

Manor Minutes
Volume 15 Issue 36
September 6, 2024

- Darball – September 10, 7pm @ Home
- Elders Meeting – September 11, 5:30pm
- Board Meeting – September 11, 7pm
- Choir Practice – September 12, 6:30pm

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



September 15 - All Sunday School classes will resume

Children (K – 3rd grade): Cara Hritz, Children's Room downstairs next to women's restroom

Youth (4th grade +) - Pastor Gena, Balcony

Bykota Class (mixed age adult): This class will meet in the Small Fellowship Hall. All are invited and welcome.



Tri-County Men's Dinner

September 19, 2024

Registration 5pm

Dinner 6pm

Christian Church of
Connellsville

\$15 Pasta Bar with salad

RSVP to Karen by 9/16

September 20 - **The Living Word Outdoor Drama** in Cambridge, Ohio (sign-up sheet in the Narthex). We will meet at the church at 5:30pm and carpool or take the church van to the play.

Cost of tickets are;

\$16 for seniors (60+)

\$18 for adults (13-59)

\$6 for children (4-12)

If we have a group of **20 or more adults and/or seniors**, we will qualify for the group rate of \$15 per person

Please let the Church Office know if you are planning to attend by **September 13**.



Tags are on the bulletin board in the Narthex for the items needed to complete our **CWS School Kits**.

- Blunt Scissors
- Centimeter/inch rulers
- Hand-held pencil sharpeners
- Large erasers
- Unsharpened pencils
- 24-count boxes of crayons

Choose a tag or tags, purchase the specific item on the tag and return item to the church with the tag (so they can be used again next year). Return all purchased items to the church by **September 22**. Please also plan to stay after worship on **October 6** to pack the school kits.



Conduct Tip

Be sure to include a parent/guardian in any online or social media interactions with children or youth.



The **Drive-Thru Nativity** is fast approaching. This year the Nativity will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 14 and 15. Please let Connie Sheller know ASAP if you know you CANNOT participate. We will again need 50 people to be characters as well as others to help in many different ways. Please ask relatives, neighbors, friends, to participate. Give Connie their contact information if they can help. Thank you very much!

We will be collecting **plastic lids** for the Washington Park's recycle program until October 31. Please make sure the caps are clean and do not have any paper inside the lids.

We will also collect **empty medicine bottles** (with lids, without paper labels) to be sent to the Matthew 25 Ministries in Blue Ash, Ohio (near Cincinnati) during the months of September and October. They use the bottles for medicine to be sent to third world countries. Please make sure the bottles have been washed, dried and the labels are removed.



Notes of Thanks

Carmen Oliverio has announced that the Notes of Thanks concert will be held November 10 at 6pm here at Fairhill Manor. He says to "mark it on your calendar." If there is a place that you know of that we can place a poster, please let him know.



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
Jody Mullis, Cup
September 8, 2024 – 10:15am

Prelude

John Stahlman, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Charlotte Stillwell

Leader: Gracious God, as we answer the call to worship,

People: We open our souls to your presence.

Leader: You are the Light of the world, and we invite your light to shine upon us.

People: Fill us with your grace and wisdom, and may our worship be a reflection of our devotion to you.

Leader: Shine your light upon us,

All: That we may share your light with the world.

Opening Hymn

“Shine Jesus Shine”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory. Blaze, spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy. Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Gena

O God, you paint our world with colors, dazzling us with the variety of hues and endless stunning combinations. You take our breath away as the sun sets and spills bold oranges, pinks and reds across our sky. You grab our attention as a stunning red cardinal flies by and perches against deep green foliage. We stand in awe as the wondrous, yellow full moon rises majestically against the backdrop of a deep navy sky. We pause, mesmerized by the beauty, and can only lift our praise in worship of you.

Loving God, you comfort us in times of grief, lift our heads in times of sorrow. In you, we find that we never say goodbye but only so long, for we know that our loved ones are safe in your arms. Be with those who mourn, we pray. Be with those who are experiencing loss and those adapting to new ways of living. As time goes on, would you work our despair and hopelessness into beauty and grace? Would you shine your light in our darkness and reveal the colors even there?

O God, you gather us together and call us your children. All of us different, all of us beautiful. With your love, you bind us together, into a new creation. Give us the grace to marvel at the work of your hands among us: the ways you fit us together, the ways you combine our talents and skills to shine beauty and light into our world. You are the great artist, the master painter, the architect who envisions the grandeur before we can see it.

Please be with those living without color: those mired in depression or addiction, those without hope and those without purpose. Please be with those whose worlds are bursting with color: those celebrating new births and new love, those newly freed from disease and abuse. Please bless all those who bring color into our lives: children with the pictures they draw and color, artists who paint our portraits and sketch the landscapes of our world, those who quilt and those who combine colors and fabrics into outfits, farmers who paint the hillsides with crops, and florists who arrange your colors to bring meaning and comfort.

We ask your guidance and your comfort, your strength and your compassion on all those we have named aloud, those on our prayer list, and all who are in our hearts and on our minds this morning...

Giver of every color, we praise you for the endless display that is our world. Open our eyes again to the beauty we can see and to the beauty that only our hearts can behold. We pray all of this in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ, who teaches us to pray this way...

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 Reading

Exodus 33:12-23

Rita Puskarich

Rededication of the Stained Glass

Leaders: We thank you for the lights we have kindled, the light of altar and of sanctuary;

People: Small lights of those who meditate at midnight, and lights directed through the colored panes of windows,

Leaders: And light reflected from the polished stone, the gilded carven wood, the colored fresco.

People: Our gaze is submarine,

Leaders: Our eyes look upward and see the light that fractures through unquiet water.

People: We see the light but see not whence it comes.

All: O Light Invisible, we glorify you!

Leaders: In our existence in this dark world we cry out for light.

People: We are saddened when the clouds come, or when the day ends. When the winter comes we long for the sunlight to return.

Leaders: At Christmas we remember that Christ “the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (John 1:9)

People: At Easter we celebrate that the Light of the world “shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

Leaders: Every Sunday we gather to celebrate that the Kingdom of Heaven “has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb” (Rev 21:23)

People: Therefore we thank you, O Lord, for this light that shines down from on high.

Leaders: And we thank you, our God, for the panels of color that remind us of your varied and beautiful creation,

People: For they are glimpses of your presence in this church, in this world, and in our lives.

All: O Light Invisible, we praise you and glorify you!

Let us pray.

Radiant God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for the beautification of your church, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as we rededicate these stained glass windows and their protective coverings to your praise and glory.

Colorful God, as the whole world is filled with the radiance of your glory may our church see your light shine in new ways. Accept our offering of these stained glass windows which we now rededicate to you for the beautification of our sanctuary and the inspiration of your people. And may they be a reminder of the saints that you have given us whose lives have brightened our own with their light that they received from you.

Illuminating God, grant that as the light shines through in its many colors, so our lives may show forth the beauty of your manifold gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anthem

“God of Eternity”

Choir

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

What is your favorite color? Maybe that was easy but you may have more than one. For me it is orange but not just any shade of orange. My favorite orange is burnt orange. Would you like to live in a world that is all your favorite color? I would say no.

How about you? It is nice to see different colors. That is why God created us differently. We are all different colors, and I am not just talking about the color of our skins, clothes, hair, or eyes. We are different in many ways and God made us different for a purpose.

Paul says it like this, “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.” God created us unique so that we have our own gifts like a superpower. Look at a stained glass window. No one color is more important. They are all needed. All shapes are needed. Without one piece it would be incomplete.

Like windows when light shines through and lights it up God will shine through us.

Second Scripture Reading

Revelation 21:9-14; 22-25

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Stained Glass to Stainless Souls”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

I have been to a lot of churches in my time, and they are all different. They are big and they are small. They are old and they are new. Some have a massive sanctuary while others are incredibly intimate. I have been to churches that looked like castles and churches that looked like cabins, but they all have some similarities as well. Pews are almost universal, although some modern churches have begun to use chairs. Altars and communion tables are common even if Christians use them differently, and all churches have stained glass windows. Well, all the churches that I want to go to anyway.

When I visited Yorkminster Cathedral in England, I learned of the aversion to stained glass the Roundheads had. The Roundheads was the name given to the Puritans who rebelled against the crown and controlled the country for a while under the command of Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell. One of the first things they did to fix the problems of the nation was to destroy the stained glass windows in the cathedrals throughout the land. This was done because they believed that the Church of England had not gone far enough in its attempt to separate from the Catholic Church. To them the Anglican Church was no different from the Catholics as evidenced by what they believed to be haughty and gaudy cathedrals. No part of the church exemplified “Popishness” more than their stained glass windows.

The windows of Yorkminster, which are gorgeous, survived, but they almost did not survive WWII. The bombing of the nation by the Nazis posed a great threat to the cathedral, and if by chance a wall was knocked down, they could probably rebuild it, but no one wanted to take a chance with the windows. So in a grand example of keeping calm and carrying on, the people of York dismantled the windows and hid the panes of colored glass in their homes and barns and bomb shelters until the war ended and the danger had passed. I don't know if people would go to so much trouble over a church pew, but windows are something special.

I think that of all things stained glass windows are my favorite aspect of a church and whenever I go to a new one I spend time looking at the beautiful intricacies of the windows. The color and the texture intrigue me, but also the pictures on them enthrall me. Pictures are in most stained glass windows, not just to decorate, but to tell a story. I was just at the National Cathedral where the windows told the story of Christ and one of them used the image of Darth Vader to do it. I was at National City Church the national cathedral of The Disciples of Christ, and there I saw windows dedicated to James Garfield and Lyndon B. Johnson, the first two American presidents who were also proud members of our denomination. Perhaps one of the most intriguing set of windows I have seen were at Heinz Chapel where I performed my friends' wedding and saw windows that told the story of American industry and history.

The stained glass window, therefore, is a tool of the faith whose purpose is multiple. One it is there to decorate the space. They make us understand that we are not in a normal place since no other place has such decorations. The grand cathedrals of learning, business, and government do not have such beauty, and that is because we worship here one whose glory is so great and cannot be fully understood. No it can only be glimpsed, and the windows of a church do that for us.

This leads to their second purpose. As I said they teach, but they do not all teach in the same way. Some of our windows have crosses that teach of the crucifixion, others a sun that explains the resurrection, and another a ship with the words that "the church on earth is one". In these windows the teaching is clear, but even the windows that have no symbols or pictures can teach us. Even windows that are nothing but a pattern of color and texture teach us wonderful things about God.

First and foremost, they teach us of the glory of God. We see how amazing and overwhelming this is in the story of Moses. After doing all that God asked and leading the Israelites out of Egypt Moses asks God to "Show me your glory I pray." God consents to this but says:

I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, "The Lord"; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰But', he said, 'you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.'

So Moses has to hide behind a rock and view the back of God's glory from a cleft in the rock so that he will be able to glimpse God's glory and live.

It is such an arresting image, but remember how we needed special glasses to look at even 2 percent of the sun during the eclipse last spring? I was recently sitting at a Dunkin drinking my coffee and answering my emails, when two firemen who were sitting next to me got up to leave. I was surprised when I saw them a few minutes later at a different booth. I was confused why they had moved tables until I looked to where they had been sitting, and I saw that the morning sun was pouring in right where their faces had been. This is all because the light unfiltered can often be a light too bright for our eyes. What stained glass does, then, is diffuse the light without making it dark. Instead it adds color and beauty to give us a glimpse of the beauty that is to come.

And what is to come? Let us go to the other end of scripture to the book of Revelation where we see a description of the literal Heaven on earth that is described as the New Jerusalem. John writes, "the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb."

This is the promise of a future without shadows because the light will be so bright, but, for now, Paul's description in Corinthians describes our earthly experience perfectly:

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

It is like T. S. Eliot describes in his poem, "O Light Invisible, We Praise Thee", that we adapted for our litany. Our gaze is submarine. We are underwater looking up at the light and it is beautiful, but it hurts our eyes, for we are not used to it. Likewise, it is broken and scattered and anything above the surface is blurry at best, and when we look up through our windows we see light and beauty but behind the windows we can glimpse only shadows.

Moreover, it is instructive that the windows are not one big, single piece, but squares and rectangles arrayed in a pattern that calls to mind the motto of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that reads:

We are a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world." In other words God created us to be whole and to shine our God given light, but we are all broken and fragmented in varying degrees, which is why we come to Christ whose love is the glue that can restore us to wholeness. Stained glass serves to celebrate the light of the world that removes the stains of our souls.

As I said I have been to many churches but one church that I haven't seen that is on the top of my list is Winchester Cathedral where the Great West Window shines as an example to how in God it is possible to pick up the pieces and shine again. During the English Civil War the Parliamentarians (a nicer way of saying Roundhead) captured the city of Winchester and they ransacked the cathedral smashing the window into shards. The people looked on in horror but could not stop them. Instead they gather the fragments as best they could and when the war was over and the monarchy the remnants were reunited as the city set about mending the blighted cathedral. It was beyond 17th-century skill to return the ancient window to its former majesty. Instead, a multicolored mosaic of many colors took form using the salvaged shards. Although recreating the biblical scenes and saints originally illustrated through the cathedral's stained glass was a puzzle too far, the reconstructed window, in its kaleidoscopic splendor, told a new story of salvation and resurrection.

Finally, a good stained glass window can remind us of the saints who have gone before. When I came here I thought the skylight was a wonderful decoration that illuminated the sanctuary and added inspiration to worship. I did not know the story of Wodea, I did not know that the skylight was inspired in part by the love Earl Doria had for his wife who had recently passed away and that the skylight was put in place as a reminder of her. When a window can remind us of our loved ones whom we have lost but also reassure us that they have and we will be found in Christ, then that is no ordinary piece of glass.

In that spirit let us hear the rest of Elliot's poem:

O Light Invisible, we praise thee! Too bright for mortal vision.
O Greater Light, we praise thee for the less;
The eastern light our spires touch at morning,
The light that slants upon our western doors at evening,
The twilight over stagnant pools at batflight.
Moon light and star light, owl and moth light,
Glow-worm glow light on a grassblade.
O Light Invisible, we worship thee!

We worship the light because:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

Your gifts, your donations, your dedication, your faith has made it possible for the light to continue to shine on all who enter the sanctuary of Fairhill Manor Christian Church. Let us bask in the glow of this light as often as we can until we are able to reside with the source of that light for all of eternity.

Call to Offering

Serena Dube

We are called to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer, and contribute to the needs of the saints. With glad and generous hearts, let us share the offerings of our life with the Lord of all life.

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

Through these gifts and offerings, bless your world, O God. Through our lives and our actions, bring love to your creation, that all may know your presence and live in your grace. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

Our sanctuary has been gifted with beautiful stained glass windows, and they perform many functions. They decorate and they illustrate, which are most obvious, but the color in the glass itself does two things. First it brightens. When I walk home I always think a light is on and so the color in the glass brightens a room like nothing else so that when the sun is shining it feels as if we are near Heaven. In fact I think of Heaven as a place with stained glass windows and an eternal light, but the color can also obscure. Stained glass windows are no good for looking out, therefore they remind us of the saying of Paul's that goes "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

As we gather at this table we should marvel at the fact that the beauty and the wonder of our stained glass windows are only a hint at the majesty and wonder of God. Let us always remember that no matter how much we think we know there is still so much more to see on the other side of the glass.

Communion Hymn

"Come, Share the Lord"

John Stahlman, organist

We gather here in Jesus' name, his love is burning in our hearts like living flame; for through the loving Son the Father makes us one: Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord. No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs; finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Sheila Harris

Most Gracious and Eternal Heavenly Father, sanctify this bread and wine and let them be for us the body and blood of Christ. May this communion strengthen our faith, deepen our love for you and for one another, and renew our spirits. Help us remember the great cost of our salvation and to live in gratitude for your grace. In your oh so precious and eternal name Amen.

Words of Institution

Rev. Stillwell

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Sharing Holy Communion

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

Call to Discipleship

Rev. Stillwell

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

If you have come to know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and you would like to profess that you intend to begin a life of faith, learning to walk in his way of Love, you are welcome to contact one of the Pastors to take this step. If you would like to join this part of the Body of Christ at Fairhill Manor Christian Church, to covenant to journey together in this life of faith, please reach out to one of the Pastors to learn more. We all take these moments to rededicate our lives to following Jesus.

Closing Hymn

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

John Stahlman, organist

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Benediction


Rev. Stillwell

Just as God’s Word was sent into the world to heal and redeem, so God sends you into the world this day to be light and love, healing and hope. Go now to be light for the world! And may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer come upon you this day and remain with you always. Amen.

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

What kind of birds does God use to supply Elijah with food at the Kerith Ravine?

- A. quails
- B. ravens
- C. eagles
- D. doves



Answer: B (See 1 Kings 17:2-6)

Prayer List:

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:

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Chuck and Mary Wiseman
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Washington PA 15301

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Ed Alexey
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Donna Bakaitis
Jim Banish
Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Berezney
Martin Berisford
Jennifer Bowman
Eleanor Boyles
Mabel Brooks
Leslie Byron
Sandra Carman
Denise Charles
Wanda Chicone
MaryAnn Coates
Zach Correll
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Sue Donaldson
Benjamin Dube
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Thomas Farabee
Connie Faust
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Jay Freudenberg
Lois Gayman
Sue Golsky
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg
Theresa Hancher
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris

Rick Herrnberger
Aryn Hess
Ed Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Denis Keeling
Ivy Lacock
Ty Lacock, Jr.
Bob Lanning
David Leonard
John Lewis
Lee Martin
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Ruth Mikuta
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Michaela Nixon
Sandy Nixon
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Deborah Patterson
Sandy Petry
JoAnn Piatt
Twila Polen
Bo & Patty Pryor
Rick Rafferty
Cathy Rentgen
Jeannie Riffle
Lori Riffle

Emily Cope Robinson
Dave Ross
Sandy Ross
John Samida
Marilyn Sheller
Sam Sheller
Valerie Shetler
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Darci Sprowls
Cathy Stewart
John Stewart
Bernard Teagarden
Beth Teagarden
Jane Teagarden
Thad Turner
Jonathon Ward
Gary Weaver
Tom Williams
Addison Wittenberg
Sarah Wittenberg

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.