

Manor Talk

**A Publication of
Fairhill Manor
Christian Church**

Rev. Chris Stillwell
Senior Minister

Rev. Gena Sheller
Associate Pastor

Karen Thomas
Administrative Assistant

Gary Ford
Congregational Moderator

Brian Shaw
Financial Secretary

Jim Cope
Choir Director

Sam Johnson
Organist

Jody Mullis
Pianist

Claudia Lopez
Custodian

Stacy Thomas
Wedding Coordinator

351 Montgomery Avenue
Washington, PA 15301
724-225-8610
fairhillmanor@yahoo.com



Many churches put cute sayings on their signs outside, but sometimes they do not convey the message that they wish to. One church had a sign that for Lent that said, "A different Sinner will be provided each week for a reasonable price." Another church said that their mission was "rotted in their faith in Jesus Christ." My favorite one is a question asking, "Have you come to gripes with Jesus?"

While it was probably an unintentional blunder, I think it is an appropriate question, because we can all have faith in Christ, and we may think that if we follow Christ, we will be respected and happy. That type of faith is based upon reward and is relatively easy to maintain, but what happens when we feel that we are being unfairly put upon? Then we come to "gripes" with Christ.

The measure for true faith is the ability to come to "gripes" with Christ and still follow him like Martha did when she angrily confronted Christ who waited to come when he heard Lazarus was sick. When he arrived, she went to meet him saying, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." First, she went with gripes, then she came to grips with Christ.

Let us always remember Christ's example, for as the woman with the hemorrhage, the bereaved sisters of Lazarus, or the lepers who came to be healed, all came to Christ with their gripes, and in one way or another they walked away feeling better. We may think that the only proper way to talk to God is to be positive, happy, nice. We can be those things, but we also can be sad, frustrated, or even angry at what is happening to us. If Jesus can handle our sins, he can also handle our gripes as well.

Rev. Chris



From January 1 through July 31, FMCC has collected 114 jars of peanut butter, 103 jars of jelly, 393 rolls of toilet paper and 881 other food items for a total of 1,491 items donated to the pantry.

The food pantry is starting to think about Back to School needs. The food pantry is asking for individual or single serve:

- Juice boxes
- Little Cereal boxes
- Granola bars
- Pudding cups
- Fruit Cups
- Cookies
- Animal Crackers
- Rice Krispie Treats
- Fruit Snacks

The Pantry will be making "sack bags" to help bridge the gap for kids who need quick, grab and go items before school, after school and on weekends.



DRIVE-THRU NATIVITY
December 12 & 13
6-8pm

It's Time to Make Church World Service School Kits!

Our goal this year is to make **100** school kits to donate to Church World Service for distribution to children who need them.

How you can help:

1. Purchase one or more items for the School Kits, we will assemble together. Choose one or more tags from the bulletin board in the Narthex. Be careful to purchase exactly what is listed on the tag. Remove all packaging from the items you have purchased and return the items to the containers in the Narthex with the tags.

2. Contribute \$15 to purchase items for a complete School Kit. Checks and cash may be placed in the offering plate; please make a note that your gift is for "school kits." You can also give on Fairhill's Givelify with the selection "CWS Kits."

3. Purchase items and assemble one or more School Kits yourself by following these instructions:

<https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/school-kits/>



- 1 Angela Caldwell
Jayden Dube
Andrew Glover
Robert Sekorky
- 2 Jeff Caldwell
Jason Vanatta
- 3 Robert Hanning
- 4 Nora Graff
- 5 Sharl Burk
- 6 John Berg
Tiffany Shetler
- 7 Karen Tarentino
- 9 Amy Caldwell
Sheri Leitsch
- 12 Vicki Casciato
- 13 Paige Keener
- 14 Tom Burk
Christian Caldwell
- 16 Julia Howsare
- 20 Misty Caldwell
- 24 Margot Hritz
- 26 Carolyn Blackhurst
Mark Dague
Matt Dague
Judy Hanning
- 27 Amy Mountain
- 28 Karla Glover
Von Lacock
- 29 Donna Bakaitis
- 31 Candy Wasalasky



- 4 Craig & Debra Dotson
- 5 Tom & Sharl Burk
- 8 Von & Lynn Lacock
- 9 Rev. Chris & Jessi Stillwell
- 11 Tom & Tammie Wallace
- 13 Jeff & Amy Mountain
- 19 Jonathan & Brittany Jacobovitz
- 20 Ed & Diane Palfreyman
- 21 Jim & Diane Cope
- 27 Chris & Shawn Rice
- 31 Jack & Mandy Henry

Memorial Brick Garden Laser-Engraved Bricks

Last call for new bricks for 2026.

Deadline to order new bricks is **August 1**. The order form can be found in the Narthex and attached to this newsletter.

The bricks will be \$40.00 each.

Contact the Church Office (724) 225-8610 if you are interested. Bricks will be dedicated on All Saints Day, November 1, 2026.



**Begins
August 23**

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship 10:15am	Stewardship/ Finance Ministry 5:15pm NA 7pm		DWM Ruth 1pm DWM Tabitha 6pm NA 6:45pm	Bible Study 2-3pm via Zoom NA 7:30pm		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm		Elders Meeting 5:30pm via Zoom NA 6:45pm	Bible Study 2-3pm via Zoom NA 7:30pm		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm		NA 6:45pm	NA 7:30pm Rev. Chris -----	Vacation-----	-----
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 10:15am Rev. Chris Vacation	NA 7pm		NA 6:45pm	Tri-Count Men's Dinner Mt Lebanon NA 7:30pm		
30	31					
Worship 10:15am Blessing of the Backpacks	NA 7pm					



September 9
1:03pm

Chicken, Hotdogs, Drinks provided
Bring a side dish to share

BINGO

We are in need of some fun gifts for our surprise bingo. If you have an item you would like to donate (gift card, new or gently used item of \$25 value) please bring them to the office. We need about 8 or 9 items.

Lines of Life

To Criticize

To Gossip

To get
involved

To encourage

To help



FAIRHILL MANOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH
BOARD MINUTES
July 8, 2026

We Assemble in God's Name:

Moderator Gary Ford called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He opened with a devotion, prayer and lighting the Christ Candle.

We Celebrate Our Past

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

Moderator Gary Ford asked if there were any questions regarding these reports or if there were any comments from the person submitting the report.

Remarks:

Serena Dube asked what the money for student support was in Rev. Chris Stillwell's report. He stated that it is for the Tri-Country Men's group.

Serena also stated in the Worship section of Pastor Gena's report under bullet #7, we should add that donations of toiletry items were collected to give to Sonny Wilson for Camp Laurelview.

A motion to accept these reports was made by Jerry Puskarich and seconded by Sheila Harris.
The motion was carried unanimously.

We Present Our Offering

The FMCC Board reviewed the submitted Ministry Reports. Reports were submitted from the Pastor's Cabinet, Trustees, Stewardship/Finance Ministry, Personnel Committee, Gathering to Grow.

Moderator Gary Ford asked if there were any questions regarding these reports or if there were any comments from the person submitting the report.

Remarks:

Von Lacock suggested that a portion of the quarterly distribution from the Fawcett Fund be added to the LPL Financial Investment Fund (in which \$10,000 has already been invested). A motion was made by Gene Sheller for the Trustees to take a portion of the quarterly distribution from the Fawcett Fund and put it into the LPL Financial Investment Fund. That amount would be determined by the Trustees and according to the amount of the quarterly distribution.

The motion was carried unanimously.

External Reese Scholarship applications have been considered. There were 23 applicants from 3 area schools, with most of the applicants are staying in Pennsylvania for college. The winners of the \$1,000 scholarships are:

Simone Ivery - Washington High School
Mae Coburn - McGuffey High School
Autumn Sitler - Trinity High School

Jerry stressed that students planning to attend trade schools can also apply for these scholarships. Jerry also stated next year we will be adding three more high schools: Avella, Fort Cherry, and Chartiers-Houston. Two internal Reese Grants for \$2500 each were awarded to Owen Stillwell and Carson Throckmorton.

Jerry Puskarich also said the Trustee's audit is ongoing. Jerry asked Von for CD statements.

Jerry stated we should have an inventory spreadsheet for insurance purposes, volunteer accountability for the use and maintenance of church assets, grant and audit compliance. Jerry also stated the Literacy Council should do their own inventory.

The Rummage Sale brought in \$1384.

A motion to accept these reports was made by Von Lacock and seconded by Carmen Oliverio. The motion was carried unanimously.

Concerns of the Past (Old Business)

Nothing at this time.

Issues of the Future (New Business)

Lifeline Screening has requested use of the Large Fellowship Hall on October 1, 2026.

Serena Dube stated Lifeline Screening is a for-profit organization and asked if we should charge them to use our facility. Rev. Chris stated they come two times per year. Von Lacock stated it is a community service, and they have come many times and were not charged.

Rev. Chris stated the City Mission wants to place a donations bin in our parking lot. Carol Davis stated she thinks this is a good idea. Gary Ford asked where a good place for it would be. Von Lacock stated the upper left corner of the parking lot would be good.

Rev. Chris stated the Car Club wanted to know if we are going to sell food during car shows. If not, could they sell food.

Jody Mullis made a motion to allow Lifeline Screening use of the Large Fellowship Hall on October 1, 2026, the City Mission to place a donations bin in the parking lot and the Car Club to sell food at car shows since FMCC is not selling food. Serena Dube seconded the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Other Discussion

Sheila Harris stated she (as the Church Historian) and Pastor Gena began going through old photos and documents in storage.

Connie Sheller stated that many bags of clothes from the Rummage Sale were given to the Sheller's neighbor to take to the homeless in Wheeling, WV. Resurrection Power took framed pictures and household items for the four houses they support from the Rummage Sale leftovers.

Gary Ford stated we will need some volunteers for the video and sound, as Owen will be leaving for college and it won't be long until Isaac and Charlotte will be graduating.

Leaving in God's Name

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M. with prayer by Rev. Chris.

Next Board Meeting will be September 9, 7:30 P.M.

In Attendance: Gary Ford (Moderator), Carol Davis, Dave Davis, Serena Dube, Sheila Harris, Terry Houston, Von Lacock, Jody Mullis, Jackie Nelson, Jerry Puskarich, Kevin Puskarich, Linda Reese (on Zoom), Brian Shaw, Connie Sheller, Gene Sheller, Candy Wasalasky, Rev. Chris Stillwell*(Senior Minister), Carmon Oliverio, Peggy Oliverio

*Non-voting member

Respectfully submitted,
Candy Wasalasky
Board Secretary