

Manor Minutes
Volume 17 Issue 17
April 24, 2026

- Choir Practice – April 30, 6:30pm
 - Croppers – May 1 & 2, Large Fellowship Hall
- Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



April 25
4:30-7pm
Take out is available

ROZAM the Z-S-CRO



Classic/Antique
 Car Show
 April 26
 4-7pm
 Fairhill Manor Christian
 Church
 Parking Lot
 351 Montgomery Avenue
 Washington PA



May 21, 2026
\$15/per person
5:30pm Registration
6pm Dinner
7pm Entertainment by Sam Johnson
Sign-up sheet in Narthex
RSVP by May 17



- May 10 – Mother's Day
Blanket Sunday
- May 21 – Tri-County Men's Dinner
5:30-8pm
- May 24 – Pentecost Sunday
Baptism
- May 26 – Bethany Class Luncheon, noon
at Eat'n Park



Now is the time to think about Mother's Day gifts and Graduation gifts. The perfect solution is buying gift cards through the **RaiseRight** program. FMCC earns a % of every order. Pastor Gena currently has the following gift cards:

- Applebee's
- Bath & Body
- Bob Evans (2)
- Eat'n Park
- Jimmy Johns
- Old Navy (2)
- Outback (5)
- Red Robin
- Texas Roadhouse (3)
- Panera (3)
- Olive Garden (3)



The **Bethany Class** will be meeting at Eat'n Park Tuesday, May 26 at noon for lunch. Everyone is welcome.



Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
351 Montgomery Avenue
724-225-8610
Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Jody Mullis, Bread
Chuck Riggle, Cup
April 26, 2026 – 10:15am

Fairhill Manor welcomes Rev. Dr. W. Darwin Collins to the pulpit. Rev. Chris is on vacation today.

Prelude Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome Pastor Gena

Call to Worship Von Lacock

Leader: This is a new day, full of promise and new life.
People: Praise God for this glorious gift!
Leader: Gathered as one, welcoming all,
People: We worship as a community of love.
Leader: Gathered in love, giving thanks for life,
People: We come to sing God’s praises.

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.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer Pastor Gena

Wonderful Parent God, we want to see you; more and more, every day, we want to see you.
Each day as we rise, train our eyes to see your glory in creation; teach our hearts to feel your presence as we love each other.
We confess that we love our lives as they are; we struggle even with the idea of change.
And when you call us to do things differently, we often wrestle with you.
Never doubting that you can give us true life in full, we still feel safer clinging to a life that is really only half a life.
Teach us by your Spirit to let go of our agendas and assumptions, our self-righteousness and false notions of power.
Thank you for giving us the strength and courage to try new things.
Opening ourselves to you, letting go of ourselves, we can begin to more fully embrace you, Holy God.

Seeking your wisdom and guidance, asking for your comfort and presence, we pray for ourselves and for our world.

Each day we hear of those who are sick, lonely, in despair, struggling with overwhelming grief and loss.

Embrace with your loving arms all who live in fear and pain and those who are lost, that they may find a home in you as we care for them.

Joining with Christians throughout the world, we pray for your church, that our prayers would lead to action as we hear the cries of those who so need your love.

Encourage us to continue to care for each other, working for the common good and making sure that all have what they need to live well.

Satisfy our longings for peace and justice by showing us how to stand with those who are oppressed, left out, rejected and ignored.

Up from our knees we bound now with joy, thankful to be together again as we worship you, praising you for your steadfast love and faithfulness.

Show us now the seed of hope in all of our disappointments and challenges, the seed that helps us to more faithfully depend on you.

Through Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices to pray...

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:

“He Is Lord”

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

First Scripture Lesson

Psalm 23

Gene Sheller

Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth,” by John Rutter

Choir

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

(Dedication of dresses/shorts sewn by FMCC and the Mt. Hermon Baptist Church in Amity)

I have some fabric here. I would like to make some shorts out of this fabric but I want to keep this fabric exactly the way it is. I can’t do that can I? I have to cut it up if I want to use it to make something. That’s sad, though, isn’t it? This fabric will never be the same again.

But what would I be missing out on if I decide to leave this fabric just like it is? I could do that, but I might miss out on wearing a nice pair of shorts and enjoying them. I might miss out on being able to make something for someone else out of this fabric – probably several things for several different people – and they would not have the opportunity to enjoy and use what I made them.

Things often have to change in order for them to become something different or for us to use them. That’s hard sometimes. I wonder if we would get more joy out of keeping this fabric the way it is or from making lots of things from it and sharing them with others.

Some of the people in our congregation chose to change the fabric they had into some dresses and shorts for kids who need them in some places far from here - in a country called Sierra Leone and another called Kenya. They chose to use thread and buttons and elastic and different things to make and decorate the dresses and shorts so they are special for the kids who will get them. I wonder if those who sewed dresses and shorts could stand. And those who donated any of the items used to make the dresses and shorts could stand.

They took things that could be enjoyed by one or two people and made them into dresses and shorts that can be used and enjoyed by many kids. Let's give thanks for them and pray for the kids who will wear these dresses and shorts.

Dear God, thank you for opening our hearts to use what we have to make dresses and shorts for those who can use them. Please be with those who will take these dresses and shorts to Sierra Leone and Kenya. We pray for the kids who will wear these dresses and shorts. Help them to feel your love and our love every time they wear them. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

John 12:20-26

Rev. Collins

Sermon

Rev. Stillwell delivered this sermon at the City Mission Chapel Service on Tuesday, April 21. Join us Sunday morning for Rev. Collins' message, "Amateurs Among the Pros."

Any time a person wants to be a part of something there is always the question of "What will it cost?" It makes sense that we would expect some type of payment, some type of offering, some type of sacrifice to be a part of a group, club, or organization, otherwise everyone could be a part. My son is currently applying to colleges and that requires grades, test scores, transcripts, applications, and a lot of money, but this is not an issue for only high school seniors. This is the case in any stage of our lives.

A professional organization usually involves a fee and a commitment to attend meetings. A social fraternity requires the same. In fact, I once was asked to be a reference for a friend of mine who wanted to be a Shriner. I vouched for him, that he would make a good Shriner, but only after asking the gentlemen on the phone what Shriners do.

Oftentimes we are required to sacrifice a good deal of our time and money to be a part of some club or other and we do it because we believe the sacrifice will be worth it. This type of thinking can be defined as you get what you pay for, so of course anything that advertises great benefits at little cost is suspect, but what if I told you that you could buy 12 cassette tapes for only a penny?

I am speaking of my favorite club as a teen-ager; the Columbia House Record Club. I loved that club so much I joined it at least a half dozen times, but I understood that the obligation did not stop at a penny. I made sure to send back the card when I didn't want the monthly selection, and I bought the required 5 albums at club price in order to fulfill my obligation. I knew it was a good deal so long as the requirements were fulfilled, but many of my friends sent in that card to get 12 tapes for a penny and left their parents paying for all the rest.

Despite this one exception, it is generally true that the greater the benefits of an organization the greater the requirements for entry and we can see that no more clearly than in the Old Testament. One might surmise that the entire theme of it is sacrifice. Cain kills Able in a disagreement concerning their sacrifice to God. Lambs were sacrificed to protect the first born of the Israelites. A very detailed, and bloody set of laws were given to the Israelites to define them as a people and a nation. A building was built for the sole purpose of performing these sacrifices and this building, the temple, was the center of Israelite life, politics, and religion.

Christianity is also familiar with sacrifice as it began with one person giving himself up as a ransom for many, and the early church argued over whether the sacrifices of the law were still required. Ultimately, they were not but you can see how people thought it too good to be true that they could get something so great as forgiveness and eternal life without having to make a major sacrifice and over the years many have with some going so far as to emulate Jesus Christ by giving their life as martyrs in a time of persecution.

This, combined with people who would give up the pleasures of the world as a sign of their faith and preachers who would claim that your prayers will not be answered unless you give a big donation, have left many to believe that Christianity takes great sacrifice. In this context we come to the prophet, Micah, who is described as a minor prophet because his book is short, but who gives us a major revelation when he condemns the sacrifice of Israel and says,

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.

That is so simple, and so beautiful. All the Lord requires of us is to act justly, love kindness, and walk humbly. Micah's words were a condemnation of the hollow religious rituals that many of his hearers believed would please God. Micah cries out that God does not want blood offering rituals but rather the hearers' blood, sweat and tears in offering God righteous lives. We also don't have to look too far into the Christian Scriptures to find Jesus' validation of Micah's challenge. That challenge is at the core of the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount, or Jesus' plea that whatever we do to the least of these we do to him. Elaborate and difficult sacrifices are thrown away by these three easy to understand commands, that seem so simple, but we should know, they are harder than they appear.

To do justice - What does that mean in our lives? Could it mean speaking up when something is said that is harmful or prejudicial toward another human being? Does it mean having a mindset that is always concerned about the community good over the welfare of a few? Is it simply the command to treat every person fairly as if they were your equal or even God? It is all of this and more. To do justice isn't to make sure everyone has the same but that no one lacks the basic means to live, and we see that throughout the prophets. While Israel continued the ritual sacrifices time and again, they forgot those in need and worried about the letter rather than the spirit.

Justice in the Old Testament is anything from the command to allow the needy to glean the fields, Ezekiel condemning Sodom because they were "overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy," Nathan rebuking David for stealing another man's wife, or Solomon showing wisdom in the dispute of two mothers who claimed to be the rightful mother of a child. It is easy to want justice but doing justice can often be hard and carry with it real risks.

Next is to love kindness - What might this mean? Could it mean speaking and acting with compassion and not out of anger? Does it mean always having the heart of a peacemaker? When we think of Micah's call to love kindness it seems easy. Who would not love kindness? Other translations say love mercy, and again who wouldn't love that? Who doesn't love it when someone opens a door for you, picks up something you drop, gives you some of their food, smiles at you, compliments you, who does not love these things?

It is one thing when we receive mercy and kindness but extending it can be hard and to some people harder than others. For to love kindness means also to show it. This is harder. Most of us are acutely aware of our own struggles and we are preoccupied with our own problems. We sympathize with ourselves because we see our own difficulties so clearly, but the Scottish author, Ian Maclaren once said “Let us be kind to one another, for most of us are fighting a hard battle.”

Some of the Christians that amaze me the most aren't the ones who can quote every passage of the Bible but who show kindness even when things are tough, and extend mercy even to those who not merciful to them. When Jesus was asked to summarize the gospel he said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul and all your mind and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Finally, there is the command to walk humbly with God - How might this be lived out? Could it mean not passing judgment on others? Does it mean listening in order to understand the soul of the other person? The final command to walk humbly may be the hardest command of the three. If the maker of Heaven and earth sent his own son so that we could be saved, and our sins our forgiven, and we have the Holy Spirit with us, it is tempting to let that go to our heads.

Many people walk with God very proudly and want you to know how faithful they are. This was a clear problem in Jesus' time as he admonished the Pharisees for making a big show of their faith and claiming righteousness so he reminded his disciples that “not all who say Lord, Lord, will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven:” and “there are none righteous, not one”.

I once spoke with a person who attended the weekly AA meeting at my church and he said with alcoholism comes great guilt. Sometimes he said “you do such terrible things that you think that God doesn't want anything to do with you, but then you come here and you learn that God does. No matter how terrible you have been, God will forgive you and love you. That made it possible for me to forgive myself and to love myself.”

This type of humility is the difference between merely walking with God and following God. It is the difference between pretending to know God and being arrogant about our faith and truly knowing God and letting that humble us. I would go so far to say that if you do not walk humbly with God you aren't walking with God at all.

Let us remember this distinction, for if we want God to “cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.” as Micah promises we must remember what it is that God requires, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our god.

So, God does still demand sacrifice, but a different kind of sacrifice. We sacrifice our desires or our selfish wants, even if it simply means the ways that we would treat people. Instead, we are called to treat one another that way that God treated us, by offering forgiveness for our sins, and righteousness for our shortcomings. The more I think of it, outside of offering my firstborn, giving thousands of rams and rivers of oil would be a whole lot easier.

Let us pray, Glorious God, you are just, you are kind, and you, who are holy, humble us by walking with we who are lowly. When we are lost, or questioning, or wondering remind us that your will for our life is not hard to find: do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with you. Creator God, turn our hearts toward justice. Saving Jesus, show us how to love kindness. Holy Spirit, guide us as we walk with you in humility, now and forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

Donna Stenski

We give today because we have experienced the grace of God through Jesus Christ, who though he was rich, yet for our sake became poor. Therefore, called to love, called to give, let us give generously of our hearts and our gifts.

***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

written by Rev. Stillwell

Living God, send your Holy Spirit to bless these gifts with your life and hope. Send your Holy Spirit upon us, that we also may bring life and hope to others as we share our gifts in the world. Love through us, live through us, that others may know your life-giving love. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

written by Rev. Stillwell

One of the great joys of life is when I stopped caring about looking like other people and started wanting to look like myself. It's not that I didn't want style I just wanted my style; whatever that was, and one of the great ways I did that was by going to thrift stores. The great thing about thrift stores is that they had a lot of styles that you wouldn't find other places, mostly because they were out of fashion, but it still was nice to see different things. The other thing that was great is that everything was cheap so you could try something different, and it wasn't a big deal if you didn't end up liking it after all. In this way I discovered my love for corduroy pants, guayabera shirts, Merrell shoes, and cardigan sweaters.

It might seem strange finding a style in a place that is mostly filled with other people's castoffs, but it is true what they say, "One person's trash is another person's treasure." This is especially true if you go to the outlet goodwill store where they have bins of items, and you must sift through them to find a treasure.

I know the truth of finding worth in what others consider junk because just about every week I have come to this table, where I am reminded of two things. First, Jesus Christ was considered trash to the point that he was thrown out, but the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the cornerstone to our worship, and the cornerstone to our life.

Second, I am reminded that, no matter what I look like to others, I am not worthless to Him, and he has done much more than descend into some bins to find me and save me, he descended into Hell itself to show me my worth.

To some people I am a middle-aged, overweight, thrift store cowboy, but to him I am a pearl of great worth, and so are you. Come to this table, therefore, and cloth yourself with Christ, and know that to God you are always in fashion.

Communion Hymn

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

Sam Johnson, organist

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Jody Mullis

Oh Lord, our Shepherd, as we come to you today we thank you Lord for leading us beside still waters. We thank you for restoring our soul. That with you, we don't wish for anything because you supply all of our needs. As we take this bread and cup we thank you and pray all of this in Jesus' name. 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

“We Have Heard a Joyful Sound”

Sam Johnson, organist

We have heard a joyful sound, Jesus saves, Jesus saves; spread the gladness all around, Jesus save, Jesus saves; bear the news to ev’ry land, climb the steeps, and cross the waves, onward, ‘tis our Lord’s command, Jesus saves, Jesus saves.


Benediction

written by Rev. Stillwell

With faith in the Risen Christ, we go forth to proclaim new life. With the power of God’s Holy Spirit, we go forth to serve. With the love of God our Creator, we go forth to love.

Bible Quiz

Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lamp-stand to give light in the house. Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."



Choose the ending of Jesus’ sentence:

- A. their way and not stumble.
- B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
- C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- D. in their darkness.

Answer: C (Matthew 5:16, NIV)



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
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Donna Bakaitis, Room 224

Premier Resident

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

Transitions Healthcare Resident

90 Humbert Lane
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Doris Haniford, Room 121

Mary Allison
Barb Bailey
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Todd Barnhart
Vanessa & John Berezney
Jacquie Best
Jeff Caldwell
Bryan Carter
Maci Caster
Wanda Chicone
Angel Corbett
Jane Correll
Ruth Cox
Sue Donaldson
Benjamin Dube
Steve Engle
Connie Faust
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Raymond Fraley
Terry Gahagen
Barb Graff
Judy Hanning
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Aryn Hess

Danni Iams
Shelly Kubincanek
Chris Lewis
Charlie McConnell
Pam McCord
Norm McDonough
Dick Moninger
Joe Neckerman
Carmen Oliverio
Peggy Oliverio
Michelle Oneal
Sandy Petry
Betty Riecks
Jeannie Riffle
Joan Riffle
Lori Riffle
Mike Ryan
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci Sprowls
Wayne Starnes
Cathy Stewart
Jan Stillwell
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	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.