

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 38
October 2, 2026

- Calling Commission – October 5, 5:30pm
- Dartball – October 6, 7pm @ Laboratory
- Disciples Women's Ministry – October 7, 1pm
- Personnel Committee – October 7, 3:30pm
- Choir Practice – October 8, 6:30pm
- Rummage Sale – October 9 & 10

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

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to the Disciples Women's Ministry for organizing the **CWS School Kit** items and to everyone who stayed after church last Sunday to finish packing them. This week, 110 school kits and 12 hygiene kits will be delivered to a Church World Service depot in Zelienople. Your help is truly appreciated! Thanks also to everyone who donated items for the school kits and hygiene kits.



Nominations for 2027 **Church Officers** are now being accepted. A nomination form can be found on **page 9** of the Manor Minutes and also in the Narthex.

Join us for LUNCH

The **Bethany Class** will be meeting at BOB EVANS, West Chestnut Street location, on October 20 at noon. Everyone is welcome.



- Set-up October 6, 9am-1pm
- Set-up October 7, Noon-5pm
- Set-up October 8, 9am-1pm
- Sale October 9, 8am-5pm
- Sale October 10, 8am-2pm



FMCC parking lot
October 25
4pm

Sign up in the Narthex if you can donate cookies and/or candy and also if you will be decorating a car.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Connie Sheller, Bread
Gene Sheller, Cup

October 4, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Kevin Puskarich

Leader: Come to Christ, our rock . . .

People: Our refuge and our strength.

Leader: Come to listen for God . . .

People: Our wisdom and our truth.

Leader: Come to receive the Spirit . . .

People: The breath of life itself.

Opening Hymn

"I Shall Not Be Moved"

Jody Mullis, pianist

I shall not be, I shall not be moved. I shall not be, I shall not be moved; like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved. When my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved, when my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved; like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.

Stewardship Campaign Minute

Susan Brossman and Kate McCann
Street MOMs

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

God, we gather today full of gratitude. You are the one true Lord, and we want to love you with everything we have – our whole hearts, souls, and strength – the whole of who we are. May we allow your teachings settle deep into our lives today, that we may follow you from transformed hearts, not just following rules outside of ourselves. Help us live our faith so naturally that the people around us catch the rhythm of your grace, whether we're sitting at home, walking down the street, starting our day, or winding down at night. May your Word direct our actions, how we think and how we run our own households and communities.

This World Communion Sunday is such a beautiful reminder of how big your family is. Right now, all around the globe, our brothers and sisters are breaking bread and sharing the cup. We come from different cultures, speak different languages, and face different struggles, but we are all tied together by the love of Jesus. Break down the walls that divide us, Lord. Heal our broken world, and help us stand shoulder to shoulder with Christians everywhere to share your peace and justice.

In the middle of our celebration, Lord, we bring you the heavy burdens we carry. We lift up those in our lives who are grieving deep losses right now. Hold them close in their sorrow. We pray for friends who live in constant pain and those navigating the hard limitations of growing older. For everyone dealing

with debilitating diseases, give an extra measure of comfort, patience, strength and hope. May we feel your presence in the quietest, hardest moments.

Thank you for the opportunity to witness a baptism today. Thank you for the unique story of faith that brought Fred to this moment. As he goes under the water, remind us of the invitation to leave the old life behind. And as he rises up out of the water, we celebrate the brand-new life we have in Christ. Fill Fred and all of us again with a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. Give us courage to grow the beautiful seeds of faith you've placed in our hearts.

Remind all of us of the gifts you've given us. Kindle a fire inside us when we feel tired or discouraged. When life gets heavy, remind us that you haven't given us a spirit of fear, but of strength. Keep us connected, keep us faithful, and help us love each other well. We bring all of these prayers to you in the name of Jesus, who brings us all to one table, where we 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

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Connie Sheller

Anthem

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Choir

Children's Message

Pastor Gena

Today is a special day in our church called World Communion Sunday. That means Christians all over the world...people in Africa, Asia, South America, and right here in our own city...are all celebrating communion today. We are all different, but Jesus brings us together like one big family!

Look at this map. Can you find a place you've heard of or where someone you love lives or has visited? People there and there and there and there and even us right here are taking communion today! Isn't that amazing? It's a great Feast that we all are invited to!

The bread they eat might look different from ours, the people might look or sound different, but they're gathered with church friends to eat the bread and drink from the cup. No matter who eats the bread or where they eat the bread, we all remember Jesus' love for each of us and how he taught us to love like God loves.

Let's thank God for people all around the world, and let's remember we're part of one big family...Jesus' family.

Dear God, thank you for loving everyone everywhere in the world. Help us to share your love with all your people. We love you, God. Thank you for loving us. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Rekindle the Gift of God Before Winter”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

Although you may have seen pumpkins everywhere for a month and have been drinking pumpkin spiced coffee since August, we are finally now officially in fall. Fall is absolutely my favorite time of year. The smell of the air, the coolness of the night mark its return as well as the coming school and football, and Halloween and Thanksgiving are not far behind. While pumpkins are carved and festivals abound, the thing I love the most about the autumn are color of the leaves.

It really is a time to gather in the beauty of God’s creation and celebrate the harvest that has come. It is a time for reflection and taking stock and preparation before the coming of winter. That I why the autumn has often been used as a metaphor for the latter part of our lives.

The second letter of Timothy finds Paul in the autumn of his life. He is in jail, in Rome, for disturbing the peace by preaching the gospel. Paul has led a full life, and he knows his days are short, so he takes the time he has to reflect on what is most important to him.

Of course, he remembers the gospel he has preached. He thinks of the churches he started and visited, but most of all, in his final letter, he thinks of his young apprentice and friend, Timothy. Unlike Paul, Timothy was raised a Christian. He was born to a Christian mother, Eunice, who in turn was born to a Christian mother, Lois. Paul, having known his mother and grandmother, sees in Timothy a sincere faith and takes him with him on his journeys.

Now on these journeys, Paul had many companions. In the book of Acts we read that he traveled with Silas and Priscilla and Aquila, among others. But in eight of his epistles, Paul singles out Timothy as being his companion. Paul sends Timothy to help with churches in his absence and calls Timothy, “my true son in the faith.” As it does not appear that Paul had any children of his own, we have to believe that when Paul called him his true son, he meant it.

Paul begins this letter by thanking God for Timothy and all that he has done, and he uses the opening lines to encourage Timothy. Even though Paul may be facing death that does not mean that the work of God should end. So, the first thing that Paul exhorts Timothy to do is to “rekindle the gift of God that is within you “

The gift of God that Paul wants Timothy to rekindle refers to several things. First it refers to ministry. Paul says that this gift is in Timothy “through the laying on of my hands”. Timothy has become, in his own right, a minister of Jesus Christ, and now the mantle is being passed. Rather than dropping the mantle because of Paul’s imminent death, Timothy is encouraged to rekindle this particular gift of God.

As we read this letter, we too are encouraged to rekindle the gift of ministry before winter. You may not think of yourself as ministers in the traditional sense, but everyone has a part to play in the ministry of Christ’s church. Take this time now to find a way to rekindle this ministry in your life. Whatever way that you can help to build Christ’s church that you have been meaning to do, do it now. Soon winter will come and it will be too late.

Second, the gift of God is the wondrousness of life. Paul says that Jesus Christ “abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” These are two enormous words that we usually keep apart. Life is normally thought of as being for this world, and immortality for the next. But we do not begin to understand life until its meaning is brought to light by Christ. For Jesus revealed that the wondrousness of life is found in the presence of God. Jesus also revealed the joy of immortality when he showed us that wondrousness of life is what makes us desire eternal life.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “What use is immortality to a man who had not learned to live half an hour.” To such a person immortality would be a curse rather than a gift, but for those who have discovered the wondrous gift of God that is life, desire for eternal life is strongest.

Paul wants Timothy to appreciate how precious life is and not take any of it for granted, but Paul's words have been preserved for us so that we might learn the same lesson. So take this time, now, to appreciate life in all its beauty. Soon it will be ugly, and you will not want to look out your window. The bountiful harvest of the autumn provides time for us to rekindle the gift of life.

People have often said to me that fall is beautiful, but they find it depressing because they know that, at the end of it, winter awaits. This is true, not only of fall, but of life as well. Life is beautiful, but, when it is over, death awaits. Of all the animals in this world human beings are the only ones who are conscious of the fact that they will one day die. Fall brings this home to us for it is a hint of the impending winter that is coming.

Knowing that each day we live brings us one day closer to the cold can be depressing. But I see the fall time as a liberating opportunity. Reminding us that the winter is coming but not yet here, fall gives us the opportunity to do that which we have been meaning to do. As most human beings never do what they should until they approach a deadline, fall is that deadline, so to speak, which gives us the time to take stock of our lives and to live up to our potential, to shine bright as we have never shone before.

This is why fall is so stunningly beautiful. For now, the earth celebrates the glorious beauty of life, saving the best for last, gloriously enumerating the majesty of God's creation before our eyes before the dread of winter comes. Life is so full of wondrous beauty that we very easily can take it for granted. Without death we could not appreciate life, and so the dazzling array of leaves in all their mighty hues catch our attention like nothing before. Fall shakes us from our slumber, rattles us from our summer daze to make us realize how precious life is, and to demand that we make the most of each day.

This knowledge that our life is finite, that winter must one day come for each of us also is a gift of God. As people spend the fall preparing for December by cutting logs and storing fire wood so that they might rekindle the warmth of long gone summer days in the heart of winter's night, so will we be able to prepare for our own winter.

But if the winter came for us and stayed forever. If we knew that once the last leaf fell from the last tree that the leaves would never return then the beginning of fall signaling to us that winter is near would be depressing indeed.

Because of this, we can say that the greatest gift of God is the knowledge we have that fall gives way to winter so that winter may give way to spring. No one knew this better than Paul who sat imprisoned and expecting to die. When he sat there in his cell, however, his last thoughts were not about that report he didn't finish at work. It was not about that deck he never put on his house. It wasn't about a tv show he didn't watch, a sports team that he never saw win a championship, or money he never was able to make. All he thought about were the people he cared most about. People who were to him as a family. He thought of those friends he had lost, Phygelus and Ermogenes. He gave thanks for the service of Onesiphorus. But most of all he remembered Timothy.

Paul wrote to Timothy:

I am grateful to God when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy.

In the autumn of his life Paul longed to take advantage of the gift that God gave him of his ministry, his life, and his knowledge that his days were limited to spend them with the person he loved the most.

When I was a young minister of 27, I knew a woman well into her 90s named Mary Catherine who knew more of life and faith than I did then, and the fact that she allowed me to teach her anything about God is a gift she gave me that I will cherish forever.

She believed she was a servant of God and servants do work as she had done all her life, so when she believed that she could not do work for the church because of her age, she wondered why God kept her here so long. Her life's purpose was driven by giving, and she wondered what she had to give.

Well, her presence was a gift to many. People who were taught by her followed her example. People who battled cancer looked to her for hope. People who were new to the faith looked at her at what a contented life in the Lord looked like. People who lost their husbands or their wives looked to her for comfort and inspiration on how to continue. She once said that when her Bill died that she might never smile again, but it was the kind, soft, and warm smile that what we all remember the most.

As a member of our church for 60 years through some wonderful highs and some devastating lows Mary Catherine was a steadying presence even as she herself grew unsteady. That type of peace was exemplified by a hymn she often quoted "His Eye is on the Sparrow" which she often sang to see her through the temporary and immediate difficulties.

Someone once remarked that if anything happened to her they didn't know what the church would do. Well, it did as it will to all of us, and what we did was to remember her life and emulate it as best we could so that one day people may say the same of us. That is what she had to give.

If the gift of God is eternal life in the hereafter that is made desirable by the wondrousness of life in the here and now, then there is no better time than the autumn to rekindle our faith in that gift. Now is the time, before the snow locks us indoors and keeps us separated from one another, to celebrate life with the ones who make life worth living. Now is the time to do those things that make life so joyous for us. Now is the time to simply be in the presence of one another and the presence of our Lord because now is the time to rekindle the gift of God, the gift of faith in eternal life, before winter.

Hymn

"Trust and Obey"

Sam Johnson, organist

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Reaffirming Our Faith

read together, led by Pastor Gena

PREAMBLE

As members of the Christian Church,
We confess that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God,
and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.
In Christ's name and by his grace
we accept our mission of witness
and service to all people.
We rejoice in God,
maker of heaven and earth,
and in God's covenant of love
which binds us to God and one another.
Through baptism into Christ
we enter into newness of life
and are made one with the whole people of God.

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.

From *The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*

Sacrament of Baptism

Frederick P. Webb, Jr.

Communion Hymn

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

Sam Johnson, organist

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come, why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home, when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he: his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me; his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free, for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

Today is World Communion Sunday in which churches and denominations all around the world schedule their communion services to take place on this Sunday. Of course, we do not have to change our communion schedule as we partake in the Lord's Supper every time we gather to worship. A friend of mine considers this day to be a Disciples of Christ high holy day. When I think of World Communion Sunday, I get excited about the fact that tens of thousands of Christian brothers and sisters around the world are coming to the Lord's Table to remember our Lord and to proclaim his final victory to the world.

It doesn't matter what part of the world we're hailing from, because from God's perspective there are no political, ethnic, cultural or national boundaries. From God's perspective we are One people, the People of God!

One of the things that excites me about church history is that the first-century church believed that Christ's church stands for a radical inclusion of all of God's children. They believed that all those barriers we as humans work so hard to build, were torn down by God in Christ. In an anonymous letter that survived from the early 2nd century addressed to Diognetus, a Roman official, the author actually speaks about Christianity as a "new race"

And that should be the message of the church worldwide “You are welcome here—every single one of you! For God's grace is enough for all! God's love is poured out to all, and whosoever believes shall be saved” (John 3.16). Whosoever!

With the arrival of the church of Jesus Christ a new age has dawned. Nobody ever needs to feel excluded again; for, as St. Paul says it: “all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with

Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

We see too clearly in our world, our nation, even in our own community there are people excluded, people who are not treated with equal dignity or respect, people for whom justice and opportunity are elusive. What escapes us in this world is the cornerstone of God’s kingdom, so let us come together as Christian but not the only Christians. For here as we gather at the table, we join Christians all around the world in declaring the radical notion that everyone belongs in God’s kingdom.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Connie Sheller

We thank you, Father, for your steadfast love for us. May we each strive to follow your holy words for our lives. As we partake of this bread and cup, we remember that your son, Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us. Bless this bread and cup which represents Jesus’ broken body and shed blood. May all that we do bring you praise and honor. 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

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.

Presentation of Baptism Certificate

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

“Spirit Song!”

Sam Johnson, organist

O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love. Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable do these things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ whose life serves as an inspiration for our living.



**NOMINATIONS
Due by
October 15**

Nominations for 2027 church officers are now being accepted. You are encouraged to nominate more than one individual for the position.

Please place any officer suggestions in the Nomination Box in the Narthex, the Church Secretary's mailbox or you can send an email to the Church Office: fairhillmanor@yahoo.com.

You can also call the Church Office at 724-225-8610.

I would like to nominate the following person/people:

Moderator: _____

Vice Moderator: _____

Secretary: _____

Church Clerk: _____

Historian: _____

Personnel Committee: _____

Asst. Financial Secretary: _____

Deacons: _____

Elders: _____

Trustee: _____

If you need more space for nominations, please use back of this form.



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
Maci 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
Charlie McConnell
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Barb Moninger
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
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
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.