

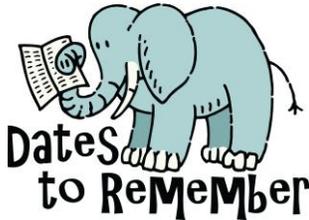
**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 17 Issue 12**  
**March 20, 2026**

- Dartball – March 24, 7pm @ Immaculate Conception – St James Parish
- Stewardship Finance Ministry – March 25, 5:30pm
- Choir Practice – March 26, 6:30pm

Stay up to date at [www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar)

## Disciple Women's Ministry

The Disciple Women's Ministries have regrouped. There will be 2 meetings: The "Tabitha" group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6-7:30pm. Linda Reese will lead this group. The "Ruth" group will meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 1-2:30pm. Connie Sheller will lead this group. Each meeting will include a Bible Study, an activity, such as a craft, as well as fun and fellowship. ALL women are invited to attend a meeting of their choice. Bring a friend. Please come!



- March 29 – Palm Sunday
- March 29 – Texas Roadhouse  
Fundraiser for the Literacy Council
- April 1 – Labyrinth Workshop, 6-9pm
- April 2 – Maundy Thursday 7pm
- April 3 – Good Friday Service at First Christian Church, noon
- April 5 – Sunrise Service, 7am  
Breakfast following  
Adult Sunday School only
- April 11 – Ladies Tea, 1pm
- April 25 – Spaghetti Dinner  
4:30-7pm

The Rummage Sale has been rescheduled for June 5 & 6.

## Online Church Directory

We are trying a new **online church directory** available to view on your mobile device! Instant Church Directory, the program we are using to build this church directory, has a free app for church members to download on their Apple and Android devices. Search for Instant Church Directory in your app store or use the following links.

To download the app to your Apple device, click here: [Apple - Instant Church Directory](#)

To download the app to your Android device, click here: [Android - Instant Church Directory](#)

You will be asked to enter your email address as it's listed in our directory. If your email address isn't listed in the directory, let Pastor Gena know so it can be added. Once you enter your email address, follow the directions on screen to complete the login process. After you login, the directory will be downloaded to your device. Anytime updates are made, they will update on your device too. In the app, you will be able to search for families and members and call, email and text right from the app. You will be able to update your own information and submit a photo of yourself/your family. Birthdays and anniversaries are listed starting with the current date.

More information can be found at [www.InstantChurchDirectory.com/app](http://www.InstantChurchDirectory.com/app).

Let us know what you think!



**EVERY SHEEP COUNTS!**  
*IS YOUR INFO UP TO DATE?*

## Spaghetti Dinner

A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex for those who are able to volunteer before, during, or after the **Spaghetti Dinner** on Saturday, April 25, as well as for individuals willing to contribute a dessert (or two) 😊.



FMCC Dartball team won their playoff game and are moving on to the finals. They will play at Immaculate Conception St James Parish on Tuesday, March 24 at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to come to the game to cheer on our team.

**He's Alive!**



Celebrating 22 Years of Live Musical Theater  
**Palm Sunday Weekend - 2026**

Capitol Theatre  
1015 Main Street  
Wheeling, WV 26003

**FREE** No Reservation Required **FREE**  
724-883-2241 or 304-215-3109  
March 27, 28, 2026 - 7:30 PM  
March 29, 2026 - 3:30 PM

Produced & Directed By: Heaven Bound Ministries, Inc.

New Hope Church  
22 Cortez Dr, Washington, PA 15301

**PANCAKE & SAUSAGE  
BREAKFAST**

Saturday, March 28th  
— 8AM - 11AM —



**\$10 ALL YOU CAN EAT!**  
Kids 5 and under eat free!

*Fifth*  
  
SUNDAY  
IN LENT

Fairhill Manor Christian Church  
*(Disciples of Christ)*  
351 Montgomery Avenue  
724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister  
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor  
Elders: Gene Sheller, Bread  
Connie Sheller, Cup  
March 22, 2026 – 10:15am

**Prelude**

Sam Johnson, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship**

Von Lacock

Leader: As we gather for worship, O Lord, help us let go . . .

**People: Of the things that trap us, the fears that silence us, the anger that haunts us.**

Leader: As we gather for worship, O Lord, help us let go . . .

**People: Of the worry, stress or anxiety that have filled us since the last time we gathered in your presence.**

Leader: As we gather for worship, O Lord, help us let go . . .

**People: Of grief, sadness, or a desire for something else.**

Leader: As we gather for worship, O Lord, help us pick up . . .

**People: The gift of your grace, your love and your life that fills us.**

Leader: As we gather for worship O Lord, help us say together,

**All: *We are here. We are not alone. Jesus Christ is among us today.***

**Opening Hymn**

*“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”*

Jody Mullis, pianist

I’m gonna live so God can use me any time and anywhere.

I’m gonna live so God can use me any time and anywhere.

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

Rev. Stillwell

Come, Holy Spirit. Breathe new life into our lives and our worship. Create new possibilities, in our imaginations and in our dreams. Send the promise of your hope into our depression and our despair. Expand our hearts and our minds, as we enter your presence this day.

Remembering the grace of God, who calls us to lay down our burdens, let us lift up prayers for ourselves and others.

O God, we pray for our world, that we may be responsible stewards of your creation . . . Lord, hear our prayers.

O God, we pray for our loved ones, that your presence will surround them . . . Lord, hear our prayers.

O God, we pray for those who hunger and thirst, that you may provide for their daily sustenance . . . Lord, hear our prayers.

O God, we pray for churches, that we may be empowered to do your will . . . Lord, hear our prayers.

O God, we pray for all humanity, that all may live in peace and harmony . . . Lord, hear our prayers.

O God, we pray for those who are dying, that you will assure them of your presence . . . Lord, hear our prayers.

We thank you, O God, for hearing our prayers. May we live in faith, rejoicing in the power of your Holy Spirit. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

*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:**

*“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”*

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

**First Scripture Lesson**

**Luke 12:22-34**

Connie Sheller

**Anthem**

“Give Us a Vision,” by Joseph Martin

Choir

**Children’s Message**

Pastor Gena

We will be reading the book *More* by I.C. Springman, art by Brian Lies, © 2012. We will consider “how much is enough?” and “how do we know how much is enough?” focusing not so much on how many things we have but on how much time and attention we have to focus on God.

Dear God, thank you for the many things we have that help us to take care of ourselves and to enjoy our lives. Help us to have not too much and not too little, but just enough that our focus remains on you. Amen.

**Second Scripture Reading**

**Philippians 4:10-20**

Rev. Stillwell

**Sermon**

**“A Simple Faith”**

Rev. Chris Stillwell

In life there are many rules that you might live by. Perhaps you have a rule to never go to bed angry. That is designed to help a marriage thrive, but you may also live by the idea that you should never let the sun go down on your anger so that it is not just your spouse that is spared your wrath. I hope you live by the rule to do unto others as you would have others do unto you. That rule was given to us by Jesus, himself, and is often easier said than done, but it’s called the Golden rule because its wisdom is truly valuable.

As a rule, we wash our hands before we eat, say please and thank you, and always look both ways before crossing a street, but do you make it a rule to kiss? I think you should, but understand, I am not talking about romance. I am talking about the kiss principle popularized in the 1960's by an aircraft engineer which implies that simplicity should be the goal of any design. The reason it is called the KISS principle is that it’s an acronym that stands for “Keep it simple stupid”. I think its great advice, but I don’t like to insult you, so I will do my best to come up with some other words we can use for the second “s”.

Whenever possible simple is better and nowhere is this truer than faith. Faith should be simple. It’s not that there aren’t a lot of complicated things about it, we are talking about the maker of Heaven and earth after all, but all of that is extra.

We’ve talked before about the Five Finger exercise that Walter Scott used to spread the Reformation Movement across the frontier. I use it in my baptism classes to teach that life as a Christian begins with

faith in Jesus Christ, repentance of sins, being baptized, believing our sins are forgiven, and receiving the Holy Spirit. It's not that this all there is to faith, but those are the basics that you need. It's like a sort of starter kit for faith if you will.

Since September we have been talking of Biblical principles for Christian living, and all we have done is to touch on the basics. That has been the whole point. We are keeping it simple sweetie! That is the trick, after all, to keep it simple, to not over complicate it. Lord knows that the church throughout its history has made faith ever more complicated resulting in split after split and division after division. The more articles of faith necessary the more opportunity for disagreement so to Jesus we say, "Keep it simple, savior!", and to us Jesus says, "Keep it simple sinners!"

Simpler is always better. In this way I am drawn to monasticism though I am no monk. Monks will spend their life contemplating the big questions of faith, life, the universe, and everything, but they will do it while living simply, because the more you complicate your life you find the less room and time you will have for the important things. To put it simply, they do not over complicate their lives with possession and other things which we do all the time.

Have you heard of the professor and the mayonnaise jar? A professor stood before his philosophy class and, when the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. Again, they agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded a third time "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed. "Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things -- your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions -- and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else -- the small stuff. "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a cup of coffee with a friend."

Often, we do not have time for the big things in life because we have made too much of the small things. Likewise, we also don't appreciate that the small things in life are really the great things, because we are too busy chasing other things that we think are better and that will make us happier. Finally, we often do not realize that the best things in life are rarely things.

For this let us hear Jesus as he tells his followers to look to the birds of the air and to the flowers of the field for models of how they should live when he says in the Gospel of Luke:

Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them . . . Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

Birds and flowers, like us, are part of God's perfect creation, and, when left to their own devices, they turn out well. Birds find food and a home, and flowers grow and bloom, but we are of even more worth to God, so Jesus tells people "Keep it simple saints!". Other translations have it as:

Do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. <sup>30</sup> For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. . . sell your possessions and give to the poor.

Jesus gives this advice in part because it is a good way to live in this world now. The more we strive to build up our wealth the more we miss of life, and more wealth often brings with it more problems. Not that any of us would refuse more money based on the fear that it would bring more problems, but we should know that striving for more of anything, be it wealth, fame, adulation, power, or possessions, does not guarantee happiness and often means having less of it.

So as a general principle "keeping it simple Sherlock!" is a good rule for life, but Jesus takes it further by suggesting that its simplicity is the key to the next life as well when he said:

But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. . . Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

For Jesus the more you complicate your life the more you complicate your faith and your eternal destiny with it, and this is where we get to another rule that I try to live by, which is, don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. I really think this is a great rule to follow, because the idea is simply that none of us are perfect, and if we are only satisfied by perfection, we will always be disappointed. This is a great rule to live by as a Christian, because if our example is Jesus Christ, the only perfect person, and we know that we are supposed to be like him, and we know that we will not be like him, then we know we will fail. We will fail in the eyes of ourselves and in the eyes of the world. We will then get discouraged and give up our faith, or we will be seen as a sign of hypocrisy and, therefore, an excuse for others to not even try.

This would be a shame to be sure, but if we look at it in the way that we are trying to be like someone who is perfect, therefore we know that we will have to always work for as long as we live, then the goal is just to be better today than yesterday. When we fail to forgive others as we wish to be forgiven, we will try again. When we are unable to turn the other cheek, we can forgive ourselves and forgive others their shortcomings, and try again to be a better person.

So let us apply the perfection principle to the KISS principle. Not all of us can sell all of our possessions and give them to the poor. In fact, if that is the requirement to get into Heaven, then Heaven is going to be a very empty place. That is actually the point of the monastic life. That is what they were able to do, and they do it on behalf of others who cannot. Understanding that not everybody could or would give up everything and live simply they spend their life praying for a world full of people chasing after things.

As we read this teaching from Jesus, we know that we can't do exactly as he says, but we should try our best to do better. Let us keep it simple sometimes. Give away the things that do not make us happy or that we do not need. Don't chase after things if chasing them makes us less happy. Remember that the best things in life are not things. In doing so let us remember to live. My brother once sent me a shirt that said just that. It said simply, "Memento vivere", which translates to "remember to live", and I think that is something for us to keep in mind daily.

Every day of our life is filled with chores and errands and to-do lists that need to get done, but, if that is all that every day is, when we get to the end of our life, we will have remembered to take out the trash, pay the bills, and drop off the dry cleaning, but we will have forgotten to live. We will have missed the songs of the birds, and we will have never stopped to smell the flowers. We will have overcomplicated our life by making the small things so big that we will have had no room for the things that really matter. It was almost like my brother was trying to say, "Keep it simple Stillwell!"

Life is hard and life is short, so let's not waste any time making it harder than it needs to be. Let us identify each day what needs to be done and do it as quickly and simply as possible so that we will have time for the things that truly matter, and let us have faith that the big things in life come from our God who loves us more than even the birds of the air and the flowers of the field. May that simple faith make your simple life simply amazing.

### **Call to Offering**

Gene Sheller

The law of God teaches us: "All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing that the Lord your God has given you." Let us return our gifts and talents to the Lord through the receiving of our offering.

### **\*The Doxology**

#46

*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**

Pastor Gena

Thank you, O God, for this opportunity to give. May this act of giving refocus us on you and your work in the world. Please bless these offerings that they may ease someone's burden and allow them to look up and recognize your grace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Pastor Gena

So many times we ask each other, "Where do you want to eat?" or "What should we eat?" This meal that Jesus instituted on that night so many years ago is so simple, so basic, that we are left with few decisions to make.

While we gather here at this Table each week, we can eat this meal anywhere. It's surprisingly portable. We can take it with us and often do, to wherever people are or wherever we may be.

The menu is already decided: a loaf of bread and a cup of the fruit of the vine. Everyone around the world has something that can serve as these two items as we partake to remember Jesus' body and his blood that were given freely as he was killed on the cross.

There are few decisions to be made about this meal, which leaves us lots of space and attention to focus most on the story here and its meaning. So we remember a gathering of Jesus and his friends to eat a meal like this, including one who would betray him. We remember his commandment to love one another as he loves us. We remember his rebuke of those who would use swords to protect him as he was

arrested. We remember his prayer on the cross, asking God to “forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing” and his welcome of the thief hanging beside him with him into paradise. We remember love that even that much hate could not defeat, life that death could not keep in the tomb for long.

We give thanks for this meal Jesus gave us to remember him - simple in its elements but not simple at all in its meaning.

### **Communion Hymn**

“’Tis the Gift to Be Simple”

Sam Johnson, organist

‘Tis the gift to be simple, ‘tis the gift to be free, ‘tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, and when we find ourselves in the place just right, ‘twill be in the valley of love and delight. When true simplicity is gained to bow and to bend we shan’t be ashamed, to turn, turn, will be our delight till by turning, turning we come round right.

### **Prayer for the Bread & Cup**

Gene Sheller

Our Creator, we come to this communion service to remember the sacrifice of your son, our savior, who was the sacrifice for each of our sins. Please help us to be more concerned about our spiritual wellbeing than our physical wellbeing. Please help us to be as content as Paul was when he wrote to the Philippians. We thank you for always being with us in whatever state we are. Please bless us as we take these emblems in memory of Christ, the bread representing his body and the cup representing his blood. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

### **Words of Institution**

Pastor Gena

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**

Pastor Gena

If you need a community to belong to, if you are thirsty for the word of life, and want to live as a disciple of Jesus, join us in his ministry and mission. You are welcome and needed here. If in the work and worship of this congregation you are being nurtured and fed in Christ our Lord, we invite you to join us in his service. There is a place for you in this family of faith.

### **Closing hymn**

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Sam Johnson, organist

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

### **Benediction**

Rev. Stillwell

Go forth in hope: The Lord is our light and our salvation. Go forth in courage: The Lord is our shelter from the storm. Go forth in peace: The Lord embraces us in the everlasting arms.



**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](http://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!

**Homebound Members**

Mrs. Mary Lou McDonough  
949 Bruce Street  
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokeley  
900 N Cass Lake Rd, Apt 324  
Waterford MI 48328

Mary Allison  
Barb Bailey  
Terry Bailey  
Donna Bakaitis  
Todd Barnhart  
Vanessa & John Bereznyay  
Jeff Caldwell  
Bryan Carter  
Maci Caster  
Wanda Chicone  
Angel Corbett  
Jane Correll  
Ruth Cox  
Carol Davis  
Sue Donaldson  
Benjamin Dube  
Steve Engle  
Connie Faust  
Kathy Moninger-Ford  
Raymond Fraley  
Terry Gahagen  
Barb Graff  
Judy Hanning  
Irma Harper  
Sheila Harris  
Aryn Hess  
Danni Iams  
Shelly Kubincanek

**Southminster Residents**

880 S Main St  
Washington PA 15301

Patty Pryor, Apt 102

**Southmont Resident**

835 S Main Street  
Washington PA 15301

Doris Sorice, Room 554

Chris Lewis  
Charlie McConnell  
Pam McCord  
Norm McDonough  
Dick Moninger  
Joe Neckerman  
Carmen Oliverio  
Peggy Oliverio  
Michelle Oneal  
Sandy Petry  
Betty Riecks  
Jeannie Riffle  
Joan Riffle  
Lori Riffle  
Mike Ryan  
Valerie Shetler  
Doug Smith  
Darci Sprowls  
Wayne Starnes  
Cathy Stewart  
Jan Stillwell  
Beth Teagarden  
Ginger Throckmorton  
Cece Watson

**Premier Resident**

36 Old Hickory Ridge Rd  
Washington PA 15301

Carol Brown, Room 213

**Transitions Healthcare Resident**

90 Humbert Lane  
Washington PA 15301

Doris Haniford, Room 121

**Evergreen Personal Care**

336 N Main Street  
Washington PA 15301

Donna Bakaitis, Room 224

**In the Military**

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

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.



**2025-2026 Fairhill Manor Christian Church  
Dartball Team**