

Manor Minutes
Volume 16 Issue 41
October 10, 2025

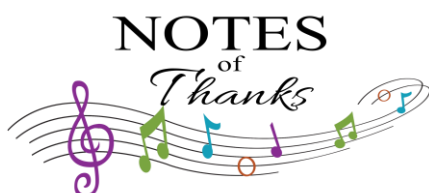
- Special Board Meeting – October 12, following worship
- Dartball – October 14, 7pm @ Avery Methodist
- Choir Practice – October 16, 6:30 PM

Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



October 26, 2pm in the parking lot
Sign up in the Narthex if you are
decorating your car or would like to donate
cookies and/or candy for this fun event.

The Bethany Class will meet at
Eat'n Park on Tuesday, October 28
at noon for lunch.



November 9
6pm
Featuring:
Pastor Betty Riecks
Sam Johnson
Dan Baker
Ambassadors for Christ



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.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who stayed after worship on October 5 to help pack **Church World Service** school kits! We exceeded our goal by packing 108 boxes. Your continued support of Church World Service is greatly appreciated.



October is a 5-week distribution month for the **Community Circle Food Pantry**. The Food Pantry will be relying heavily on the community for help. Please consider donating the following items to the food Pantry during October:

Cereal
Canned Tuna or Chicken
Canned vegetables
Canned fruit
Spaghetti Noodles/Pasta Sauce
Soup
Juice Boxes

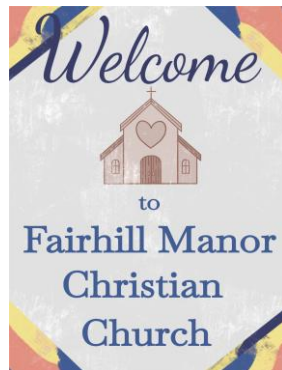
Together we can make a difference!

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. Thank you very much!

Fairhill Manor will be having our **Appreciation Dinner** after worship on Sunday, November 16th! It's Tailgate season! So come and enjoy a tailgate themed dinner. Final touches to the plans are still being made but there will be a TV for football and hamburgers/hotdogs plus. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex soon. Join us as we celebrate the amazing generosity of our congregation.



Our **Annual Service of Remembrance** will be held on All Saints' Sunday, November 2, 2025. If you have lost a loved one since last year's service (November 5, 2024) and would like to include him or her in this special service, please provide the following information to the Church Office by Wednesday, October 29: name of loved one, relationship to you/your family, date of passing and any remarks.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Sheila Harris, Bread
Linda Reese, Cup
October 12, 2025 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Stewardship Campaign Minute

Linda Reese and Serena Dube

Call to Worship

Chuck Riggle

Leader: Rejoice in God always! Again I say rejoice!

People: Rejoice in God's steadfast love.

Leader: Rejoice in Christ's enduring grace.

People: Rejoice in God's saving word.

Leader: Rejoice in the Spirit's gentle guidance.

People: Rejoice in God's healing presence.

All: Rejoice in God always! Again we say rejoice!

Opening Hymn*“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

Jody Mullis, pianist

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God; for good gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God; for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we
are sleeping, future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

Holy God, we come into your midst with praise on our lips and songs of joy in our hearts. We come to stand firm in our conviction: that good is stronger than evil, that love is stronger than hate, that truth will ultimately win the day. Keep our hearts focused on things that are worthy of praise, and bless us with your peace—a peace that passes all understanding. Keep our minds grounded in Christ Jesus, that we may know the joy of your justice and your righteousness.

Holy Presence, we confess that following you is seldom easy. When we become afraid, we allow our worries and doubts to cloud our vision and obscure our faith. When you seem far away, we replace you with hobbies and work, with desirable playthings and pursuits that leave us feeling hollow and empty. Forgive us. Focus our hearts and minds on things that are excellent, admirable, and worthy of praise. Shine the light of your love in our lives, that we may see within ourselves the things that are just, righteous, and true.

Bathe us in your compassion and love, Holy One. Clothe us in your justice and righteousness. Dress us in your mercy and grace, that our hearts and minds may be kept safe, in Christ Jesus, and that we may find peace. 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:*“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**Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7**

Rita Puskarich

Anthem*“God’s Peace,”* by C.J. Adams

Choir

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

This morning we are going to talk about a poster the children made with their teacher Cara Hritz during Sunday school on October 5 entitled “God’s Love in Action.” The poster includes cutouts of different items from magazines that the children then labelled with ways they could show God’s love with and through that item. Some are food items, others are warm articles of clothing, and some involve pets and caring for them. The poster will be displayed for all to see after in the weeks to come. Perhaps all of us can take a moment to look through a magazine or browse online and imagine how items we hadn’t thought about before might help us show “God’s Love in Action.”

Dear God, thank you for all of the different ways we can show your love. Help us to put your love in action in at least one new way this week. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading**Matthew 25:31-46**

Rev. Stillwell

Have you ever been hungry? I don't mean missed lunch hungry, I mean really hungry. So hungry that you thought that your stomach might eat itself for want of food. So hungry that even if there was food before you, you do not know if you would have the energy to eat it? Have you ever been so thirsty that you thought even a few drops of water would make a difference? Or maybe you have been cold. Not chilly but freezing, because you wore the wrong clothes and you found yourself out in a snowstorm wearing old tennis shoes so that the snow filled up every crack and crevice in the toes and the heels. You walk so long that you begin to lose feeling in your toes. You lose feeling so long that you fear that you might lose your toes all together.

But then you find your way home. You summon the energy to climb those last steps. As soon as you enter your home the heat hits your toes and feeling, slow and painful, but wonderful feeling begins to return. Before you were not sure you could take another step, but the heat, and the sight of the sink gives you the energy you need to pour yourself a nice glass of water to quench your thirst. After that it is no problem to open that refrigerator and eat the leftover pizza that cures your hunger.

How good did that first blast of heat hitting the tips of your blue and wet feet feel? What was the relief like when those first drops of clear, clean water poured over your lips and raced down your throat? How incredible did the food taste when it filled your empty stomach? Did it feel like a blessing given to you by God himself?

And how much did you take these things for granted when you had them before? Well, if you are like me, you probably didn't notice the heat on your feet before it was gone. Maybe you even complained often that there was too much heat. Maybe you hardly ever drank the water because it wasn't fun to drink. It's not that it tastes bad it's just that it isn't nearly as enjoyable to drink as a can of Coke that has sugar, caffeine, sparkling bubbles, even if it does not hydrate you. Maybe that pizza wasn't the best, and the reason it was leftover is because it was burned, dry, and had mushrooms on it instead of pepperoni.

Of course, there are millions of people throughout the world who would love to have any of the things that you and I often take for granted, and it was just these people to whom Jesus referred when he taught his disciples about the Kingdom of God in the 25th chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew.

First, if we read the whole chapter, we hear about the wise and foolish bridesmaids and learn from this parable that we should prepare ourselves for the time to come when we will meet Christ since we know neither the day nor the hour. Then we hear the parable of the talents and learn that we must use the gifts that God has given us to enter into the joy of our master. But how can we use our gifts to prepare ourselves for the day in which we meet Christ? According to this last story if we share our gifts with those in need we will not need to wait any longer for Christ to return, for we will be meeting him face to face.

34Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

The righteous were astounded to hear this and they asked him when had they done these things. He answered them: “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.”

This is what God's judgement ultimately looks like. There is nothing said about correct belief or right doctrine. There is no mention of an emotional conversion experience or a sufficient spiritual life. There is no mention of these things because they are ancillary to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Make no mistake, it is important to understand who Jesus Christ is and what he has done for us, but what good does it do to have correct belief but not feed the Hungry or give a drink to the Thirsty?

Of course, turning your life over to Christ's will is the first step to be a Christian, but how faithful can a person truly be if they welcome Jesus into their heart but show no hospitality to a Stranger?

God has given us the gift of prayer to help us in need and deepen our faith along the way, but what use is a person to God who prays everyday but does not clothe the Naked?

We want to share the good news of Christ but how successful will our evangelism be if we invoke Christ's name but do not minister to the Sick, or visit the Imprisoned?

There are 2 billion Christians in the world. 2 billion people who claim to follow the teachings of Christ and yet there are 852 million people across the world who are hungry and do not have clean water to drink or sufficient clothing to wear.

But we tend to think of hunger as a global issue in third world countries or war and famine ravished lands. Hunger of course is real right in our own country. 36.3 million Americans—including 13 million children—live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger. This is equal to more than one in ten households in the United States (11.2 percent).

Making matters worse is that inflation, food scarcity, and cutbacks on programs that help the needy have only seen hunger increase. The result of this increase in poverty is that America's Second Harvest, the nation's largest network of food banks, reports that 23.3 million people turned to their food banks last year, and forty percent of these people were from working families.

Add to these numbers the amount of people who are sick in our country and in our world, and the number of people who are imprisoned, and the good news of Jesus Christ that he who cares for the least of these does so also to him becomes a hard teaching.

I do not believe that Christians do not care or do not take Jesus' teaching seriously. Instead, I believe that it is such an overwhelming command to tackle such significant problems that we tend to think we are powerless, and perhaps we worry that we may be seen as goats rather than sheep. But remember that Christ did not tell us that we had to feed all the hungry, clothe all the naked, or heal all the sick. Christ said, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

In the midst of Christ's sometimes hard words to hear comes some truly wonderful news. In as much as we share what we have with one person we share it with Christ. Therefore, for Jesus, the only distinction between men that ultimately matters seems to be not whether they are churchgoers or non-churchgoers, liberals or conservatives, Catholics or Protestants or Jews, but do they or do they not love - love not in the sense of an emotion so much as in the sense of an act of the will, the loving act of willing another's good even, if need arise, at the expense of their own. "Hell is the suffering of being unable to love," said Father Zossima or, as John puts it in his first epistle, "He who does not love remains in death."

As you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to Christ. Just as Jesus appeared at his birth as a helpless child that the world was free to care for or destroy, so now he appears in his resurrection as the pauper, the prisoner, the stranger: appears in every form of human need that the world is free to serve or to ignore. Remember always that you cannot love Christ in the church if you do not love him in the street, the homeless shelter, or the refugee camp.

In the midst of such dreadful statistics that we have heard, provided by the organization, Bread for the World, there is also some good news, and that is hunger does not exist because the world does not produce enough food. We have the experience and the technology right now to end the problem. The challenge we face is not production of food and wealth, it is the will to distribute it.

There is no doubt that when the cause and the solution of a problem have been known and yet it has still persisted for years, the will to solve it is lacking, but I do not believe that the will is lacking here. I do not believe that the members of this church are afraid or unwilling to give food to the hungry or a drink to the thirsty.

We have, just since May, donated 264 items to the Community Circle Food Pantry which includes 55 jars of peanut butter, 36 jars of jelly, 18 packages of toilet paper. It is the least that we can do for the least among us.

But I believe that we will find that the even the least things that we do will go much farther than we think. Even as far as the Kingdom.

Call to Offering

Serena Dube

God's steadfast love endures forever. As recipients of God's love and grace, let us show our gratitude for the many blessings we have received from God's hand by giving of our tithes and offering.

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

Pastor Gena

Welcoming God, we give thanks for those who have welcomed us into this community of faith. Please bless our offering, that through it we may share your love and welcome all in your name. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

Hear these words from a hymn entitled, "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!" written by Thomas H. Troeger in 2000, and copyrighted in 2002 by Oxford University Press. As is noted at the bottom of the hymn in a Presbyterian hymnal, "this text celebrates the radical hospitality that characterizes Christ's welcome, which transcends time and reaches in all directions (Matthew 8:11/Luke 13:29). Saints of old are, like us, people in need of forgiveness, and the response to such pardon is 'thanks and praise.'"

*Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories that they bring.
Some are weeping; some are laughing; some have songs they want to sing.
Others ask why they're invited, burdened by the wrong they've done.
Christ insists they all are welcome. There is room for everyone.*

*Clouds of light surround the table; ancient followers appear,
Saints confessing how they wrestled with their guilt, their doubt and fear.
Peter tells of his denying Christ was ever in his sight;
Paul relates his fruitless efforts to obliterate the light.*

*Their sad stories are repeated in a thousand different ways,
But they share one thing in common: they all end with thanks and praise
For the host who has invited north and south and east and west
To converge around this table, where all life is fed and blest.*

*Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to be surprised
By the host whose hands are wounded, who will open wide your eyes
When he blesses bread and breaks it – truth and manna from above!
And then passes wine that wakens in your heart the taste of love.*

Come. You are welcome to this table as we share the bread and pass the juice. This is Christ's table and you are welcome here.

Communion Hymn*"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"*

Sam Johnson, organist

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Sheila Harris

Merciful Lord, we come to your table. Your painful sacrifice is on our minds. We look at the communion bread. We see piercing. We see bruising. We see the brutality of the punishment that you endured for us. We see your everlasting love. We gaze at the blood of redemption. We see your crimson mercy shimmering in this cup. We see your life being poured out for us. So, as we partake in eating this bread and drinking from this cup, we remember the sacrifice that you have endured for us, your broken body and your shed blood. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord. 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

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*"In Christ There Is No East or West"*

Sam Johnson, organist

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Let your love be genuine, hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good, seek what is precious, take delight in the life God has given, and may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, from this day forward and forevermore. Amen.

Fairhill Manor extends its sympathy to the Ryan family on the passing of Dee Ryan on October 8. Please keep Mike and their family in your thoughts and prayers. If you would like to send Mike a card, his address is: 59 Stadium Rd, Millsboro PA 15348.



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
Pastor Dave Mansfield
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.