

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 37
September 25, 2026

- Dartball – September 29, 7pm @ Home
- Stewardship/Finance Ministry – September 30, 5:15pm
- Choir Practice – October 1, 6:30pm
- Spaghetti Dinner – October 3, 5-7pm

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



Please plan to stay after Worship on **September 27** to put the CWS School Kits together.



The Blessing of the Pets service will take place this **Sunday, September 27 at 5pm** on the front lawn. You are invited to bring your pet on a leash or in a carrier to receive a blessing from Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena. Photos of your pet can also be brought to the service.



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.



October 3
5-7pm
\$12

Take out
available



- 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



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

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

September 27, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Barb Bailey

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,

People: For the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to the God of gods,

People: For the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

People: For The Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

Opening Hymn

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

Jody Mullis, pianist

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms. Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Stewardship Campaign Minute

Diana Dick, Executive Director
 Literacy Council of Southwestern PA

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

O Lord our God, you are clothed in honor and majesty, wrapping yourself in light as a cloak. We gaze at the vastness of your creation—the high mountains, the deepest valleys, and the endless variety of living things—and we stand in absolute wonder. In your profound wisdom, you made them all. The earth is full of your creatures, each one a testament to your boundless imagination.

Just as you have woven diversity into the fabric of the cosmos, you have woven it into the fabric of humanity. Today, we give you profound thanks for the beautiful, multifaceted tapestry of your people. Thank you for the gift of different cultures, languages, heritages, and life experiences. Thank you for creating us with unique perspectives and gifts, and for bringing us together as a community of faith.

Lord, we confess that we do not always honor your creation as we should. Forgive us when we allow differences to become divisions. Forgive us when we have cling to comfort rather than step out to learn from and appreciate one another. Forgive our impatience and our complaints about how hard it is to build a beloved community. Teach us to live with, listen to, and deeply love one another just as we are.

Savior Jesus, you sat upon the mountainside and blessed the poor in spirit, the grieving, the meek, and those who hunger for justice. Meet us now in all the places we find ourselves. Comfort those who mourn this morning, wrapping them in a peace that defies understanding. Fill those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, empowering us to work for a world where everyone has a seat at the table. Grant us the mercy we need to extend mercy to others, softening our judgments and widening our welcome. Make us makers of peace in our families, in our neighborhoods and in our world, breaking down the walls that separate us.

We lift up to you now the names and needs of those we have named aloud, each person on our prayer list, and those who occupy our thoughts today. In the quiet of this space, we trust that you hear the deeper longings of our hearts...

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us this morning. May our shared life be a living sign of your open, inclusive kingdom, and let our meditation and our worship be pleasing to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, we pray as he taught us...

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

Psalm 104:27-35

Connie Sheller

Anthem

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Choir

Children's Message

Rev. Stillwell

If I were to ask you to tell me what makes you happy, what would your answer be? Would it be something like "happiness is scoring the winning goal in a soccer game" or "happiness is being the most popular person in my class?"

We all want to be happy, and God wants us to be happy, but you might be surprised to find out that what Jesus said about happiness is quite different from what you and I might expect. Most of us think that to be happy means having a lot of money, having plenty to eat, having someone to take care of us, or being well-liked by everyone. That isn't what Jesus said.

One day Jesus went up onto the side of a mountain. He sat down, gathered his disciples around him, and began to teach them about happiness. Even though these are not the exact words Jesus used, I think they will help us to understand what he taught.

He said things like:

Be happy when you are poor in spirit, because then you will find that your riches are in the kingdom of heaven.

Be happy when you feel you have lost what is most dear to you, because it is then that you will feel the love of the One who is the most dear to you.

Be happy with what you have, because then you will find that your heavenly Father provides everything that you need.

Be happy when you are hungry for the things of God, because then you will find that only He can satisfy.

Be happy when you are caring for others, because it is in caring for others that you will find that you have a heavenly Father who cares for you.

Be happy when your heart is right with God, because it is then that you will see that God is at work in the world around you.

Be happy when you help others to get along peacefully with one another, because it is then that you will know the peace that comes from being a part of the family of God.

Be happy when others treat you badly because you follow me, because your reward will be great in heaven.

You see, happiness is not a feeling that is brought about by the things that happen to us. It is an attitude that we have because of what we have in our heart. We need to be like the bee, buzzing happily through life because of what God has done for us.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“All Things Meek and Merciful”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

"Blessed are the poor in spirit; blessed are those who mourn; blessed are the meek; blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness."

These words of Jesus are the opening lines of that rich treasure of Matthew's Gospel we know as the Sermon on the Mount. We call them the beatitudes from the Latin noun *beātītūdō*, coined by Cicero to describe a state of blessedness, which was used in the headings of the Vulgate, or the Latin Bible translation. These beatitudes are Jesus' way of capturing the interest of those who are listening to his preaching.

Just as a preacher in our day will use a clever saying or a cute story to capture the attention of the hearers, Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount with a series of sayings that would clearly arouse the interest of those who came out to hear him.

Have you considered how odd these words must have sounded to their ears?

"Blessed are the poor in spirit."

Then, as now, few would consider poverty of spirit a blessing; few would discover deep satisfaction in an empty soul.

"Blessed are those who mourn."

That must have sounded odd. Are we to find fulfillment and profound joy at the death of a loved one or the tragic loss of a friend? Are we to deny the painful realities of the lives we live? Are we to sugarcoat the emptiness that gnaws at our insides and pretend, at the peril of our souls, that it really doesn't hurt?

"Blessed are the meek."

You've got to be kidding! Meek? No way! God doesn't bless the timid, the weak, the hesitant, or the fearful. God blesses those who are self-sufficient-the strong, the able, the convincing winners!

Those who first heard these words of Jesus must have puzzled over what Jesus was up to. And Jesus had them right where he wanted them. In the sermon that was to follow, Jesus was going to teach in clear and certain terms what the kingdom of heaven was all about. And claiming a place in that kingdom called for a response here and now.

In the verses to come, we will hear Jesus' call to become the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Jesus will place before us a new understanding of the law of God and offer us practical wisdom on what it means to live now in response to God's desires.

In the meantime, all of the richness of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount begins here in these rather oddly worded blessings. Let's look at them again.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit."

Emerging from this blessing is a promise: "Theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

"Blessed are those who mourn."

Emerging from this blessing is a promise: "For they will be comforted."

"Blessed are the meek."

Emerging from this blessing is a promise: "For they will inherit the earth."

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness."

Emerging from this blessing is a promise: "For they will be filled."

These blessings at first sound more like curses until one hears the promise attached to each one. Being poor in spirit is no blessing all by itself, but when attached to the promise, it possesses life-changing power.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Mourning is no fun and hardly a blessing in and of itself, but attach it to a promise and a whole new meaning unfolds:

"Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted."

"Blessed are the meek" does not mean we sit idly by and wallow in some sort of shallow passivity.

Hear the promise:

"Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth!"

It is a promise that locates our strength not in self-assertion or human violence but in the unparalleled power of God.

The blessing of this present time--that deep fulfillment and satisfying inner joy that can be experienced now in the living of our lives--is possible because of the promise to which the blessing is attached.

For the believer it is a "now and then" proposition. As St. Paul framed it, "Now we see through a clouded glass, but then we will see clearly, then we will see face to face."

Have you ever stopped to contemplate how much your life depends upon promises? So many of the daily transactions that provide us with a largely civil and convenient way of life are largely a matter of simple promises:

Drive on the right

Don't break in line.

Be courteous to the elderly.

And watch out for the children.

Even when we enforce such things in laws and rules and manners, at their heart they are really simple promises upon which we all depend.

But, then, there are the big promises -- the promises we make to each other in more intimate ways:

The promises of faithful friendship.

The promises of love and fidelity in marriage.

The promises that bind us one to another.

People of faith are persons who have received, persons who have claimed for themselves -- the promises of God. Of all the things one might consider when one reflects upon God in our lives, we would do well to think of God as a maker of promises. God, the great promise.

In biblical tradition, God can be seen time and again as a maker of promises:

To Abraham and Sarah and to their descendants who numbered more than the stars of heaven.

From Abraham's call to Moses' leading God's people out of bondage.

From the kings of Israel to the voices of the prophets.

From the coming of Jesus our Savior to the preaching of Paul the Apostle, it all depends upon promise. It all depends on a God who is not only a maker of promises but the God who can be trusted to keep the promises that have been made.

It is not so odd, then, that Jesus would begin his teaching about the practicalities of believing with some beatitudes that connect the living of these present days with the promises of what will be in the kingdom that is coming, the kingdom which we know now only by promise.

Thus far, we have looked only at the first half of the beatitudes that Jesus recites in today's Gospel. As I read the second half again, listen for the promises that Jesus makes.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven and in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

I love that this is Jesus' first teaching. I wish we would cherish the beatitudes more. I wish more people were interest in posting the beatitudes in their church and on signs in their front yard, because we need more of these types of people in our world today. Lord knows we need the merciful, and the pure of heart, and we always need peacemakers, but what I wouldn't give for a few more of the meek. Not timid, not shy, not quiet, just people who remember what the prophet Micah has told us what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? I would go so far to say that if you do not walk humbly with God you aren't walking with God at all.

Jesus' first teaching was to repent for the kingdom has come near. His second teaching is to bless those whom the world does not bless, to claim that they are the ones who inherit the kingdom. From this we

should see that repentance, humility, mercy, peace, these are the things upon which the kingdom is built, there for they should be what are faith is built as well.

Call to Offering

Kevin Puskarich

Whatever gains we might possess, we regard these as loss compared to the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ our Lord. With great thanksgiving for the grace of Jesus Christ, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

***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

Generous God, thank you for showering us with your abundance and your love. Bless the gifts we bring before you now, that they may shower others with your abundance and your love. In your generous love, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

The apostle Paul famously said “It is in weakness that I am strong”, and, in saying this, he emulated the life and example of Jesus Christ. There is no description of how strong Jesus was, and, because no one comments on it, we can assume that his strength was average. The only time he made any show of strength was when he overturned the tables, but he did save his biggest show of strength for last. For it was when he was on the cross, when he was weakened by starvation and blood loss, when he meekly allowed people to nail him to the cross, that he was at his strongest and the reason is because that is when he was most loving.

Jesus’ strength was such that no nail could have kept him on the cross. Only love was able to keep him there. By choosing to stay on the cross for the good of all Jesus showed not only his great love but also his great strength. It is the same principal that says the meek, merciful, pure and peacemakers are the ones to inherit the Kingdom of God.

As Mary said:

He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

As we gather at this meal, we remember Jesus’ strength that was best showed through his love and give thanks that he had and has the strength to love us as he does every day. Let us honor that love by asking Jesus to strengthen us to love more.

Communion Hymn

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Sam Johnson, organist

Draw us in the Spirit’s tether, for when humbly in your name, two or three are met together,
you are in the midst of them; Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now your garment’s hem.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Sheila Harris

Heavenly Father, we come to your table today with grateful hearts to remember the ultimate sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, we thank you for your body, broken for us on the cross, and your precious blood, poured out for the forgiveness of our sins. As we partake of the bread and this cup together, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with reverence and gratitude. Remind us of the new covenant of grace, make us one in your love, and renew our spirits to live for your glory. In Jesus' holy name, we pray. Amen

Words of Institution

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Sharing Holy Communion

You will receive the bread and cup together. Please hold them; we will take each together as one body. Disciples of Christ believe in an Open Table. All who profess Christ and follow Him are welcome to share His meal. Gluten free wafers are available in the Narthex.

Call to Discipleship

If you need a community to belong to, if you are thirsty for the word of life and want to live as a disciple of Jesus, join us in his ministry and mission. You are welcome and needed here. If in the work and worship of this congregation you are being nurtured and fed in Christ our Lord, we invite you to join us in his service. There is a place for you in this family of faith.

Closing Hymn

"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!"

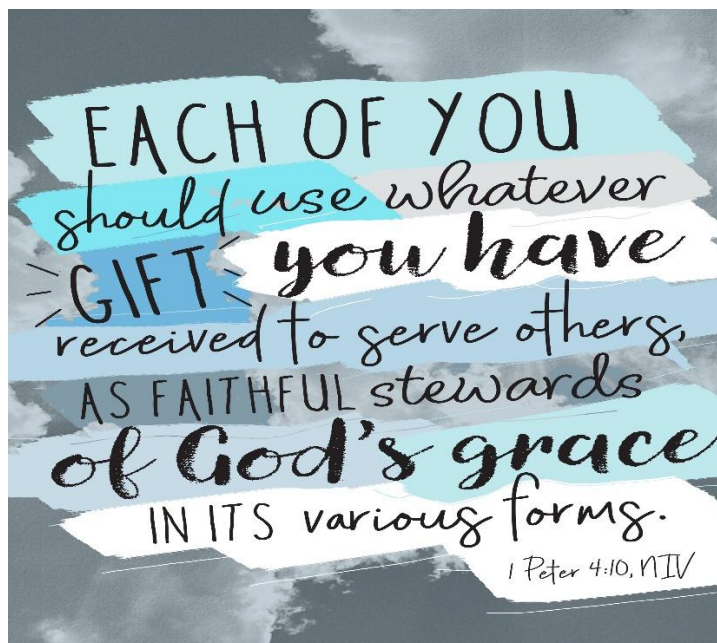
Sam Johnson, organist

He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught! Whate'er I do,
where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his
own hand he leadeth me: his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Live as Christ in all that you say. Love as Christ in all that you do. Go forth as the children of God.





**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.

I would like to nominate the following person/people:

Moderator: _____

Vice Moderator: _____

Secretary: _____

Church Clerk: _____

Historian: _____

Personnel Committee: _____

Asst. Financial Secretary: _____

Deacons: _____

Elders: _____

Trustees: _____

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.