

# 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*

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This month at Fairhill Manor Christian Church we've got someone who wants to buy a car. You'd think we would guide her to a car lot, but that's not the kind of car she's buying. You see on Sunday, May 24th, Abby Graff, will confess her faith in Jesus Christ and join the Body of Christ through the waters of baptism. Christian writer, Max Lucado, hit on a great analogy when he once said of baptism, "It separates the tire kickers from the car buyers."

There are a lot of people in the world who like Jesus, who find his words comforting, challenging, and inspiring. There are a lot of people who believe in God and long for a connection with God. There are a lot of people who come to worship God in Christ at a church. There are also a lot of people who are all of these things, but they still can't quite commit to fully joining the Body of Christ, which one does through baptism. A lot of people are kicking the tires, not everyone is buying.

It is understandable. Buying a car is a major decision and a major commitment. Being baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection much more so. Therefore it is with great joy that we should celebrate when anyone makes that commitment, so I hope you will join me for this wondrous occasion especially if you have been kicking the tires lately, but you're not sure about buying the grace, forgiveness, and love that comes with membership in the Body of Christ. Maybe seeing Abby make such a commitment will inspire you to do the same, and I'll give you the same deal that Christ made Abby and everyone else. You can have all of this for free!

Come and celebrate with us on May 24 which is also the day of Pentecost. This wonderful blessing should not be missed.

Rev. Chris



**Thank you** for all of your donations. As of April 30, FMCC has collected 35 jars of peanut butter, 29 jars of jelly, 116 rolls of toilet paper and 448 other food items for a total of 628 items donated to the pantry.

The **Community Circle Food Pantry** recently transitioned from a state and federally funded pantry to a fully independent, community-supported pantry. This shift means that the stability of their shelves now comes directly from the generosity of local churches, families and community partners.

The pantry is asking Fairhill Manor if we would be able to concentrate on donations of **Peanut Butter, Jelly and Toilet Paper** for the month of May. These items are among the first to run out each week.

Other food items are always accepted and appreciated.

The pantry thanks FMCC for continuing to care for our neighbors with compassion and consistency.



**June 5, 8am-5pm**  
**June 6, 8am-2pm**

**Set up: June 2, 9am-1pm**  
**June 3, 1-5pm**  
**June 4, 9am-1pm**

**“Pay what you can, take what you need”**



**Church World Service Blanket Offering**  
**Sunday, May 10, 2026**

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 worship service on May 10. 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

Fairhill Manor will be celebrating **Graduate Sunday** on **June 7**. 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 (724) 225-8610 or send an e-mail to [fairhillmanor@yahoo.com](mailto:fairhillmanor@yahoo.com) with the name of the graduate, school they are graduating from and their relationship to Fairhill member.

Information is needed by **June 1**.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Eli Graff
- 2 Aaron O'Connell  
Elisabeth Throckmorton
- 4 Chad Dotson  
Edward Jackman
- 5 Maggie Caldwell
- 7 David Davis II
- 8 Carl Brandtonies
- 9 Paul Huntsman
- 10 Craig Dotson  
Lucas Ramirez
- 11 Carson Throckmorton
- 12 Joyce Brandtonies
- 13 Gene Sheller
- 14 Deacon Hritz
- 15 Gannon McDonough  
Consuello Sheller
- 17 Dick Moninger  
Peggy Oliverio
- 18 Alexis Bakaitis  
Rick Couch
- 23 Becky Ashmore
- 24 Maria Sheller
- 26 Colton Crowe
- 27 Dave Davis  
Cody Shultz
- 28 Deb Goodwin  
Jerry Puskarich
- 29 Cori Newman
- 30 Ashley Keene
- 31 Preston Allison  
Joshua Lee Ingram  
Brian Riffle



- 20 Todd & Hollan Martinek
- 22 Bob & Judy Hanning  
Rick & Darla Lewis
- 30 Eric & Julie Meier
- 31 Kevin & Rita Puskarich

## Memorial Brick Garden Laser-Engraved Bricks

The attractive engraved pavers are specially made for Fairhill Manor and are hard-fired for years of enduring beauty. The paver stones are 4x8x2 1/4" and can be ordered with three lines of text with 20 characters per line including all punctuation and spacing with one clipart. Letters on the brick will be 15mm tall and in the font – Zapf Humnst.

**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.

## Tri-County Men's Dinner

May 21 @ FMCC

5:30 Registration

6pm Dinner

7pm Entertainment by Sam Johnson

\$15 RSVP by May 17

Sign-up Sheet in the Narthex

# SUBMIT YOUR REPORTS

Board Reports due by May 6  
Board Meeting May 13, 7pm

## Washington Wild Things



**Save the Date - June 26**

FMCC is going to the Washington Wild Things game on **Friday, June 26!** This year we will have 25 tickets for the Community Room. Tickets are \$10 each. Sign-up in the Narthex or call the Church Office (724) 225-8610

# Pill Bottle Donations

During the Month of **May**, bring in your empty medicine bottles and drop them in the collection container in the Narthex. Matthew 25: Ministries in Cincinnati accepts donations of empty plastic pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies. Their pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for the environment.

## Acceptable collection items include:

- Prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles
- Large and small pill bottles
- Pill Bottles with and without secure caps (child-resistant)

## Pill bottle donations **must** adhere to the following guidelines:

- All labels should be removed, leaving no glue or residue.
- All bottles and lids should be washed in very hot water and dish soap, rinsed, and dried thoroughly.
- Caps should be placed back onto clean, dried bottles.



**The Vitalant mobile blood drive will take place in the FMCC parking lot on Monday, June 8 from 11am-3pm. See the attached flyer for more information and to register for an appointment. If you have any questions, you can call the church office at (724) 225-8610.**

Two members of our **Disciples Women's Ministries** sewed dresses and shorts for two orphanages, one in Sierra Leone and another in Kenya. Jamie Hatfield made 20 dresses, and Connie Sheller made 90 shorts. The Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, Amity, will deliver these items, as folks from that church travel to the orphanages several times a year to help the children there. If you would like to be a part of this sewing project, you can join in sewing or donate fabric, decorative items, shoelaces, elastic, and/or money. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this in the past!



**Happy Mother's Day - May 10**

# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Croppers Large Hall Noon-11pm	Croppers Large Hall 8am-8pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm		DWM Ruth 1pm  Personnel Committee 6pm  DWM Tabitha 6pm  NA 6:45pm	Stewardship/ Finance Ministry 5:15pm  Choir practice 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm		Elders 5:30pm  NA 6:45pm  Board 7pm	Choir practice 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm		NA 6:45pm	Tri-County Men's Dinner  Choir practice 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am	 Memorial Day Remember & Honor  Office Closed	Bethany Class Luncheon Eat'n Park Noon	NA 6:45pm	Choir practice 6:30pm  NA 7:30pm		
31 Sunday School 9am  Worship 10:15am						

**Fairhill Manor Christian Church**  
**Pastor's Cabinet**  
**Secretary's Minutes**  
**March 9, 2026**

Vice Moderator, Gene Sheller called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He asked Pastor Gena to open with prayer.

**Von Lacock- Trustee:**

Von stated the light timers and clocks were reset in accordance with the time change. New batteries were placed in smoke detectors and clocks. The Trustees have a meeting tonight to discuss the air conditioners for the large and possibly the small fellowship halls. Also, they are contacting Shane Fowler, the lawn care person, to be ready for the grass season. Outside doors and windows are being checked for any that may need scraped and painted. The chair lift and boiler have been inspected for this year. Trustees are working on replacing the water fountains upstairs and downstairs.

**Questions/Comments:**

Serena Dube asked if there was board approval to withdraw \$20,000 from the Fawcett Estate Trust Fund to invest it with Benchmark (where other church investments are held) given that expenditures from that Fund over \$1000 have to be approved by the board. Von stated it was voted on by the trustees as advised by the Benchmark Financial Advisor, Bob OKorn. It had not been taken to the board for approval. Serena also asked for clarification on the checks written to reimburse purchases of gift cards given to the administrative assistant and custodian for Christmas. It appeared that there were two different checks written – one in December for \$100 and another one in January for \$100. Von stated that they purchased the gift card for the custodian in January because she had been on vacation over Christmas, but he wasn't sure why there were two reimbursements of \$100 each since each gift card was \$50. He said he would have to look into this. The gift cards are given to these two staff members from the trustees account because they work most closely with them. Serena said she felt that gifts to staff should come from the congregation as a whole, not just from the trustees. Jerry Puskarich stated it should actually be the Personnel Committee responsibility. Nothing was determined.

**Jackie Nelson-Acting Elder Chair:**

Jackie stated the Elders Reports were given to the Board. The Elders meet monthly to consider prayer concerns of the church and congregation. The congregation is divided into groups of "Sheep" and the Elders are the "Shepherds" over their group of sheep. She stated that their duties include checking on their sheep and making shut-in visits. They did go caroling over the holiday season. They also have a text chain to communicate with each other, sharing prayer requests or what is needed. She also mentioned Doris Sorice is on Hospice.

**Questions/Comments:**

None at this time.

**Serena Dube-Personnel Committee Chair:**

The Personnel Committee has been checking the task list for their duties for the year. She stated that all employees and volunteers are up to date with clearances and background checks for this year. The committee has noted the 2026 changes in pay rates (as in the budget) in employee files. Personnel committee members will begin unannounced safe conduct monitoring visits in Sunday school and Children Worship & Wonder. Emails were sent to volunteers and employees regarding this year's required safe conduct courses. The Leadership & Reporting Roster (a document from the safe conduct policy) was distributed to parents and guardians so that they know who within church leadership to contact should they witness suspicious activity or abuse in church programs. Any concerned raised will be addressed according to the steps laid out within the policy.

Questions/Comments:

Jerry Puskarich suggested to practice a mock drill of the response process laid out in the safe conduct policy, so everyone would know what to do if a report of suspicious activity or abuse would arise. Linda Reese stressed the need for documentation. Pastor Gena stated this policy has been in effect for almost 10 years and continually encourages everyone to become familiar with it. She stated the procedures and forms within the policy are very thorough with step-by-step instructions.

**Linda Reese-Worship Ministry Leader & Gathering to Grow Ministry**

Linda reported that the spaghetti dinner is April 25, 2026 4:30-6:30 p.m. Meatball making will be April 23, 2026. No time has been set. Rummage sale is May 1, 2026 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and May 2, 2026 8:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Set up for Rummage sale is April 28, 29, 30, 2026. The fish fry is on hold. If the Car Show happens we could sell hamburgers and hotdogs. Snacks and drinks have been purchased for the Wash High track students as they walk through our parking lot after school on their way to the stadium from school. This may get us some contact with kids. We have not heard back from the coaches at this time.

Question/Comments:

If we do not hear back from the coaches of the track teams, we are able to use the snacks for other activities in the church.

**Connie Sheller-Disciples Women's Ministry**

Connie stated we started the DWM meetings up again since it has been on hold since Covid. There are two groups. The afternoon group (Ruth) meets during the day on the first Wednesday of each month, led by Connie Sheller. The evening group (Tabitha) meets during the evening on the third Wednesday of each month, led by Linda Reese. The women choose names for the groups from the women of the Bible. The women came up with multiple ideas what they will be doing, including bible study, crafts, cooking, field trips etc. The group will also continue in the following ministries: Blanket Sunday, Dresses and Shorts in conjunction with Mt. Hermon Church, School Kits, Pad Pouches, and Blessing Boxes. There will be a Ladies Tea April 11, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Questions/Comments:

Serena Dube added that the women suggested that new curtains be hung in the small fellowship hall. Tammy Wallace donated some and Tom Wallace will help hang them.

Candy Wasalasky stated she was very thankful and pleased with the response for help with the tea.

**Sheila Harris-History Ministry Leader:**

Sheila was not in attendance.

Questions/Comments:

Pastor Gena stated they needed to work with Sheila to teach her about the history of the church and what she needs to do in this position.

**Jamie Hatfield-Funeral Dinners:**

Jamie stated the duty of the funeral dinners are to serve a meal to the family and friends of the deceased. They order food and supplies so items are well stocked. Congregation is asked to make desserts. They have made some changes to reduce waste. They have some upcoming dinners.

Questions/Comments:

Pastor Gena asked if they were getting enough help. Jamie stated yes they were. Brian Shaw stated the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday donations for the Funeral Dinner Fund are doing well.

### **Jerry Puskarich-Stewardship/Finance Ministry Leader**

Jerry stated we must make sure we get a W-9 from all contractors. These forms can be retrieved from IRS.gov website. Bob Okorn was at the last meeting and went over the 2025 investments and what is expected for the year 2026. He stressed we must think long term. \$10,000 from the Trustees Funds was invested with Bob O'Korn. Scholarship applications for the Reese Grant will be received and reviewed in the next couple months. \$1,000 scholarships are given to one student each from McGuffey High School, Trinity High School, and Washington High School. Jerry stated the Stewardship/Finance Committee is always looking for ways to improve things. He also stated he has all the financial records scanned and will be working on the personnel records next.

#### Questions/Comments:

Brian Shaw stated finances are slightly down due to the bad weather of the winter (and two Sundays without worship), insurances due the first part of the year, and payroll also contributed as there were three pay periods in some months. He was encouraged that most folks do try to give even for the Sundays when there wasn't worship.

Gary Ford asked if they thought about expanding the Reese Fund grants to other districts or considered increasing the amount of the grant. Brian stated they have been talking about that. Serena Dube asked if those attending technical schools could apply for the grant. Brian answered yes they were.

### **Gary Ford-Moderator:**

Gary went over the meetings he attends and stated that he submits an Annual Report as moderator.

#### Question/Comments:

None at this time.

### **Cara Hritz-Children's Ministry Leader**

Cara stated that our faith formation is concentrated in Sunday school and Children Worship & Wonder right now. We are considering branching out.

#### Question/Comments:

Brian Shaw asked if they considered starting VBS up again. Cara stated she had seen a weekend program series that might work. She also stated that new volunteers would need clearances and training for the very short period of time that VBS is and didn't know if that would be an issue. Linda Reese stated there are 14 people who have these clearances now. Perhaps these volunteers could staff a VBS.

### **Pastor Gena Sheller-Associate Pastor**

Pastor Gena wanted to know what others felt about the digital picture frame in the Narthex. She wanted to know if it needed to be bigger.

She stated the Wild Things Night was set up for June 26, 2026. The church will have the Community Room this year. Tickets are \$10 each and parking tickets are \$2 each. She also spoke about a new church directory. She has a free trial on [instantchurchdirectory.com](https://instantchurchdirectory.com). You can submit a photo of you or your family to the directory. Perhaps the online directory would be cheaper and less hassle than having a company come in to make a hard copy pictorial directory. Pastor Gena wondered if volume controls could be added to the speaker in the balcony and the speaker in the narthex because they are very loud. The one in the narthex has a switch so that it can be turned off, but the one in the balcony does not.

Question/Comments:

Brian Shaw stated he thought the frame should be larger and maybe something like a touch screen where you could pick a category to find out more about certain topics, like historical figures of the congregation.

Jerry Puskarich stated that regarding the picture frame we need to let the congregation know what we are planning so they have an interest. The group agreed it was a nice idea but may need to be bigger and placed where more people could see and utilize it. The idea was to put some history of the church and also recent activities and pictures.

**Rev. Chris Stillwell- Senior Pastor**

Rev. Chris stated the Tri-County Men's dinner will be at our church on May 21. Sam Johnson will be the entertainment and will be paid \$100. Next Wednesday March 18 at 2 p.m. will be the scam awareness and prevention seminar. It will last approximately one hour. The Labyrinth will be in the large fellowship hall on April 1 from 6-9 p.m. Rev. Dr. Darwin Collins' 50th anniversary of his ordination will take place at the California Christian Church this Sunday. Gary Ford will represent FMCC and present him with a Fairhill Manor display plate. Maundy Thursday service will be held at our church April 2. First Christian Church will host Good Friday service April 3 at noon. Baptism classes will begin April 19. The Blessing Service for the city of Washington will be held at the Pavilion, South Main Street, Washington. The date and time is unknown at this time.

Questions/Comments:

Brian Shaw stated Sam would need to be paid through payroll for the Tri-County Men's Dinner. An employee cannot just be given a check from the church.

The meeting ended with prayer by Rev. Chris. Vice Moderator Gene Sheller adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Candy Wasalasky  
Board Secretary

**Fairhill Manor Christian Church Board Report**  
**Secretary's Minutes**  
**March 11, 2026**

**We Assemble on God's Name:**

Moderator Gary Ford called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. He opened with a devotion, prayer and by lighting the Christ Candle.

**We Celebrate Our Past**

The FMCC Board reviewed and 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.

If any remarks: nothing at this time.

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

**We Present Our Offering**

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

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

If any remarks:

Jerry Puskarich asked if board approval was needed as the Stewardship/Finance Ministry was considering increasing the scholarships to other school districts, possibly Chartiers Houston, Canon Mac, and Fort Cherry. They may also think about increasing the amount of the scholarship.

Serena Dube asked how much was in the Reese Fund and if technical schools were also included in the scholarships.

Brian Shaw stated \$214,000. was in the Reese Fund. He also stated technical schools were included.

Jerry Puskarich stated he would be in contact with guidance counselors soon.

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

A motion to include other school districts in the scholarship was made by Serena Dube and seconded by Jody Mullis. The motion was carried unanimously.

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

Nothing at this time.

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

Von Lacock stated they had seven bids for the air conditioning for the Large Fellowship Hall. McKean's Plumbing and Heating will be doing the work as their price and warranty was the best of the seven. 50% to be put down at the start of the job. Von will be getting a price for the Small Fellowship Hall.

A motion to proceed with the air conditioning was made by Gene Sheller and seconded by Jerry Puskarich. The motion was carried unanimously.

Pastor Gena discussed needing new communion kits for the Elders. She had two samples she had discussed with the Elders at their meeting. She wanted to know if they could be purchased from the Memorial Fund. Also, could the Elders keep the kits if they chose to?

Serena Dube asked how much was in the Memorial Fund? Brian Shaw stated there is \$5267 in the Memorial Fund.

A motion to buy the new communion kits was made by Brian Shaw and seconded by Linda Reese. The motion was carried unanimously.

Jerry Puskarich stated when Bob Okorn was here, he stated the need for a signatory on the Memorial Fund. Von Lacock and Kevin Puskarich will be the signatories.

Rev. Chris stated there would be a scam protection seminar with the Washington County District Attorney's office Wednesday March 18, 2026, at 2 p.m. Walk the Prayer Labyrinth Wednesday April 1, 2026, 6 to 9 p.m. Maundy Thursday service will be at Fairhill Manor Christian Church April 2, 2026, 7p.m. The Good Friday service will be held at First Christian Church, 615 E Beau Street, Washington.

### **Other Discussion**

Ed Palfreyman stated Vitalant wants to use the parking lot for a blood drive. They would need access to the restrooms.

A motion to let Vitalant use the parking lot for a blood drive as made by Peggy Oliverio and seconded by Brian Shaw. The motion was carried unanimously.

Pastor Gena stated they are having snacks in the parking lot before Wash High track practice. On Monday they didn't have any athletes, but on Tuesday they had eight and they were very excited about this act of kindness.

Connie Sheller stated new curtains were donated for the small fellowship hall and would be hung soon.

Jackie Nelson thanked the Senior Minister and the Associate Pastor for all their work and is very appreciative.

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

Carmen Oliverio motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sheila Harris. The motion was carried unanimously.

In Attendance: Gary Ford – (Moderator), Diana Crowe, Carol Davis, Dave Davis, Serena Dube, Sheila Harris, Terry Houston, Von Lacock, Jody Mullis – Phone, Jackie Nelson, Ed Palfreyman, Jerry Puskarich, Linda Reese, Brian Shaw, Connie Sheller, Gene Sheller, Jill Throckmorton, Candy Wasalasky, Gena Sheller Associate Pastor, Chris Stillwell Senior Minister, Carmen Oliverio, Peggy Oliverio, Chuck Riggie

Respectfully submitted,  
Candy Wasalasky  
Board Secretary

**Fairhill Manor Christian Church**  
**Congregational Meeting**  
**Secretary's Minutes**  
**April 12, 2026**

Moderator, Gary Ford called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m. He opened with prayer.

We gathered for the proposal for air conditioning to be added to the small fellowship hall.

Gary stated there is \$7500 left from the literacy grant for the air conditioning in the large fellowship hall. The Trustees would pay the additional \$4100 for the small fellowship hall to be air conditioned also.

Gary asked if there were any questions.

With no questions , a motion to accept the air conditioning to be added to the small fellowship hall as stated above was made by Carmen Oliverio and seconded by Gene Sheller.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Carmen Oliverio and seconded by Brian Shaw.

The meeting ended in prayer at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Candy Wasalasky  
Board Secretary