

# 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

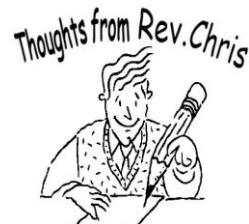
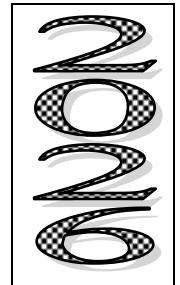
**Stacy Thomas**  
Wedding Coordinator

351 Montgomery Avenue  
Washington, PA 15301  
724-225-8610

[fairhillmanor@yahoo.com](mailto:fairhillmanor@yahoo.com)



# FEBRUARY



As the Super Bowl approaches and with the stepping down of Mike Tomlin as the coach of the Steelers I got to reminiscing about the last time the Steelers won the Super Bowl. When that happened, I celebrated the transformation of the city of Pittsburgh into the city of Sixburgh by going downtown to witness the parade.

It was a great experience of joy and jubilation but, because of the estimated quarter of a million people there, I wasn't really able to see much. People had been gathering as early as 5 AM so when I got there at 11:30 AM I was only able to just see the tops of a few heads as the players drove by. Eventually I made my way to the back of the stage and saw a few players from afar, and I got to thinking, what if Heaven were like this?

What if when we got there, there was a parade and we couldn't see Christ because of all the people who had already gotten there before us? This is similar to how it was when Jesus walked the earth. Crowds gathered around him and many longed just for a glimpse. The gospel of John tells of one man, Zacheus, who was short, so he climbed a tree just to get a look. I thought of Zacheus while I stood at the corner of Stanwix Street and the Blvd. of the Allies. There were no trees, but one person climbed a street sign, and I would be lying if I said I didn't consider it myself.

There are so many people in this world and so many Christians that it makes it hard to believe sometimes that Christ can care for and know each one us personally and intimately, and yet this is the promise he makes to us. I think that when we get to Heaven there will be a parade for all the newcomers and they will walk with Christ while the others cheer and clap.

In the meantime, I think that we are called to show Christ to one another. If Christ is only one person, then very few people will ever be able to know him personally, but if many people act like him and treat others the way he treated others, then many more will come to know him. Matthew tells us that when we help the needy "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Likewise, when we do this, we represent Christ to other people, we take Christ out into the world and go to the people, so that they may see him face to face. No crowding, no climbing, no standing on tip toes or shoulders, just a personal, intimate encounter. Now that sounds super to me.

Rev. Chris



2/3 @ Holy Trinity  
2/10 @ Home  
2/17 @ Home  
2/24 @ First Lutheran



**Alter Flowers** are a beautiful way to honor your loved ones: as a memorial for those departed, on a special occasion for those who are near and dear, or even "just because." If you would like to order altar flowers, contact Karen in the Church Office at (724) 225-8610. The cost is **\$35** for a vase arrangement. Flowers need to be ordered on the Monday of the week you would like them on the Altar. Order forms are also available in the Narthex.

**Ash Wednesday** is February 18, and once again we'll offer the interactive experience, the Seven Symbols of Ash. That day, seven stations will be set up to represent the meaning and symbols of Lent. You're welcome to visit each station in the sanctuary at your own pace, reflecting on the questions they present. When you've finished, Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena will share communion and a blessing. You can come anytime between Noon–1 p.m. and 5–7 p.m. to receive the ashes of Lent and the mercy of Christ. If those times don't work, call the office to arrange another time that day.



## Community Circle Food Pantry

In January, FMCC collected 10 jars of Peanut Butter, 10 jars of Jelly, 36 rolls of toilet paper and 102 other items for the Community Circle Food Pantry.

Please consider donating the following items to the Food Pantry during February. The number of people needing assistance continues to increase and the Food Pantry will be relying heavily on the community for assistance.

Peanut butter  
Canned Tuna or Chicken  
Canned vegetables

Jelly  
Cereal  
Canned Fruit

Toilet paper  
Juice Boxes  
Pasta Sauce

Soup  
Pasta  
Mac'n Cheese



2 Noah Allen  
2 Doug Graff  
3 Nathan Dallatore  
Ellodi Keene  
4 Sam Caldwell  
Shyla Rash  
Jaeden 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  
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



2 Jim & Judy Wheeler  
14 Dave & Debbie Dague

*Bring Your Change  
to Make a Change*



Each year in February, congregations across the United States and Canada collect a **Special Offering** for **Week of Compassion**. 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.

FMCC will collect a **Noisy Offering** on February 22 during the Children's Message that will be donated to the Week of Compassion Offering.

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

**Sunday, February 8, 2026**

**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 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	Pastor's Cabinet & Gathering to Grow 5:30pm NA 7pm	Dartball 7pm @ Holy Trinity	NA 6:45pm	Choir Practice 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am SouperBowl & Cornhole Tournament	NA 7pm	Dartball @ Home 7pm	Elders Meeting 5:30pm via Zoom NA 6:45pm	Choir Practice 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm	Dartball @ Home 7pm	Ash Wednesday Noon-1pm 5-7pm NA 6:45pm	Choir Practice 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am	NA 7pm	Bethany Class Luncheon Noon @ Eat'n Park Dartball @ First Lutheran 7pm	Stewardship/Finance Ministry 5:30pm NA 6:45pm	Choir Practice 6:30pm NA 7:30pm		

## **Fairhill Manor Church Board Report**

### **Secretary's Minutes**

**January 14, 2026**

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

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

#### **We Celebrate Our Past**

The FMCC Board reviewed 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.

Rev. Chris Stillwell added two additions to his report. He attended Literacy Council Meetings and invited those attending to activities of the church. He also added that he and the Elders performed hymn singings.

A motion to accept these reports was made by Dave Davis and seconded by Jerry Puskarich. 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, and FMCC Croppers.

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

Serena Dube asked what were the gift cards for that the Trustees purchased. Ed Palfreyman answered, those were for the Custodian and the Administrative Assistant.

Gary Ford also asked about the van sale. Ed Palfreyman answered the van was sold for \$2000.00.

Jerry Puskarich stated the internet service has much improved since the changing of the provider. His scanning time has decreased significantly.

Jerry Puskarich also stated the annual distribution for the Reese and Fawcett Funds. The details are in the Stewardship/Finance Ministry report.

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

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

No Business was brought forth.

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

Jerry Puskarich stated the Deficit Task Force (Gathering to Grow) would like to make this an ongoing ministry for the church to generate more revenue and fellowship.

Gene Sheller stated that we would need to amend the Constitution and go through the steps of creating a new ministry.

Jerry noted that someone suggested previously that we could add to an existing ministry. Pastor Gena suggested we wait until the meeting with the Pastor's Cabinet and the Deficit Task Force (Gathering to Grow) on January 26. It was decided to do that and follow up at the next Board meeting.

Rev. Chris Stillwell state that Soccer Shots who had inquired about using the Large Fellowship Hall has decided not to due to the fee of \$150 per use. They may still consider outdoor use in the summer.

Carol Davis inquired about the Red Robin Fundraiser. Pastor Gena said \$314.74 was raised, but the check is not here yet. It should be here around the first of February 2026.

Serena Dube questioned how was the church financially at the end of 2025.

Brian Shaw and Jerry Puskarich both answered that changes of internet carrier and moving around of hours for the custodian kept everything within the budget. They also stated the report breaks down every item.

Kevin Puskarich stated with the abundance of money we have at the end of 2025, should we be doing something to encourage more young people? Pastor Gena stated everyone should be asking what young people would like and focus on those ideas. She also stated would the church be willing to make those changes.

A motion to approve the Annual Reports was made by Gene Sheller and seconded by Ed Palfreyman. The motion was carried unanimously.

Gary Ford stated with the passing of Elder Carol Daniels, he is required to nominate someone as a replacement. He stated we would like to fill that position as Elder. A motion to accept the change in the Elders was made by Gene Sheller and seconded by Jody Mullis. The motion was carried unanimously.

Ed Palfreyman asked the Board for approval to pay Shearer Heating for fixing the pump motor as the bill was over \$1000. A motion to approve the request to pay Shearer Heating was made by Brian Shaw and seconded by Jerry Puskarich. The motion was carried unanimously.

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

Kevin Puskarich motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ed Palfreyman. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Attendance:**

Gary Ford (Moderator), Carol Davis, Dave Davis, Serena Dube, Sheila Harris, Terry Houston, Jody Mullis, Jackie Nelson, Ed Palfreyman, Jerry Puskarich, Kevin Puskarich, Chuck Riggle, Brian Shaw, Connie Sheller, Gene Sheller, Tom Wallace, Candy Wasalasky

### **Zoom:**

Von Lacock, Linda Reese, Jill Throckmorton, Carmen Oliverio, Peggy Oliverio

### **Non-Voting:**

Associate Pastor Gena Sheller, Senior Minister Rev. Chris Stillwell