

**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 17 Issue 21**  
**May 22, 2026**

- Memorial Day – May 25, Office Closed
  - Bethany Class Luncheon – May 26, Noon at Eat'n Park
  - Choir Practice – May 28
- Stay up to date at [www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar)



- May 31 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month  
**Funeral Dinner Fund** offering
- May 31 – Recognition of our **Sunday School Teachers and CW&W Volunteers**
- **Rummage Sale**  
Set Up dates:  
June 2 & 4, 9am-1pm  
June 3, 1pm-5pm  
Sale:  
June 5, 8am-5pm  
June 6, 8am-2pm

- **June 7 – Graduate Sunday**  
Fairhill Manor will be celebrating **Graduate Sunday** on **June 7**. If you are graduating or 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**.

- **June 7 – Community Blessing Gathering**  
1-4pm at the Main Street Pavillion
- **June 8 – Vitalant Mobile Blood Drive**  
The Blood Mobile will be set up in the FMCC parking lot, 11am-3pm
- **June 26 – Wild Things Game**  
Sign up in the Narthex or call the Church Office (724) 225-8610

**Sunday**  
**May 24**  
**Pentecost – Wear RED**  
**Baptism – Abby Graff**



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, **May 25**, in honor of Memorial Day.



**COMMUNITY**  
*Blessing*  
**GATHERING**

June 7, 1-4pm  
Main Street Pavillion

A few people are needed to represent our congregation at this event. There will be temporary tattoos and pamphlets about FMCC to hand out. If you are able to help for an hour or two, please contact Rev. Chris or Pastor Gena.



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  
Jackie Nelson, Cup

May 24, 2026 – 10:15am

**Prelude**

Sam Johnson, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship**

Donna Stenski

Leader: With visions birthed and dreams restored . . .

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Leader: With spacious grace and depth untold . . .

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

*All: With rushing wind and holy fire . . . Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

**Opening Hymn**

*“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”*

Jody Mullis, piano

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray. Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray. Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out his mouth came fire and smoke. All around me looks so fine, ask my Lord if all was mine.

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

Pastor Gena

Come, Holy Spirit, come again. As long ago you inspired, astonished, and confused your people on the day of Pentecost, so come to us now. Fill our ears with the sound of your breath. Fill our eyes with the brilliance of your presence alive in each other. Fill our hearts with your good Word.

Holy and Merciful God, we know too well our failures to listen as you guide us, our neglect of the gifts you have given us to serve and lift up each other. Forgive us for the divisions we nurture. May your mercy give us peace with you, peace with ourselves, and peace with one another.

We give thanks for all those who have softened our hearts that we might be ready to receive your Spirit in your time. We thank you for those who continue to proclaim the gospel with words and in service. Thank you for those who are dreaming new dreams of how we might continue to be your church in powerful ways into the future. Thank you for those who dare to cross divides and create understanding between people who look and sound different from each other. Thank you for your Spirit who helps us find a way where we thought there was no way, who weaves together our skills and experiences and ways of being into something more beautiful than we could have imagined.

We ask for peace where there is violence, care where there is neglect, companionship where there is loneliness, health where there is illness, comfort where there is disease, and love where there is hatred.

Please be with those who are newly baptized in your Church, especially with Abby as she enters the waters of baptism today. May the gift of faith grow and blossom through her whole life. Bless her as she continues to recognize the gifts you have given her through the Holy Spirit. May she use them to build up those around her as she shares your love.

We pray now in this silence for all of those who need your care...

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Breathe new life in us that we might share the good news of your never-ending love far and wide. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, who has promised to be with us always, and who teaches us to pray, saying...

*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:**

*“He Is Lord”*

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

**First Scripture Lesson**

**Acts 2:1-21**

Von Lacock

**A Children Worship & Wonder Story**

**Pentecost**

Pastor Gena

*Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, colors varied dark and light, they are precious in His sight; Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

**Second Scripture Reading**

**1 Corinthians 12:3-13**

Rev. Stillwell

**Sermon**

**“The Church Family Tree”**

Rev. Chris Stillwell

I've never been one who goes for climbing trees. It's never really been my forte or my interest, and I think part of that is due to the fact that, although I grew up in the country, when we first moved there we had no trees. My parents moved out of the city, out into the middle of nowhere, and where they settled their house was on a barren hilltop with nary a tree on their property. So the first thing they did was to plant trees, but it takes a while for them to grow, so when I was 6 or 7 years old, the prime tree climbing years, the trees at my house were barely any bigger than me. These trees now stand twice as high as their house, but pine trees are not good climbing trees. The branches are a little loose, and the needles sting and they scrape. So, as I was growing up, I never really climbed trees very much.

Now my children liked to climb trees, and we have a good one in the backyard. However, at the bus stop there is a small tree that they liked to climb when they were 6 or 7 and it was not sturdy, not enough for them anyway. One day they and a couple of their friends got to climbing the tree until the day came that we could all see coming, and the branch snapped. Everybody was okay, and we did not get an angry letter or phone call from the person who owned the tree, but that was the end of tree climbing at the bus stop.

So we are not a tree climbing family, but it doesn't mean I don't want trees, because they are wonderful, beautiful things. In addition to being able to climb them, there are other things that they are good for. They are good for shade. They are good for housing the birds. They are good for producing great fruits that we enjoy eating. They are good just to look at. Trees are also very good as metaphors since we've all seen them, we all know them, we all love them even if we do not climb them.

Because of this they are very good to use to explain other things, and, as an example, I give you my membership class today. I have completed another membership class, and the first thing I did was to show Abby a picture of a tree, and then ask, “What does this tree represent?”

The tree represents Christianity in its entirety, in all of its history. The roots of the tree are Judaism; the faith out of which we grew. The trunk of the tree is Jesus Christ; that which holds it all together, the one without whom there would be no tree, and the one that unites us all, no matter how far we are from each

other. We as Christians can be far from each other because the branches of the tree, which represent each denomination, each division over the course of the last 2000 years, have divided many times. Finally, each leaf on each branch represents each Christian in the world today, and throughout all history.

I think this metaphor is a very helpful tool to explain the ways in which the church has grown, the ways in which the church has split off and divided, and yet at the same time still united with many, many, many branches of this one tree that was planted by God in the form of Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago.

It is true that a person could be a Christian by themselves, they could read the Bible in their homes, they could worship God and pray to God, but like a leaf that has fallen from the tree, a Christian by himself or herself soon will wither and their color will fade if they are not attached to a branch, that is an outgrowth of the trunk, which is rooted deep in the soil. For we need the support of the tree, we need the support of the church, need the support and the shade and the comfort of the branches all together.

The branches, the denominations, lend the support, provide identity, and make manifest to us the church most clearly and evidently when the congregation is gathered together, but each one of those branches has a larger root from which they come, and together we are able to do much more and to know much more than we are apart. Some of my favorite writers, some of my favorite theologians, are not from my own denomination, the Disciples of Christ. They are Lutheran, Catholic, Anglican, and I can say that of all the churches that I've been to and all the experiences I've had, one of the greatest I ever had was working with a group of Methodist students, at my Disciples of Christ college when I was the program director at a campus ministry called the Wesley Foundation.

My branch I am proud of, as we all should be. My tradition I am proud of, as we all should be, but it is only one branch on a great tree, and each branch has much to teach, and much to show, and much to give, and that's why I love that image of the tree as the church, but it's not the only image that we can use. The Bible loves to use trees as a metaphor, however, when it comes to the church, the Apostle Paul used a different image, that of the human body with its many members, but still one body when he writes:

As the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body. So it is with Christ. For in the one spirit we are all baptized into one body, Jews or Greeks, slaves or free and we are all made to drink of one spirit.

Here the Apostle Paul at the very beginning of the church is trying to teach people how it is that Christ is in God and God is in Christ, how it is that we are in Christ, even though we are different, and he is trying to overcome the differences between Jewish people and Greek people, Jews and Gentiles, slave and free, men and women.

He uses this metaphor of the body that has fingers and toes and legs and arms and face and stomach. Each member is so important, and each member is so different, each member is nothing on its own, put together they are so useful.

Later on, in the same letter, he would say that in baptism each received the spirit in equal measure and become a part of the body of Christ, not the literal body that was crucified upon the cross, but the body of Christians gathered and collected. He would say, "the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you, nor can this head say to the feet I do not need you."

The idea is that each person is as essential to the body as another, though they are different, and they have different paths and different gifts given to them by the spirit, and that is how it is to be. There are some parts of the body that we think of as more important than others, though. So, maybe this metaphor is not as good as it could be, because Paul wrote at his time with his knowledge. Perhaps if Paul wrote 1600 years later, when the scientist Robert Hooks discovered the individual cells of the human body, and who named them after the rooms that monks would spend their time in studying and pray he might describe each Christian as being like a cell in the body of Christ, because, as I said, we could live without a toe



In the communion of the Holy Spirit  
we are joined together in discipleship  
and in obedience to Christ.  
At the table of the Lord  
we celebrate with thanksgiving  
the saving acts and presence of Christ.  
Within the universal church  
we receive the gift of ministry  
and the light of scripture.  
In bonds of Christian faith  
we yield ourselves to God  
that we may serve the One  
whose kingdom has no end.  
Blessing, glory, and honor  
be to God forever. Amen.

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

Abby Jeanne Graff

### **Hymn**

*“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”*

Sam Johnson, organist

Holy Spirit, Truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine.  
Voice of God, and inward Light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.

### **Call to Offering**

Gene Sheller

Bring your different gifts, your many languages, your unique ways of offering yourself to God and God’s world. All of your gifts are welcome here, in whatever way you are ready to offer them.

### **\*The 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

Holy Spirit, bless the gifts we bring with your powerful presence. Through these gifts, bring new life, new hope, new visions of life, new dreams of hope, and new possibilities for unity and love in our world.

### **Invitation to Communion**

Rev. Stillwell

In the story of Noah, in the book of Genesis, Noah was afloat for 40 days and nights, and when he finally wants to see if there is land, he sends out a dove to find land. The dove comes back with a branch in its mouth as a sign that the waters have receded, and the land is returning. I think that that image, in the very first book of the Bible, is prescient to God's plan for the world, and how things would unfold. For God’s Holy Spirit was given to us the day of Jesus' baptism, and then fully on day of Pentecost to be with us and accompany us in our time until we are eternally with God, and that Spirit was symbolized on that day by a dove coming down to light upon Jesus who would later say of himself “I am the true vine, you are the branches.”

From this we see that the Holy Spirit carries the church and it has always been so. Every branch of the church is carried by the Spirit, whether we know it or not. For it is the Spirit that calls us together. It is the Spirit that causes us to put aside our differences and focus on what unites us, Jesus the Christ, it is the spirit that helps us to love one another, support one another, communicate with one another, to be the body together, and we say that no more often than when we gather here at this table.

At this table, we remember when Jesus Christ was betrayed, yet did not condemn those who would do it, his disciples. Rather he loved them, taught them to love one another, and then upon the cross asked God to forgive those who had placed him there. So we gather as a church carried and united by the Spirit of God, to love one another and to love the world just as much as God has done, and to share with the world the good news that the one who created the world will save the world and redeem each one.

### **Communion Hymn**

*“Breath on Me”*

Sam Johnson, organist

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may  
love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

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

Gene Sheller

Holy God, at Pentecost you sent the Holy Spirit onto some people so that others listening to them heard what they were saying in the listeners own language. Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, You have also given each of “US” a unique gift so that our congregation has the gifts that it needs. Even so, some of us cannot believe that we are worthy to be here at this table or even in this church. We cannot forgive ourselves. We cannot make ourselves worthy to be here, but Jesus made us worthy by dying for our sins. We take this bread and this cup, which represent his body and blood, to remember his sacrifice for us. Help us to remember that “Jesus” made us worthy. Amen.

### **Words of Institution**

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**

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**

*“I Am Thine, O Lord”*

Sam Johnson, organist

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me; but I long to rise in the arms of faith, and be closer drawn to thee. Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died; draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.

### **Benediction**

Rev. Stillwell

Even as the Spirit sends new visions and dreams, the Spirit sustains us with ancient power and renewed strength and love. Even as the Spirit sends us forth, the Spirit goes with us to lead the way.



**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!

**Homebound Members**

Mrs. Mary Lou McDonough  
949 Bruce Street  
Washington PA 15301

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

**Southminster Residents**

880 S Main St  
Washington PA 15301

Patty Pryor, Apt 102

**Evergreen Personal Care**

336 N Main Street  
Washington PA 15301

Donna Bakaitis, Room 224

**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

Mary Allison  
Barb Bailey  
Terry Bailey  
Donna Bakaitis  
Todd Barnhart  
Vanessa & John Berezney  
Jacquie Best  
Jeff Caldwell  
Bryan Carter  
Maci Caster  
Wanda Chicone  
Angel Corbett  
Jane Correll  
Ruth Cox  
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  
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  
Kristie Sprowls  
Darci Sprowls  
Wayne Starnes  
Cathy Stewart  
Jan Stillwell  
Beth Teagarden  
Ginger Throckmorton  
Cece Watson

**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.