

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 42
October 30, 2026

- Disciples Women's Ministry – November 4, 1pm
- Choir Practice – November 5, 6:30pm

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

Notes of Thanks

November 8, 6pm

Featuring:
Ambassadors for Christ
Dan Baker
Sam Johnson
Pastor Betty Riecks



November 22

Join us for our **Appreciation Dinner** following worship to celebrate the amazing people and generosity of our congregation. We will have chicken and biscuits with sides and dessert. We hope you can join us for great food, fun and fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex; please RSVP by November 15.



We are in need of animals for our Drive-Thru Nativity. We need: a tame donkey, 2 sheep that can be tethered, and a calf, goat, or sheep for the stable. The animals need to be here by 5:30 and taken home by 8:30 each night. We do give a small amount of money for gasoline. If you know of someone who can help us in this way, please tell Connie Sheller.

DRIVE-THRU NATIVITY

December 12 & 13

6-8pm

Character

SIGN-UP sheets
are in the Narthex



All
Saints'
Day
Celebrating those who
have gone before us

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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Diana Crowe, Bread
Jackie Nelson, Cup

November 1, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Gene Sheller

Leader: Let the nations quake and the peoples tremble.

People: God sits enthroned in the heavens, bringing justice and righteousness to all.

Leader: Let the mountains tremble and the seas roar.

People: God's glory is stronger than the foundation of the earth.

Leader: Let the humble of heart seek the living God.

People: God's goodness and mercy sustain the faithful in times of trial.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord.

Opening Hymn

"The Church's One Foundation "

Sam Johnson, organist

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord; we are his new creation
by water and the Word; from heaven he came and sought us to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.

Stewardship Campaign Minute

Melanie Wolfe, Community Circle Food Pantry

A Litany of Praise for the God of All the Saints

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

Gracious and Eternal God, we gather in your presence today to realign our hearts with your timeless truth. In a world that seems to be constantly shifting, where distraction is always near, we look to you as our rock and steady anchor.

Give us the courage to recognize and stand firm in what is true. Especially today, we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us – those who lived with integrity, stayed the course, and kept their trust in you. We live in days where it is easy to follow the crowd and turn away from difficult realities. We pray for our church and its leaders, that they may speak truth with gentleness, patience, and conviction. When challenges come, give us the strength to endure without losing our way. Keep us focused on the purpose you have set before us. Inspire us to live with integrity and active service, running our own race with endurance, until we join that heavenly chorus.

Search our hearts, Lord, and reveal what we are holding too tightly. We thank you for the blessings of comfort and enjoyment and for the achievements we have reached. Yet, at the same time, we confess that

we often seek ultimate security in these very things that cannot save us. We mistakenly believe that what we have accomplished or accumulated can secure our own futures. Gently break through these illusions. Show us where our pride or self-reliance stands between us and absolute devotion to you. Give us the willingness to hold these gifts loosely, trusting that nothing this world offers compares to the freedom of walking in your footsteps.

The demands of following you through times of sacrifice and self-denial can feel overwhelming. Remind us that by our own power, true transformation is impossible. Give us rest and relief in the assurance that your grace does what human effort never could. Fill us with the faith to surrender our lives entirely to you, knowing that true abundance is found in what we are willing to give up for the sake of your love.

We lift up the unseen burdens carried within our community. We pray for those facing trials and needs that no one else knows about – those who look perfectly fine on the outside, who smile, but are secretly hurting or trapped in difficult situations. For those among us wrestling with overwhelming anger, turbulent emotions, and sudden mood changes, we pray for your calming presence to quiet their storms. We lift up the young people in our community. Help them to navigate the unique pressures of these times, to anchor their identity in your love, and to surround them with mentors who live in your ways.

May our worship today encourage us to live our lives as completely surrendered to your guiding hand. We ask all of this in the name of the one who is full of light and truth, Jesus the Christ 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:

“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

First Scripture Lesson

Luke 18:18-30

Chuck Riggle

Anthem

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

Happy All Saints' Day! Now I love to celebrate, but it probably helps to know what we're celebrating, right? So if we're celebrating All Saints, who are the saints? Maybe you think about someone who lived a long, long time ago, maybe as far back as Jesus, or even farther back. Maybe you think of somebody who, in paintings or pictures, have a big golden circle behind their head, a halo that lets you know they're special.

Does that sound like saints, don't they? Yeah, probably, but that's not a whole lot. There are lots of people who aren't in pictures with fancy golden halos. Are they still saints? What about people that you love? Are they saints? What about you? What about me? Are we saints? Hmm.

You know, maybe it would help to know what a saint is before we try to decide who the saints are. So, what is a saint? Well, a saint is a holy person. That's why we see some of those fancy halos in pictures because that's a symbol of being holy. But how do people become holy? Do you just do enough good

things until you get kind of like a check mark, and then that halo shows up? No, of course not. That's not how it works. Well, God makes people holy. We become holy in our baptism, and God names and claims us forever.

So, knowing that, who are the saints? All of us! You and me and all of God's beloved people, we are saints. We are already celebrated today. Now we also celebrate God's people who have already died. On All Saints' Day, we say the names of those people, the people we love, to remember them and to give thanks to God for them. On this day, we say their names, each and every one, but they also have one big special name, and that name is the Great Cloud of Witnesses.

It's a pretty fancy-sounding name, isn't it? Yeah. What could a cloud of witnesses mean? Well, what do you know about clouds? They're big and white and puffy, usually and far away. But what about closer clouds? What do you know about those? Have you ever been in fog? What is a fog but a cloud down on the ground with us. Let's think about that fog cloud. What's it like to be in a fog? It's all around us, right? It's close to us. We can kind of sense those water droplets that are in the air all around us.

The cloud of witnesses is all those saints who are with God now, and they are part of our family of faith still because they're with God, and God is always with us. We can remember their stories. We can remember how they lived and the examples that they gave of how to be God's holy people. That's what a witness is someone who tells us what happened. You can be a witness, and I can be a witness. We can all be witnesses when we tell the stories of how God works in our lives, how we see God in the world, and how God makes us holy. So today, All Saints' Day is a special day to celebrate God's holy people and how God makes us holy. We don't have to celebrate only one time a year, because God is always making us holy, and that's really good news. So maybe the next time that it's foggy, you'll remember that there is a great cloud of witnesses all around us, God's special people who are holy saints. You can remember that you are a holy saint too.

Second Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 4:1-8

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Finish the Race”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

My sister-in-law, Jacki, loves to run. When I last visited her and my brother, I woke up at 10:00 to find their usually hyper dog, Plath, completely passed out. When I asked why she was too tired to move, I soon found out that she had gone out with Jacki that morning and had run 12 miles, almost the equivalent of a half marathon, all before I had even woken up.

I'm glad that I slept in that morning because I hate running. I have never been good at it. I can't do it quickly or for a long period of time. Whenever I would have to do it for gym class or for a sport I couldn't focus on each individual step and forget about the pain in my chest, the shortness of breath, and the aching in my legs.

So here I am now. Many years removed from playing organized sports and having to take gym classes. Therefore, I am many years removed from having to run. I would assume that I am worse at it now than ever before, so it isn't very encouraging to hear today the apostle, Paul, as he compares keeping faith throughout life to a race.

Writing his last piece of advice and encouragement to Timothy he then turns to his own life when he says, “*I have fought the good fight, **I have finished the race**, I have kept the faith.*” These are the athlete's metaphors. According to Paul, keeping faith is a fight to win and a race to run.

Knowing that Timothy is in the middle of his own race Paul, therefore, implores him to “*be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.*”

Paul knows that things will not always go well. Keeping the faith will not always be like running downhill, because there will be twists and turns in the path. There will be mountains to climb, and walls to push through. Paul can attest to these things himself, for he argued with other apostles and teachers, he fought with and cried about the church in Corinth, he was chained and bound for the gospel.

But through it all Paul was **persistent** and **patient**, and these two things were the shoes that carried him to the finish more than anything else. It would not have done any good for Paul to have gotten so excited about his success if he was just going to get so low over his failures. A life like that is an uneven roller coaster life. You go up, down, all around, but, in the end, you just end up right back where you started.

Paul reminds Timothy, and us, to avoid these extremes of emotions. When times are tough, he says, be persistent. When times are good, he implores, be patient. Keep a steady pace when running down hill in order to save strength for the ensuing climb.

Persistence and patience are the things we need to remember as we run our race for it does no good to start out of the blocks with all the energy and enthusiasm in the world, but then have nothing left for the finish. Jesus gave an example of this very thing when he spoke of seeds scattered in the wind in the gospel of Matthew. ⁵*“Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.”*

Many people seem to see faith as a 100-yard dash. Perhaps you have encountered such a person, who in the middle of their life, decided to join us on this race, and they are burning with zeal. They’re running in the fast lane for their lord and they’re looking over at you and you’re just trudging along, because you’ve been running this race for a while and you’re tired.

What matters isn’t so much how we start as how we finish. A person who started out sprinting and finished sprinting is the apostle, Paul. When he was a Pharisee, he was known for his zealousness. When he persecuted Christians, he did it to the fullest. When he converted, he became the most committed of Christians and his fame soon rivaled that of Peter and the other disciples who personally knew Christ. Now he is facing execution and he says ⁸*“From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day.”* Paul is triumphant in his words. He is sprinting across the finish line. He is doing good, and he deserves a crown and even a gold medal.

But if you’re like me, and you feel that you can never catch up to Paul, look to another example the Bible provides for us of how to finish the race. Look to Jacob. His journey was a hard one, and he even met God face to face. Jacob wrestled with God and came away **blessed** and **bruised**. ¹*“The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.”* Jacob finished the race like Paul did, but he limped across the finish line.

The story of Jacob keeping his faith in God even if wrestling with God caused him to limp reminds me of an Olympic runner. Derek Redmond arrived at the 1992 Olympic Summer Games in Barcelona determined to win a medal. The color of the medal was meaningless; he just wanted to win one. Just one.

He had been forced to withdraw from a race at the 1988 Games in Seoul, only 10 minutes before the race, because of an Achilles tendon injury. He then underwent five surgeries over the next year. This was the same runner who had shattered records at age 19. So, when the 1992 Games arrived, this was his time.

Derek's father Jim had accompanied him to Barcelona, just as he did for all world competitions. They were as close as a father and son could be, but then Derek got hurt. When this happened his father ran down onto the track and helped his son up.

"I'm here, son," Jim said softly, hugging his boy. "We'll finish together." Derek put his arms around his father's shoulders and sobbed. Together, arm in arm, father and son, with 65,000 people cheering, clapping and crying, finished the race, just as they vowed they would. A couple steps from the finish line, and with the crowd in an absolute frenzy, Jim released the grip he had on his son, so Derek could cross the finish line by himself. Then he threw his arms around Derek again, both crying, along with everyone in the stands and on TV.

"I'm the proudest father alive," he told the press afterwards, tears in his eyes. "I'm prouder of him than I would have been if he had won the gold medal. It took a lot of guts for him to do what he did."

Efforts like these are nothing short of heroic. I can't name you any of the people who won a medal in that race, but I will always remember him. We should remember people like Derrick and Jacob, for they show us the importance of finishing the race. We may be tired. We may be hurting. We may have fallen a time or two along the way. We may not have the energy of people who have not been running as long as us, but still we must keep going. Whether we finish the race with our heads held high like Paul or limping like Jacob we will win the prize. Just like an Olympic race, keeping the faith is a race where finishing is its own victory.

When I asked my sister-in-law how she can run so many miles, she says that she never thinks about all the miles at once, she just summons the energy to travel the next mile. She has faith that if she just keeps putting one foot in front of the other eventually, she will cross the finish line.

Keep the faith of a long-distance runner and no matter how you finish, whether it is with the wind at your back and a spring in your step or whether it is with pain in your side and someone to help you just be sure to finish the race. This is truly a race where everyone who finishes is a winner.

Communion Hymn

"I Would Be True"

Sam Johnson, organist

I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be pure, for there are those who care; I would be strong, for there is much to suffer; I would be brave, for there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

November is a quiet time in the midst of excitement. Before we had the changing colors of the fall, the excitement of Halloween, and soon we will have Christmas and all the rush of excitement that season brings, but now is the time to pause, to breathe, to rest. It is also a time to remember for this month begins with All Saints Day, continues with Veteran's Day, and culminates with Thanksgiving, all of which are times that we set aside to remember. We as Christians have just such a time for pause, remembrance and Thanksgiving. For this is what communion is for us.

In the midst of work, family, stress, entertainment, worry . . . communion is a chance to breathe, pause, and rest. While we are doing those things we also remember. We remember the saints who have gone before, and who are with us now at this table, and when we remember we then give thanks. We give thanks for the faith that has been shared and the one who has inspired it and who has invited us to this table. As you take this bread and this cup take a deep breath. Breathe out all your anxiety and breathe in the presence of Christ.

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

All are invited to share in this meal. Please come forward down the center aisle, as you are able, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and partake. Place your offering in the trays as you return to your seats by the outside aisles. If you are unable to come forward, the meal will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers & individual servings 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

“When the Saints Go Marching In”

Jody Mullis, pianist

O, when the saints go marching in, O, when the saints go marching in,
Lord, I want to be in that number when the saints go marching in.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Go into the world, in the strength of Christ, to love and serve God and your neighbor. Go out in joy, and live lives worthy of the One who calls us into God’s kingdom and glory.



**NEW
ADDRESS!**

New address for John Samida:
358 Washington Avenue
Barberton OH 44203



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
Gary Blackhurst
Jeff Caldwell
Macy Caster
Wanda Chicone
Jim Cope
Angel Corbett
Jane Correll
Ruth Cox
Mickey Cunningham
Benjamin Dube
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Raymond Fraley
Terry Gahagen
Barb Graff
Judy Hanning
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Aryn Hess

Danni Iams
Dave Kania
Bill Keenan
Thomas Lagon
Charlie McConnell
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Barb Moninger
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Linda Reese
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle
Perry Riffle
Mike Ryan
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci Sprowls
Kristie Sprowls
Wayne Starnes
Cathy Stewart
Beth Teagarden
Ginger Throckmorton
Cece Watson

In the Military

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

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.