

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 39
October 9, 2026

- Dartball – October 13, Bye Week
- Elders Meeting – October 14, 5:30pm via Zoom
- Choir Practice – October 15, 6:30pm

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



PUZZLE

JOYFUL PSALMS

Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are happy songs of praise.
They all begin and end with the same sentence.

Put the words below in alphabetical order in the boxes. Then read down
the second column to discover the special sentence from Psalms!

FEAST
KHAKI
MOUTH
ESSAY
LLAMA
ORBIT
CARRY
UDDER
BRUSH
ITEMS
APPLE
LEARN
CIDER

Answer: Praise the Lord!


Stewardship
A way of living

Join us for LUNCH

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

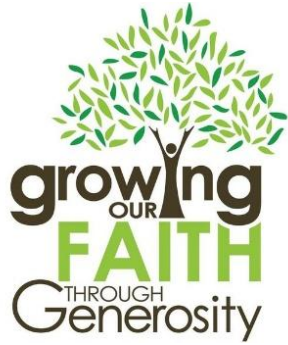


FMCC parking lot
October 25
4pm

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



Nominations for 2027 **Church Officers** are now being accepted until October 15. A nomination form can be found on **page 7** of the Manor Minutes and also in the Narthex.



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
Jody Mullis, Cup

October 11, 2026 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Barb Bailey

Leader: Sing and shout with joy,

People: For the God of hope is with us now.

Leader: Give thanks and praise to God,

People: For the God of hope is with us always.

Leader: Come and see God's deeds,

People: And discover the miraculous power of unending hope.

Opening Hymn

"This Is the Day"

Jody Mullis, pianist

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Stewardship Campaign Minute

Jerry Puskarich
Reese Scholarship

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

Today in this house for both sinners and saints we come to you, O God, to pray for your wisdom and your grace. In Christ we are a new creation!

Open our hearts when they are small— when we reject your call for justice, fearing it will require too much of us. Break open our stingy outlook and bring us into the rhythms of your abundance. In Christ we are a new creation!

Open our hands when they are clenched too tightly— when we sing the songs of nationalism more than we do the hymns of your Kingdom. May we reach out to those who have left all they know, afraid of where they have come from and unsure of where they are going. In Christ we are a new creation!

Open our eyes when we would rather keep them closed— when we look away from our neighbor instead of looking into ways we can be of help. Sharpen our vision so that we may see them from far away and search for clothes, shoes, and food to share. In Christ we are a new creation!

Open our minds when they are shut— blocked by the certainty of our own opinion rather than exposed to your radical love and grace. Help us to be agents of your reconciling peace, regarding no one from our human point of view, but with the mind of Christ. In Christ we are a new creation!

Reassure us, faithful God, when doubt troubles our thoughts. Comfort us in times of despair. Forgive us in moments of sin. Heal us in seasons of sickness and sorrow. Have mercy on us, O God, that we may have mercy on your beautiful world, creating shalom in all that we say and do. In the spirit of your hope and love, we pray as Christ 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

Isaiah 58:1-12

Donna Stenski

Anthem

“Meekness and Majesty”

Choir

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

When you are at home do your parents expect you to be perfect? Do you have to have a spotless room? When you play sports does your coach expect you to be perfect? Do you have to hit every ball and make every basket and score every goal? When you are at school do your teachers expect you to be perfect. Do you have to get straight a’s all the time?

I hope not and I expect not. I imagine that in all these situations your parents, your coach, and your teachers just want you to do your best. For everyone their best is different and it will be different depending on the circumstances.

For instance, if you are good at baseball the coach might expect you to catch the fly ball, but understands if the line drive is just too fast for you. Likewise, someone who is good at math might be expected to get an A in geometry, but their parents will be satisfied with a C in English.

No one expects us to be perfect, and that includes God, but God does expect us to try our best in all things. This was the problem when things were not going well in Israel, and the people pointed out that they prayed and made the sacrifices God demanded, so God sent a prophet name Isaiah to say to them:

Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers.

⁴Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists.

You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.

To fast is to go without eating, and the Israelites did that. but they were supposed to learn from that humility and kindness. Instead, they did the minimum they were supposed to do and nothing else. Jesus came along many years later and gave some commands that can be summarized by what we call the golden rule. That is “Do unto others what you would want done unto you.”

This can be hard to follow sometimes and you do not have to be perfect in following it, but we are called to do our best. Be as kind as you can, be as helpful; as you can, be as loving as you can. You don't need to be perfect you just need to try your best.

Second Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 2:1-15

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Do Your Best Before Winter”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

In the second chapter of the second letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul continues to encourage his friend to keep his faith and do God's work even though he, Timothy's mentor, is imprisoned. However, Paul also asks Timothy to remember a few truths that will help him when the going gets hard.

Why are Paul's letters preserved for us to read two thousand years later when they were written with a specific message for a specific audience? Because even as Paul has lessons to teach to Timothy in the first century after Christ, his words often are lessons for Christians in the twenty first century as well. So, as we go through these verses, listening to what Paul has to say to Timothy, let us also listen to hear what Paul has to say to us.

First, Paul wants Timothy to “*Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David.*” Of course, this is the beginning and the end of Christian life and ministry. No matter what circumstances Timothy or we face in life the first thing we should do is to remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead. If Christ has such power over life and death, certainly then, Christ has the power to help us in our life.

Paul needed this encouragement himself. Recall that Paul, as he writes these words, is chained. He is imprisoned in Rome and faces an uncertain if not depressing end. But, although he is fettered by chains, Paul next tells Timothy to remember that “*the word of God is not chained.*”

It is so early in the history of Christianity at this point that some Christians, Timothy included, may have been tempted to believe that the success of spreading the gospel was determined by the ability or personality of one person. Imagine how the early Americans must have felt when George Washington's term as president came to an end. Now, they thought, we will see if the laws and institution of our country are truly strong or if we merely rallied around a charismatic and inspirational person.

Perhaps that is how the early Christians felt as they anticipated Paul's passing from this world. He was their leader and their closest connection to Christ. Without him where would they turn? If Timothy wasn't exactly like Paul how could the gospel survive all that assailed it? Well, if they heeded Paul's first command to Timothy to remember Jesus Christ, then they would know that the gospel survived his absence, certainly it would survive Paul's.

The gospel survives because it cannot be chained, imprisoned, or killed. This is good news for each of us because we have all felt chained at some point in time. Perhaps we feel chained now, unable to lift our heads and shout hosanna from the rooftops, unable to lift our legs to go tell it on the mountain. If the building of the kingdom depended solely on our own merits, the gospel would be in trouble. Perhaps it would have died with Paul in Rome two thousand years ago, but the truth is that the gospel has an amazing ability to overcome our own limitations.

This is the gospel truth not because of who we are but because of who Christ is. Paul reminds Timothy “*If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; ¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful.*”

How wondrous are those words, “¹³*if we are faithless, he remains faithful*”? We probably do not appreciate these words when we need them the most; when we have lost faith in God or ourselves. When we have lost faith in God, we rarely turn to scripture for its words hold little meaning, and when we have

lost faith in ourselves the words hold judgement and admonishment. But when the presence of God can be felt again, when the human heart is ready and able to trust and hope again these words bring comfort. For they tell us that, though we lose faith in God, God's faith remains. Although we lose confidence in ourselves, God's confidence in us does not waver.

When our faith bounces back from a temporary despair, we might fear that all that we had gained before was lost and our doubts, before they were washed away, themselves managed to wash away all of our account with God. This is not true, because, even when we could not keep faith with God, God kept faith with us, and the promise that existed yesterday remains today.

Timothy needed to hear this in order to know that when he fell, God would still be there when he was ready to get back up. Just as Timothy was encouraged by Paul to remind his followers of these words, we too need to remember Paul's words in our minds and hearts to know that if we stumble, fall, or stop on our path, God will be there waiting for us to resume our journey.

So, what does all this mean? It means that we as Christians are not called to be God. We do not have to solve every problem and convert every soul. Not even Paul or Christ did these things. Instead, we are called by God to do our best for the kingdom.

Paul says it like this at the end of the second chapter of the second letter to Timothy, *"¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed"* Paul does not tell Timothy that he has to be the best. God already is. He does not need to be perfect or even great. God already is. He doesn't have to have all the answers or even have to have unwavering faith. God already does. He simply has to do his best.

This is the wonderful secret that is revealed in this text. Even at our best we can only do so much. We can only speak so well, work so hard, handle so much. But Paul promises that, if we do our best for Christ, he will do his best for us, and we will then find that we are capable of doing more than we ever thought we could.

As we prepare for the winter of this year and the winter of our lives, there are many things we want to do for ourselves, for the church, and for God. Perhaps we hesitate to do them because we are afraid that we will not do them well enough for our or God's liking. Whatever these things are, don't worry about doing them perfectly, but simply do everything to the best of your ability. Whatever we cannot do God will do with us.

Simply remember to do your best and, when the winter comes, you will be to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed

Call to Offering

Gene Sheller

Bring your gratitude, bring your gifts, bring your prayers, bring your blessings. May our offerings be living prayers for the welfare of the world.

***The Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below! Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dedication of Offering Prayer

Pastor Gena

Generous and Holy God, we bring our gifts to you - our tithes, our offerings, and our very lives. In a world that often teaches us to hoard, give us the courage to release. In a culture that values performance, let these gifts be an act of true, heartfelt worship. Bless these offerings, we pray, that they may be used to satisfy those who feel empty, to feed those who are hungry, and to lift the heavy burdens from those who are suffering. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Gena

The table we gather around today is not an exhibit for the perfect; it is a common table for all who are broken, the weary, and the hungry. Think of a time when everything in your life felt completely fractured. You were running on empty, trying desperately to keep up appearances and fix things in your own strength. Perhaps you felt like a tired soldier, spiritually exhausted and entangled in the heavy burdens of daily stress.

Now picture a friend inviting you over for a simple meal during that season of exhaustion. You arrive feeling like you have nothing to offer, no wisdom to share, and perhaps a bit ashamed of how overwhelmed you were.

But when you sit down, your friend doesn't ask you to prove yourself. They don't hand you a checklist. They simply hand you a warm piece of bread, look you in the eye, and say, *"You don't have to perform here. Just receive."*

In that quiet kitchen, the words of Isaiah come alive. You realize that God isn't asking for empty religious performance or a flawless exterior or perfection. God wants a heart that is willing to break open for others, just as this friend's heart has broken open for you. A simple meal becomes a holy space. This experience of grace begins to repair the breach in your own spirit.

You might be arriving at this Table today carrying the heavy armor of a battle no one else knows you are fighting. You might be tired of going through the motions, hungering for a faith that feels real, justice that rolls down, and true relief. Jesus looks at us today—in our weariness, our mistakes, and our hunger—and says, as a true friend: *"You don't have to perform here. Just receive."*

So come to this table, not because you have it all figured out, but because you need the one who does. Come because you are tired of fighting alone. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good. The table is ready. You are welcome here.

Communion Hymn

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Sam Johnson, organist

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Diana Crowe

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

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Sam Johnson, organist

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land; a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

The power of the resurrection makes all things new. Go out, knowing that Christ has made you his own. Forget what lies behind, and strain forward to what lies ahead.



**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.