

Manor Minutes
Volume 16 Issue 45
November 7, 2025

- Notes of Thanks – November 9, 6pm
 - Deficit Task Force – November 10, 5:30pm
 - Dartball – November 11, 7pm @ Home
 - Elders Meeting – November 12, 5:30pm
 - Board Meeting – November 12, 7pm
 - Choir Practice – November 13, 6:30pm
- Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar

CHECK THIS OUT!



November 16 – Celebration Sunday

Bring your 2026 Stewardship Pledge Card to worship to be blessed during the service.

November 16 – Appreciation Dinner

Join us, following the worship service on November 16, as we celebrate the amazing generosity of our congregation. It's tailgate season, so plans are underway for a tailgate-type dinner. Hot dogs, hamburgers and buns will be provided. Sign up in the Narthex with how many people you will be bringing and if you can bring a snack (potato chips, pretzels, cheese puffs) or a dessert. Invite your family and friends to join the fun and fellowship. **Steelers game on TV included!**

November 17 – Red Robin fundraiser

On Monday, November 17, FMCC will receive 20% of food sales when the attached flyer is mentioned. Feel free to send this flyer to all your family and friends. Just mentioning the flyer will work too. Please let me know if you cannot open the flyer or if you have trouble forwarding it.

November 23 – Blessing Box Offering

The Disciples Women's Ministries will collect and dedicate the **Blessing Box** offering on Sunday, November 23. You may keep your box and write a check for your amount to: Church World Service or just bring your change. Thank you for participating in this ministry.

November 23 – Hanging of the Greens

Decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas Season at 5pm and join in the fun, food and fellowship. Everyone is invited.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a **Congregational Meeting** following worship on November 23 to discuss and approve the 2026 FMCC operating budget and church officers.

POINSETTIA ORDERS



Order your poinsettias for our Christmas Eve display in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Order forms can be found in the Narthex, the bulletin and at the end of the Manor Minutes.

DRIVE-THRU NATIVITY

It's time to **sign up** to be a character for the Drive-Thru Nativity. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Our **Drive-Thru Nativity** will be Saturday and Sunday, **December 13 and 14**. Please mark your calendars now to save both dates. We will need 50 people to be characters and more people to help in many ways to make this a great community event. Please ask relatives, neighbors and friends to participate. Give Connie their contact information if they can help.

There is also a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for **food** that is needed to feed the cast and crew during the Nativity.





Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
351 Montgomery Ave.
724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Gary Ford, Bread
Chuck Riggle, Cup

November 9, 2025 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Rev. Stillwell

Call to Worship

Serena Dube

Leader: The God of our ancestors has called us here.

People: We are witnesses.

Leader: The wisdom of the ages has called us here.

People: We are witnesses.

Leader: The choice to follow God has called us here.

People: We are witnesses.

Leader: The Lord of life has called us here.

People: We are witnesses.

Opening Hymn

"Morning Has Broken"

Sam Johnson, organist

Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

We sing your praises, O God, for your steadfast love endures forever.

When we are hungry and thirsty, you hear our cries and deliver us from distress.

When our souls faint within us, you come to our aid and revive us in pools of clear water.

Bless us with humility, that we may seek the welfare of others before our own honor and glory.

May your love be our foundation, that our steps may never falter as we seek the welfare of all.

You, O Lord, have blessed us so richly with the gifts of minds, bodies, time, talents, and abilities. You have given us responsibility and authority. You have entrusted us with resources that have great potential for good and evil. We are honored by the confidence you have shown in us, and we pray that we may carry this responsibility with honor.

We pledge, creator and sustainer of all things, that we will do everything in our power to be responsible servants. We will not squander our powers, and we will not waste the years you have given us on earth. We will view our talents with humility, because we realize that all that we have and all that we are come ultimately from you. We will spend our money wisely, choosing our purchases carefully. Nothing would please us more than to hear, at the end of our journey, the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of the Lord."

In this vein open our eyes and hearts to the needs around us. May we find ways to heal the sick, help the needy, serve the servants, and forgive those who have sinned against us. May we honor the sacrifice of the veterans amongst us and the service they have offered even as we honor the sacrifice you have made in your son, Jesus Christ.

As we come before you in worship, we know that you understand us better than we understand ourselves, and that before you we have no secrets. Cleanse our inward being, we pray, and remove anything that is unworthy in us, so our worship will be honest and pure before you.

We come with anticipation, knowing that you are eager to receive us, ready to pardon us, always loving and accepting us. Hear our prayer of praise and send us on our way rejoicing.

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:

“Glory Be to the Father”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson

Haggai 2:1-9

Chuck Riggle

Anthem

“The Gospel Shall Roll Forth,” by Lynn S. Lund

Choir

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

John prepared the way for Jesus by telling the people to repent. This morning I want to explain to you what repentance means. Repentance means a change of direction. It means turning away from what we know to be wrong and turning to God. I’ll show you what I mean.

Do you see this cup? We will pretend this is like our lives. Do you see this pitcher of juice? We’ll pretend this represents the good things God has for us. The glass might think, I’d really like some of that juice. So let’s pour out some of this refreshing juice. (Rev. Chris pours it onto the bottom of the up turned glass so that it all flows down the sides.)

Hey. What’s wrong here? That’s right. All this refreshing juice that represents the good things of God just spilled out and none stayed in the glass. If we want to be filled with the good things of God we need to be turned to God.

(He turns the glass the right way up and pours in some juice.) There, that’s better. This glass that represents our life needs to be turned to God in order to catch all that God has for us. Remember if we are turned away from God doing things we know are wrong we won’t be able to receive all the blessings God has in store for us.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 3:3-14

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“What Repentance Looks Like”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

Today’s scripture is one that is usually read at Epiphany, the 13th day after Christmas when Christians have traditionally celebrated the coming of the wisemen to the newborn Christ. The name epiphany is

given to this day because it means an “eye-opening experience” and this day is an “Aha!” moment when God’s presence and purpose is revealed.

This scripture has no wisemen in it because it takes place 30 or so years later when Jesus as an adult has come to then Jordan to be baptized by John. The reason this scripture is sometimes read at epiphany is because at the beginning of the year we like to begin the year by reading of Jesus’ baptism. At the same

time we sometimes read this during advent as well, because in advent we are preparing the way for Christ and in these verses God’s presence and purpose is revealed by John when he says:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

John speaks of preparing the way for the Christ, but who can make every hill and mountain low or the crooked straight? The people asked of John what should they do then, and to each group who asked he gave a different answer. As we explore Biblical principals for Christian living we should also turn to ask what should we do to prepare the way of the Lord. John the Baptist isn’t here for us to ask, but let us look at what his story tells us to do.

First, let us renew our focus on Jesus. Many saw John and stopped, “questioning in their hearts whether he might be the messiah.” John makes it clear that he is not the one who was to come and eh points to one “more powerful than he, who would baptize with the holy spirit and fire.” And no sooner does he say this remarkable thing than John the Baptist is removed from the picture as he is imprisoned by Herod. Luke never mentions him again and even does not indicate that he was the one who baptized Christ. This is important because as the Rev. Ron Shirey writes:

what Luke has done in his gospel is to remove John from the view, clearing the stage so all eyes can focuses on Jesus. To have an epiphany you first have to be looking in the right direction.

After all, what good does it do to spend so much time concerned with Christ the child at Christmas time if we ignore Christ the savior the rest of the year? When things go wrong go back to the beginning, so let us go back to the beginning of our faith by renewing our focus on Christ; on his teachings and his example.

Second, let us repent. John preached a baptism for repentance of sins, but that doesn’t mean that we do not sin after we are baptized. During my baptism class I teach the students of the early device that Walter Scott used to teach the basics of the faith to new converts. These aren’t the only things you need to know to be a Christians but they are the basic principals. He called it the five finger exercise and it went like this. . . Faith- Repentance- Baptism- Forgiveness of Sins- and the Holy Spirit Comes. We have talked about faith as a principal for Christian living, but second only to belief in Jesus Christ is asking him to forgive our sins.

But what does repentance look like? For this we can take specific directions from John. He tells the to bear fruit worthy of repentance. He told the crowd when they asked what then should we do? ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Giving has always been a part of being a follower of Christ and it always has been a part of this church. We give to

the less fortunate and we give to the church so that it can bring Christ's mercy and comfort to others. We cannot exist without giving and now, as we come next week to our time of commitment let us find a way to give a little more. If we each can give just a little more each month than last year we will ensure a sound footing for the church this year and for years to come.

To repent means literally to turn around so basically it is like walking towards God rather than walking to something else. If we are walking toward God when we are on the right path and everything we do should be to help others along the way. What are we walking towards? Sometimes it is false gods like money or success, other times it is the whims of the crowd, oftentimes it is our own desires and selfishness. Truth be told most of the time we don't know where we are going so it is hard to turn around.

I remember one time getting lost in a corn maze. It was fun until it wasn't and, after turning around for the umpteenth time and coming to another dead end, I realized I wasn't going to get out unless I had help. Eventually everyone in my group had to call for Bruce, who was the person whose job it was to get the poor people who were tired of wandering around in the maze. I was embarrassed to have to call out for Bruce to help me, but we shouldn't be embarrassed to call out to Jesus to help us.

So we need to examine our lives. Are the valleys being filled and are the mountains being lowered? Are we clearing out the obstacles in our lives to prepare for the Lord's return? Repenting is the removing of those obstacles and turning our lives to God. Then we need to live lives that reflect that we have turned our lives to God. We need to be honest. We need to be selfless. We need to give and serve. Our lives must show God's love. Are we doing things that show we have lives that are turned away from sin and to God?

Every time we open the gospels we hear John the Baptist telling us to prepare the way of the Lord by making his paths straight, filling every valley, making low every mountain and hill, making the crooked straight, and the rough ways smooth. If you wonder at hearing those incredible demands what on earth should you do here are ways that you can help to do just that, but, if you think of them as chores or obligations, as things you must do to earn God's love, then I am certain your repentance will not be the kind that bears fruit.

However, this year as you prepare the way of the Lord, I pray that each of you will have the eye opening, epiphany that "with you God is well pleased," and then, knowing this, doing what you know you should do will be all the more easy. And that will go a long way towards preparing the way of the Lord.

Call to Offering

Rita Puskarich

The Lord, our God, came into this world to save us all with overflowing grace, and faithful love. Let us, therefore, share the love we receive from God with others, through the gifts we give this morning.

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

We dedicate these gifts to you, Eternal One, as symbols of our choice to follow you. Receive these gifts of love as celebrations of your presence in our lives. Hold us to our promises, that we might share your blessings and wisdom with the world. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

Once I attended a Veteran's Day parade, and at the end was a ceremony to honor the day and the veterans for whom the day is named. A speech was given in which a man said that we should not honor veterans on just this day. Rather, we need to uphold our commitment and obligation to them each day by ensuring that they have the benefits and medical care necessary and befitting their service. For what good, he asked, does it do to throw a parade and clap and cheer as they go by, but then not be there for them later when they need help?

His words were true then and they are true today. Likewise they are true for us for us on this day as well. For today is called the Lord's day, and we should take this time thank and honor God for God's service, but if all we do is thank God, praise and sing about God, and, as soon as the service is over head home and forget about God until next week, what honor is that? For just as veterans were prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for us God did make that sacrifice in becoming Christ. The difference is that God does not need our help but others do. We honor God best by helping and serving our fellow men and women.

So take and eat this meal and give thanks and honor to God, but uphold your commitment and obligation to God by doing it every day, not just on the Lord's day.

Communion Hymn

"O, How I Love Jesus"

Sam Johnson, organist

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth; it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth. O, how I love Jesus, O, how I love Jesus, O, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Gary Ford

Lord, today we heard how John the Baptist told the people to repent and prepare for the coming of Jesus. His message is as important today as it was then. We come to Your table and by taking this bread and cup we acknowledge Jesus is Your Son. We ask for forgiveness for our sins. We ask for strength to serve You today, tomorrow and always. Amen.

Words of Institution

Rev. Stillwell

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

Rev. Stillwell

This is the promise of the gospel: God already knows you. God already loves you. God has already gifted you. God has already called you. You are invited— to deepen this knowledge, to feast in this love, to cultivate these gifts, and to follow this calling. There is a place for you among the people of God in this community of faith.

If you have come to know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and you would like to profess that you intend to begin a life of faith, learning to walk in his way of Love, you are welcome to contact one of the

Pastors to take this step. If you would like to join this part of the Body of Christ at Fairhill Manor Christian Church, to covenant to journey together in this life of faith, please reach out to one of the Pastors to learn more. We all take these moments to rededicate our lives to following Jesus.

Closing hymn

"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

Sam Johnson, organist

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bid'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.



The beautiful poinsettia tree that adorns our sanctuary each Christmas Eve is a tradition that we all look forward to every year. Please fill out this form and return it to the church office by **November 30 with payment**. Indicate the color and number of poinsettias you would like to order. Cost per plant is \$12. Please **make checks payable to "Fairhill Manor" and indicate "Poinsettias" in the memo line**. Plants may be picked up following the Christmas Eve service.

_____ RED Poinsettias

_____ WHITE Poinsettias

ORDERS are due by November 30

Given by

In Memory/Honor of (circle one)

In Memory/Honor of (circle one)



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 McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

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

Barb Bailey
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Berezney
Jeff Caldwell
Bryan Carter
Wanda Chicone
Angel Corbett
Ruth Cox
Dave Davis
Sue Donaldson
Craig Dotson
Benjamin Dube
Connie Faust
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Terry Gahagen
Barb Graff
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Alberta Haught
Aryn Hess
Danni Iams
Ed Jackman
Kari Johnson
Brandon Keenan
Von Lacock
Marylee Lawrence
David Leonard
Charlie McConnell

Southminster Residents

880 S Main St
Washington PA 15301

Bo & Patty Pryor, Apt 102
Doris Sorice, Apt 336
Chuck Wiseman, Apt 214

Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Dick Pilgun
Nyka Rash
Betty Riecks
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle
Mike Ryan
John Samida
Gene Sheller
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci Sprowls
Wayne Starnes
Cathy Stewart
Jan Stillwell
Beth Teagarden
Jane Teagarden
Ginger Throckmorton
Cece Watson

Premier Resident

36 Old Hickory Ridge Rd
Washington PA 15301

Carol Brown, Rm 213

Transitions Healthcare Resident

90 Humbert Lane
Washington PA 15301

Doris Haniford, Room 121

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.