Do

NARRATOR: This is my blanket from when I was very young. I don't remember when I got it, but it's been around for a long time. My mom tells me it was my constant companion during those early years. I know it comforted me when I was scared of the dark. It kept me warm on cold nights. It was a very important part of the forts I built in the living room. And it helped me carry all my favorite toys around the house... A blanket does a lot of things. And not just for me.

HOMELESS PERSON: Imagine you are homeless, and winter is coming. You wonder how you'll stay warm and dry.

NARRATOR: *(handing homeless person a CWS blanket)* A blanket will help *(homeless person wraps it around him/herself)*.

REFUGEE DAD: Imagine you are a father with two kids, and the civil conflict in the region where you live is getting more frequent, more intense—and closer to home. You decide that to protect yourself and your family, you need to flee... quickly.

HOMELESS PERSON: *(handing refugee dad the blanket)* A blanket will help *(refugee wraps items at his feet in the blanket and unwraps them during next story)*

EARTHQUAKE SURVIVOR: Imagine your home and almost everything in it is destroyed by an earthquake. You now sleep in a makeshift community with hundreds of other people who've also become homeless. There is little privacy.

REFUGEE DAD: (*holds up the blanket between himself and earthquake survivor*) A blanket will help (*earthquake survivor pulls off a sweater revealing a t-shirt—representing changing clothes*)

NARRATOR: See, a blanket does a lot of things (*refugee dad wraps blanket around homeless person's shoulders*).

HOMELESS PERSON: It provides warmth (*hands blanket back to refugee dad*).

REFUGEE DAD: It can be a suitcase when you have to leave unexpectedly (*gives blanket to earthquake survivor*).

EARTHQUAKE SURVIVOR: (*folding blanket into a pillow*) It can be your bed or your pillow and can even give you some privacy.

NARRATOR: Whatever else a blanket can be, it is most certainly a sign of generosity, a sign of loving care, a very real sign of compassion. You probably won't meet the people who receive the blankets you give. But you can be sure your compassion will be remembered for a long time. Even when they've become worn out or too small or they're simply put away after winter has passed, those blankets will remain a tangible reminder to our most vulnerable neighbors that someone was thinking of them...

HOMELESS PERSON: Someone cared enough to keep me warm...

REFUGEE DAD: Someone understood how hard it was to leave my home...

EARTHQUAKE SURVIVOR: Someone offered me comfort and shelter...

ALL TOGETHER: Thank you for supporting Church World Service Blankets!

Invitation to the Blanket Offering

We worship a God who gives generously and abundantly. God has given us so many blessings: the food we eat, the friends and family we cherish, and the precious gift of God's love for us. When that love abides in us, we are called to help keep our neighbors warm. Through this special offering for Church World Service Blankets, we join other people of faith to make God's love known to our neighbors who might feel forgotten—the hurting and the lonely. Our gifts, together, provide hope to our neighbors all over the world. A Church World Service blanket costs \$10. Please give generously.

Prayer of Blessing

Gracious God, you have given us so many good gifts, and today we are sharing these gifts with our neighbors. Bless these blankets that they give warmth and shelter, comfort and privacy, and healing and hope wherever God's people may need care. Bless the givers of these blankets. May the blankets we give demonstrate your love to all people. Bless Church World Service as they deliver the blankets on our behalf. Bless all who will receive these blankets; may they know your love. Amen.

Mothers are a giving type of people. They have to be. After all, the very first thing they do to become mothers is to give birth. So there it is, right from the start, mothers give and give so that their children will have and grow. What are some of the things that your mother has given you? Lunches for school? Meals for dinner? A warm embrace to cheer up a sad face? Clothes and toys and gifts for birthday and Christmas? Those are just the tip of the iceberg.

Our mother's give us so much we could not keep track, but we also give things to our mothers as well. In addition to a million “thank you”s and “I love you”s we give them pride, worry, joy, anxiety, and many small gifts made by our own hands to show them how much we appreciate them. I remember in school every Mother's Day slaving away at a craft that I would give my mother to show her some small glimpse of how much I loved her. I was excited about the prospect. Each project began with the grandest of designs, and I was certain that what I made would outshine any gift she was ever bought.

It never quite worked out that way. I remember boxes with torn pieces of lacquered masking tape that were supposed to resemble leather. They resembled a box with a bad skin condition. I remember macaroni art which ended up looking like I had gotten sick. I remember a picture frame that I colored and decorated with the symbols and pictures of the things that meant most to me in my life in the sixth grade . . . dollar signs. That's right. For Mother's Day I gave my mother a picture of myself in a frame adorned with green dollar signs, gold bars, and silver coins, all around the edge. I don't know what I was trying to say, and looking back on it I'm embarrassed, but my mother accepted it graciously, and loved it obligingly. It was truly a gift only a mother could love, but love it she did.

Those were the things that I was proud to give to my mother. Sometimes we don't like having to give things to our mothers. I remember having to give her my report card with my bad grade in penmanship. I had to give her the time I thought I'd be home, which was always at least one hour before I really wanted to be home. Often times a child may give their mother trouble because of the trouble they created and others might say to them, “God bless your mother”. That is a sweet way of saying, “I wouldn't want to be your mother”.

As we gather on this Mother's Day, some of us with our mother present, I would like to preach a sermon on what it is we should give our mothers, but Jesus isn't the best person to look to for a sermon on mothers. All it seems that he gave his mother is heartache.

The news of her pregnancy with him almost caused her to lose her betrothed Joseph. When they went to Jerusalem to sacrifice for the Passover, Jesus stayed behind. Remember how upset and worried they were and how they scolded him in the temple, and remember how nonchalantly he answered, “Where else would I be?” as if their fears were completely unwarranted.

The gospel of Matthew records that while Jesus was speaking to a crowd someone told him that his mother and brothers were waiting to speak to him. You would think he might be happy to see his family but to this he responded:

‘Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?’⁴⁹ And pointing to his disciples, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers!’⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.’

As if this wasn't enough there was the crucifixion. Despite his harsh words to her, Mary comes to see her son's execution. This would be gut wrenching for anyone, but his manner of death, the cross, was particularly brutal and particularly heartbreaking.

I have often wondered what Mary must have said to Christ in Heaven. Did she greet him with the joy of a mother reunited with her son? Was she confused about how to act seeing as he was at one and the same time her child whom she nursed and rocked to sleep and also her savior, the son of God? Sometimes I think she upbraided him for all the worry he caused her. She might have gone to Heaven and said, "Jesus thank God you're alright. You had me a worried to death going out and running around with those trouble makers, Peter and Judas, disrespecting the temple, and getting punished by the Romans. I was worried that you would come to no good end."

It suffices to say that Jesus put Mary through so much that, as my father used to say about his mother, she ought to have saint in front of her name. Of course, when the church started naming saints, they began with Mary. At the least I can imagine someone saying to Jesus, "God bless your mother!"

Jesus doesn't talk about mothers often, and they are mentioned nowhere in this story, but this is a story about giving. Seeking to trap Jesus some Pharisees asked him the question "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" Of course Jesus knew that this was a trap and he knew what would happen either way that he answered. Had he said, "do not pay the taxes" he would have been seen as preaching rebellion against Rome. It would have been easy to turn him over then, unless the Romans got him first. If he had said "Pay the taxes" then he would have faced a rebellion of his own people, and perhaps the crucifixion would have occurred sooner rather than later.

Mark continues:

But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, 'Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.' ¹⁶And they brought one. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' ¹⁷Jesus said to them, 'Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' And they were utterly amazed at him.

This answer neither satisfied his detractors nor solves the debate today. Today we still struggle to determine how much to give to God and how much to give to other entities in our life whether they be Caesar, mammon, or pleasure. With that in mind there are still certain things that we clearly must give to Caesar, and these represent the things we must give in order to stay out of trouble even if we do not want to give them. Some of these things include taxes, time for things like jury duty, and we must give our obedience to the laws of the government. These things we do out of obligation, and not necessarily out of joy. We might be happy to give taxes to fund our schools, but other times we might think our money is being wasted. We are more than happy to follow the law that says do not steal, but following the speed limit elicits from us a grudging respect.

To me, giving to Caesar the things that are Caesars is a lot like obeying your mother even when it gets in the way of the things that you want to do. Whether it is eating all the candy on Halloween, staying up late at night, or doing homework and chores, we all had to give our mother her due growing up. We had to give her our respect and attention, and got into trouble when we didn't, and we can all look back on rules that she imposed on us when we were young that upset us for which we are grateful now. But if being a mother is nothing more than being like a Caesar, we would respect her, but we would not love her.

Of all the things that are of God, love is foremost, and therefore it is the thing we must give to God above all else. Give to Caesar out of duty, but give to God out of love. Likewise, on this Mother's Day and every day we should give to our mothers the things that are mother's. Give to her the respect and honor she is due as a parent for no matter how old you are there are things she can teach and things you can learn, and, of course, the older she is, the more she knows, and the more respect she is owed.

Above all give her love, the love that she gave you, the love that you would give to your own child. If your mother is no longer with you, then remember her with love and thank God that, by making us in the divine image, God has given mothers the love that passes understanding. You cannot possibly give to your mother all that she has given you, and I cannot think that she expects you to. In this way the love of a mother is like the grace of God, but give to mother the love and grace that are her's and your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. God bless you, and God bless your mother.

Call to Offering

Serena Dube

The first words of the Bible are about God's own generosity. God gave us the gifts of a beautiful creation, our home, the good green earth and the animals that live here with us. On this spring morning, we come together to thank God and to offer our gifts so that the ministry of this church will continue to grow and be a blessing to the world. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

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

Rev. Stillwell

God of great gifts, we give you these gifts today knowing that you are the giver of all good gifts. You mother us constantly, providing for us, caring for us. As we have been abundantly provided for, so we give abundantly to the work that you give us to do, the work of the church, the care for those who are poor. Accept these gifts in Jesus' name. Amen

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

There is a song called "No Charge" in which a mother tries to add up all of the things she has done for her child and when she does she says that the cost for every hug and smile, every meal and article of clothing, every time she hugged him and made him feel better and every time she taught him or nursed him when he was sick was no charge. It is a nice song that gets to the root of the selfless nature of motherhood, and what is true of our mothers is also true of our God.

There is nothing that we can do to pay back every single sunrise and every single sunset. There's no way for us to pay back the flowers and the trees and indeed our very life. There is certainly no paying back the gift of eternal life that was given to us through Jesus Christ.

All that can be done is for us to appreciate the love that God has shown us and give thanks for it. But as we said before, we do not give thanks in a halfhearted way or from a sense of obligation or sense of debt. Instead we are to give thanks out of a sense of gratitude, the kind of gratitude that comes from deep within, the type gratitude that comes from knowing that there is nothing we can do to pay back.

There's nothing we can do to cover the costs. Rather we know that our Lord and God has covered the cost for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. So as we gather at this table let us remember all that it did cost to give us the promise of eternity at no charge to us.

Communion Hymn

"Softly and Tenderly"

Carson Throckmorton, organist

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; patient and loving, he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home; earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling—calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Jody Mullis

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you on this Mother's Day for the bread and the cup which we are about to partake, for the opportunity to honor our mothers and families today. We thank you Lord that you are

our God and we don't have to worship the gods of gold and silver but we worship You. And we thank you for the death of your son Jesus Christ who gave us life and gave us our father and our mother. We praise you in Jesus name. Amen

Words of Institution

Rev. Stillwell

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

Rev. Stillwell

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 Anthem

"Shalom," by Dan Forest
Accompanied by Dale Hertrick, saxophone

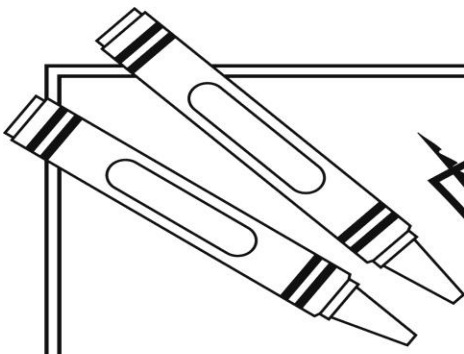
Choir

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

May Christ's love fill you this day with the living and enduring word of God. May Christ's love lift you up and guide you, that you may go forth to transform the world. Shalom and amen.





PUZZLE

WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?



Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

A	C	D	M*	N*	O*
E	F	G	P*	R*	S*
H	I	L	T*	U*	Y*

“ _____ your _____
 _____ and your _____,
 the _____ your _____ has
 _____.”
 _____ 5:16, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV

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!

Prayer List:

Homebound Members:

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

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

Elinor Newman (Southmont)
835 S Main St, Rm 513
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

Ed Alexey
Avery Allen
Jeannie Allison
Terry Bailey
Bob Bakaitis
Donna Bakaitis
Jim Banish
Martin Berisford
Eleanor Boyles
Mabel Brooks
Leslie Byron
Sandra Carman
Denise Charles
Wanda Chicone
MaryAnn Coates
Zach Correll
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Sue Donaldson
Benjamin Dube
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Thomas Farabee
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Jay Freudenberg
Lois Gayman
Sue Golsky
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg
Theresa Hancher
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris

Rick Herrnberger
Aryn Hess
Janet Houston
Ed Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Kenger Family
Ivy Lacock
Ty Lacock, Jr.
Bob Lanning
David Leonard
John Lewis
Lee Martin
Shirley McClellan
Dave McConnell
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Bob Morgan
Paul Myers
Joe Neckerman
Michaela Nixon
Sandy Nixon
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Deborah Patterson
JoAnn Piatt
Bo & Patty Pryor
Rick Rafferty
Cathy Rentgen
Jeannie Riffle
Lori Riffle
Betty Jo Riggle

Emily Cope Robinson
Dave Ross
Sandy Ross
John Samida
Debbie Sekorky
Sam Sheller
Valerie Shetler
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Darci Sprowls
Cathy Stewart
John Stewart
Bernard Teagarden
Beth Teagarden
Jane Teagarden
Thad Turner
Tammie Wallace
Jonathon Ward
Gary Weaver
Tom Williams
Addison Wittenberg
Sarah Wittenberg

In the Military

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

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.

*currently deployed