

Manor Minutes
Volume 16 Issue 31
August 1, 2025

- Stewardship/Finance Ministry – August 6, 5:30pm
- Rummage Sale – August 8 & 9

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



No prices on items.
Pay what you want.
Take what you need.

Set up Tuesday, August 5, 9am-1pm
Set up Wednesday, August 6, 12pm-3pm
Set up Thursday, August 7, 9am-1pm
Sale Friday, August 8, 9am-6pm
Sale Saturday, August 9, 9am-2pm

If you can help during any of these times,
please sign the sheet in the Narthex.

**The Bethany Class will meet at
Eat'n Park on August 19 at noon for
lunch. Everyone is welcome 😊**

FMCC is taking orders for new bricks for the **Memorial Brick Garden**. All paid orders are due by September 7. New bricks will be dedicated on All Saints Sunday, November 2. Order forms are on the credenza in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact the Church Office.

Church World Service School Kits

Our goal this year is to make **100** school kits to donate to Church World Service for distribution to children who need them. Tags for items to purchase can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Church Picnic!

September 7
1:03pm
Washington
Park
Kiwanis
Pavilion



The **Annual Church Picnic** is coming up soon! We are looking forward to a great time of food, fun and fellowship on September 7 at 1:03pm at Washington Park's Kiwanis Pavilion. Here are some ways you can help make this an enjoyable afternoon for all:

- Donate a wrapped gift for a Bingo prize (one idea: a gift card to an area restaurant or store)
- Pick up two boxes of pre-ordered, pre-paid chicken at Walmart at noon and take it to the park.
- Make and bring lemonade in a drink cooler/dispenser (supplies available at the church)
- Bring a small pot and supplies for coffee
- Take 4 folding tables, table covers, dinnerware, and games to the Kiwanis Pavilion that morning
- Arrange and cover tables in the Kiwanis Pavilion that morning (directions provided)
- Clean up after the picnic
- Return tables and other items to the church after the picnic

Sign up in the Narthex or call the Church Office.

Wild Things

August 22, 7pm
Ticket orders are
due by August 3.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Carol Daniels, Bread
Chuck Riggie, Cup

August 3, 2025 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Kevin Puskarich

Leader: Give thanks to God,

People: for God's steadfast love lasts forever.

Leader: God accompanies us in our distress,

People: as we cross the threshold to worship's blessings.

Leader: Give thanks to our God,

People: for God's steadfast love abides with us.

All: Let us enter this space for worship, celebrating God's works for humankind.

Opening Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Jody Mullis, pianist

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

O Lord, who calls to us over and over again despite our difficulty in following, we worship you for your patient, persistent love. You feed us, you nurture us, you heal us, you love us, despite our difficulty in recognizing your action through human kindness. We give you praise, for you never give up on us. Your compassion is stronger than your anger. You call us from every direction, every path in life, returning us home to you. We are blessed when we walk with you, O God; when we are faithful to your way of love and life, we are blessed with your deep peace.

Forgive us when we struggle to trust in you. But you know us, O Lord; you know that your people throughout time have struggled to trust in you in times of great fear and turbulence. When life is at risk and you seem unresponsive, we get frustrated and even angry with you. And yet, in faith, we do call out to you, knowing that you care for us and that true peace is found in you. Assure us that somehow, even when things don't turn out as we hope, even when we walk through deep valleys of tragedy and loss, somehow you are still with us and love us. It's hard to trust you then. May your power be greater than our fear, your peace deeper than our troubles.

We give you thanks for community and fellowship, for working together and working through our challenges. Thank you for each person who came to feast with us. Thank you for each person who gave time, energy, ingenuity and creativity. Thank you for those who shouldered heavy loads and for those whose gift was to pray from a distance. Thank you for new life given to old traditions, for the melding of

wisdom and new energy, for the generous, unselfish sharing of time-tested ideas and ways of doing things.

Together in your boat, we call to you with cries for help, knowing that you are with us and you do care. Please bring peace to those who are anxious and in harm's way. Please bring peace to those who are waiting, waiting for answers and healing. Please bring peace to those who are heading home and to those who are embarking on another year of study and growth. Please bring peace to parents, grandparents, and guardians as they walk with young people through the ups and downs of life, serving as an anchor when others are tossed to and fro. Please bring peace to those who are looking for a new day of love and well-being to dawn. Please bring peace to those who are at home or in care facilities, peace to those on our prayer list, and peace to those we name to you in our hearts now...

We pray all of this in the name of the one that even the wind and the sea obey, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray together, 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:

"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 Lesson

Hosea 11:1-11

Connie Sheller

Special Music

"There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirt in This Place," words by Doris Akers
Solo by Jim Cope, accompanied by Sam Johnson

Children's Message

Pastor Gena

A Children Worship & Wonder story: "Jesus and the Storm," from *Following Jesus: More about Young Children and Worship* by Sonja M. Stewart, pp. 92-94, ©2000, Geneva Press.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 4:35-41

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

"Why Are You So Afraid?"

Rev. Chris Stillwell

This summer we have been discussing the questions that Jesus asks us, so, today, let's get right to it and ask, why are you so afraid? When I was young I had a strange fear. I saw in the bathtub that the water all went down the drain, and when I asked my brother where it went, he said that it went out to the ocean and never came back. Well, I didn't want to go out to the ocean and never come back, so I stood as far away from the drain as possible while taking a bath, if my mom could get me to take one at all.

I might have been the filthiest person ever if I hadn't seen a Mr. Rogers episode in which he sang a song that explained that no matter what my size I would never go down the drain and that fear was quickly conquered. As silly as that fear was most people have a fear of something that is irrational. We all know the word phobia because it has been attached to so many things.

You don't have to know Latin to know that claustrophobia is the fear of enclosed places, agoraphobia the opposite, fear of open spaces, and arachnophobia is the fear of spiders as well a cheesy horror movie based on that fear.

I can't think of the word phobia without thinking of that great part in "A Charlie Brown Christmas" when Charlie Brown is consulting with his psychiatrist, Lucy, about why he is unhappy at Christmas, and she asks him if he is suffering from a phobia. She runs down the list of familiar and unfamiliar fears and then she gets to Pantophobia. "What's that?" Charlie asks. "The fear of everything," Lucy responds. "That's it!" Charlie exclaims, and knocks Lucy over with the force of his excitement.

I hope none of you have pantophobia. I don't know how one would live in a world fearing everything, but we all must learn to deal with fear of something or another in our life. Our world is a world in which fear not only exists but thrives and human beings respond to fear instinctually. In some ways fear is a gift. It is part of our survival designed to tip us off to the things that endanger us so that we may take precautions and defend against them.

On the other hand fear is detrimental, because too much of it can paralyze us and keep us from being truly free. Every person has a fear. In fact, every person has many fears, and the first step in conquering fear is acknowledging it.

So why are you so afraid? Are you afraid of losing your job or that you do not have enough money to live on or retire with? Do you fear that crime is everywhere or terrorism lurks and your personal safety is at issue? Do you dread the state of the world and worry that everything is getting unavoidably worse?

If so then you have probably been watching or reading the news, and, while it is important to stay informed, we should always take what the news media shows us with a grain of salt. It is not the whole picture. Barry Glassner has an excellent book entitled "The Culture of Fear" in which he examines the way in which television news stoked people's fears to increase its ratings. At the time of its publication, 1999, violent crime was at an all-time low, but images and reports of it on the news were at an all-time high.

When I worked in talk radio, I learned how the game worked. Each show the host would scan the wires for one story that showed to him that the world was going to Hell and would go to Hell unless we listened to him and did what he told us. People only listened, he told me, if he could whip them into a fury. And whip them he did.

Maybe world events isn't what gets you nervous. Maybe your fear is more personal. Are you afraid of making the wrong choice? Choosing the wrong job or mate, or the wrong time to have kids or get married or retire are fears that loom large in most minds.

Maybe the fear you have is more immediate. Are you concerned that you won't fit in or be with the right crowd? If so then you have probably been watching commercials. Advertisements often work to make us fearful that if we do not have the item they are selling, then we will be outcast and lead miserable lives. Some are more subtle than others in conveying this message but they all prey on our fears in order to open our wallets.

But perhaps all of the above fears are small compared to what you are afraid of. Have you gone straight to the biggest fear of all? Are you afraid of God? If this describes you then you have probably been watching TV evangelists or had a bad experience with a church that used fear to inspire commitment. If so, as the great psychologist, Lucy Van Pelt says, "You're not alone."

The Bible often uses the phrase "the fear of God" as something we all should have, and to some degree, I would agree, but fearing God can easily get in the way of us loving God, and that is a dangerous thing. A lot of preachers use the fear of God to draw crowds and raise funds, but God is not the one to fear. God is not the enemy. Fear is the enemy, and God is here to help take away our fear.

That's why Jesus, just after having called his disciples, calms the storm on the sea and asks a question of his disciples that should appear obvious. After their boat is rocked by a storm he calms the storm, looks at his disciples, and says, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

We call this passage the calming of the storm, but in my mind Jesus calmed two storms that day. He calmed the physical storm on the Sea of Galilee that threatened to sink the disciples' boat, and he also calmed the spiritual storm in the heart of his disciples that threatened to sink their hope. They gave up everything to follow a man who claimed to be the son of God which was a blasphemous thing to claim, and they had to wonder if God was not exacting a terrible revenge for their audacity.

Perhaps they thought that God was recreating the story of Jonah and a fish awaited them under the sea with open mouth, but one command from Christ and their fears, physical and spiritual, were alleviated.

So when Jesus says, "Why are you so afraid?" he appears to be pointing back to the storm and to the disciples reaction to it, but he does not say was or were but are, for the disciples are still afraid, only now they were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

First, they were afraid that Jesus wouldn't use his power. They were afraid that he did not care if they drowned. Then, they were afraid at the awesomeness of his power that even the wind and the waves were at his command. First, they were afraid that they did not get what they wanted and then they were afraid when they did. It reminds me of a quote by the character, Dean Moriarty, from Jack Kerouac's novel "On the Road," that one has stuck with me all my life, because it is so true. He says, "Nothing frightens people more than what they want the most."

Remember asking someone out and how afraid you were that they might say no, but then one day someone says "yes", and you think, "well now what?" Now the stakes have been raised, now the pressure is really on. Ever get a job you had long desired, and then as soon as you do it's, "oh I hope I don't screw this up?" How about holding your child in your arms for the first time and being so filled with joy and fear at the same time you think you'll explode? Nothing frightens people more than what they want the most. That is why people often run away from happy homes, from loving spouses, from success, even from their Lord and savior.

Don't make that mistake. There is no sin in being afraid, but do not let fear get in the way of what you really want. It is no sin when the storms of life rage in your soul, but do not compound the storm by being afraid to go to the one who can calm them. When fear trouble's your heart you can go to him. When sadness forms a sea that spills over as tears across your face Jesus is the one to whom you should go. When your soul is filled with darkness turn to the son of God for a ray of light.

The test of any faith is not do you believe it when the waters are still, but do you believe it and hold on to it like an anchor when the storms come up. It was easy for the disciples to believe in Christ when the sun shone, but when it got dark, not only did they still believe in him, they cried out to him. Let that lesson not be lost on us.

Augustin once wrote:

Lo! What is the cause, stouthearted man, that thy heart is disturbed? That ship in which Christ is asleep is the heart in which Christ is asleep. . So then the tempest beats furiously against thine heart; beware of shipwreck, awake up Christ . . . Christ dwells in thee by faith. Present faith, is Christ present, waking faith, is Christ awake; slumbering faith, is Christ asleep. Arise and bestir thyself; say, "Lord, we perish." . . . Let thy faith awake, and Christ begins to speak to thee.

This is true because Jesus Christ is the anchor of the soul. Those who pray persistently are like sailors who have cast anchor on a rock. As they pull on the anchor, they think they are pulling the rock to themselves, but they are really pulling themselves to the rock.

It is vital, therefore, that we attach ourselves to something that is anchored well, and that is Jesus Christ. Our friends will fail us. Our children and parents will let us down. Our spouses won't be as perfect as we had hoped. Our jobs and churches might not be as together as we thought they were. But Jesus is immovable. The author of Hebrews attests to this when he wrote referring to Jesus Christ, "We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul."

Let us not imagine that we must be fearless to be fistful, for that is an impossible standard as long as we are living in this world, rather let us not allow our fear to master us. Anchor yourself in love divine and he will take care of our fear so that people may know that we are Christians, not because we are fearless, but because we have worry, yet we have still more hope, we are anxious and yet joyful, we have fear from time to time, yet fear never has us.

If we can say this then of all the things we may fear, we will never need fear fear, itself. When that happens then the peace that Christ left with his disciples after his resurrection will also be with us.

Communion Hymn

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

Sam Johnson, organist

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; be thou for ever near me, my master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

I once worked with a campus ministry group who had a t shirt which stated simply, "A Ship in the harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are for" The ship that the shirt refers to is the ship of our faith and the message of that shirt is "Our faith is made by tests and made for tests." How can our faith grow if it does not come into contact with new ideas and different ways of looking at things? We take all that we experience into account, we agree with some things we hear and disagree with others. We sift through the experiences of life and keep what helps us grow and leave behind what holds us back, but always we must be willing to take a risk or else our faith stays in the port safe, but unused; secure, but never knowing the adventures and wonder that we are missing.

If Jesus has stayed on the shore of the Galilee he and his disciples would have been safe, but that is not why Christ had come. In following Christ's example we too must not cling too close to the shore of life.

We must always, no matter how young or old, reach for the opportunity to grow in our faith through study, through questions, inquiries, even doubt and uncertainty, for no faith can be certain unless we have sailed it through the abyss of fear and doubt and come through to tell the story.

But even if we try to keep our ship of faith safe in the harbor storms will find us. Sometimes we experience tragedy and unimaginable loss. We may lose a friend, a loved one, or a job. We may lose our health or our wealth and where is our faith then? We may try to keep it secure in the harbor, but what we eventually discover is that even in the harbor storms and tsunamis can find us.

So let us anchor our faith in the one who commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him. Let us place our lives on the one who is secure. Let us anchor our faith on the rock of ages, not so that we can always be safe and secure, taking no risks, and trying nothing new. Rather let us do so knowing that no matter where the spirit blows us, Christ will be with us and we will make it through the storms of our lives.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Carol Daniels

Lord Jesus, as we partake in this communion we remember the story of the storm of the Sea of Galilee. We see ourselves in the disciples, tossed by the waves of life, perhaps feeling like we're perishing and wondering if you care. Thank you that you were present with them, and that you are present with us, even in our darkest moments. We thank you for your power over all creation, for your ability to speak peace to the winds and waves and for the calm that follows the storm. We pray that as we receive the bread and the cup we may also receive a fresh measure of your peace, your faith and your presence in our lives. Help us to trust you even when we can't see the way forward and to know that you are with us always in your name we pray. 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

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

Call to Discipleship

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

"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.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

May we secure the cords of kindness and the bands of love on the path forward. May we clothe ourselves in cloaks of renewal, building the realm of God here on earth. May we celebrate the steadfast love of God and embracing Christ's presence. Surely God journeys with us forever. Amen!



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 McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokeley
900 N Cass Lake Rd, Apt 324
Waterford MI 48328

Barb Bailey
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Berezney
Jeff Caldwell
Bryan Carter
Wanda Chicone
Ruth Cox
Sue Donaldson
Benjamin Dube
Connie Faust
Gary Ford
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Barb Graff
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Alberta Haught

Chuck Wiseman
880 S Main St, Apt 214
Washington PA 15301

Carol Brown
36 Old Hickory Ridge Rd, Rm 213
Washington PA 15301

Aryn Hess
Danni Iams
Ed Jackman
Kari Johnson
Brandon Keenan
Von Lacock
Marylee Lawrence
David Leonard
CJ Martin
Linda Martin
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Dick Pilgun
Betty Riecks
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle
Dee Ryan
Mike Ryan

Bo & Patty Pryor
880 S Main St, Apt 102
Washington PA 15301

Doris Sorice
880 S Main St, Apt 336
Washington PA 15301

John Samida
Gene Sheller
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci Sprowls
Wayne Starnes
Cathy Stewart
Beth Teagarden
Jane 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	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.