

**Manor Minutes**  
**Volume 16 Issue 32**  
**August 8, 2025**

- Elders Meeting – August 13, 5:30pm
- Personnel Committee – August 13, 6:30pm

Stay up to date at [www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar)



There will be a Back to School Prayer Service at Washington High School on **Wednesday, August 13**, from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. to pray for all schools, staff, teachers, and students. Meet on the steps of the high school on Allison Avenue.

### **Special Board Meeting**

There will be a **Special Board Meeting** on Sunday, August 17 following the Worship Service to consider flooring for the Chapel. The flooding in June destroyed the carpet in the Chapel; it is being replaced with tile.

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

**Everyone is welcome ☺**



FMCC night at the Wild Things is **Friday, August 22** at 7pm. If you ordered tickets, they will be on the credenza in the Narthex.

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.



We collected \$1,851 at the spaghetti dinner on Saturday, August 2. The expenses were \$640 so we made \$1,211.

Thank you to everyone that helped:

- 12 people made dessert
- 14 people helped with meatballs and table set up
- 16 people helped serve dinner
- Karla Glover donated the salad

Special thanks to Bobby Hanning, Brian Shaw and Lois Shaw for their expertise!

I was overwhelmed with the help and all of the fun we had. I think the dinner was a success and hope to have many more.

Thanks,

Kevin

**THANK  
YOU!**



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister  
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor  
Elders: Linda Reese, Bread  
Gene Sheller, Cup

August 10, 2025 – 10:15am

**Prelude**

Sam Johnson, organist

**Welcome**

Pastor Gena

**Call to Worship**

Chuck Riggle

Leader: From the rising to the setting sun,

**People: God summons us.**

Leader: In the perfect beauty all around us,

**People: God brightens our hearts.**

Leader: When we worship with acts of love and mercy,

**People: God is pleased to give us the kingdom.**

**All: Come! Let justice and righteousness be our worship.**

**Opening Hymn**

*“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”*

Jody Mullis, pianist

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart. Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come. One day every tongue will confess you are God. One day every knee will bow. Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now.

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

Rev. Stillwell

Holy God, your voice spoke into the void and created the universe. Your voice breaks the cedars and shakes the mountains. Your voice calls out “Beloved” even today. For the way you speak grace and mercy into our lives and into our worlds, we give you thanks.

Help us to listen for the echoes of your still, small voice as we move through your good creation, that we may hear our call to be caretakers and protectors of what you have made and called good. When you speak challenge and justice into the world, we seek your courage. May we never be afraid to be on the side of your justice and shalom, especially for the persecuted, the oppressed, and the downtrodden. Hear our prayers for your world.

Speak your word of comfort to those facing illness, hospitalization, worry, and grief. Call us into the stillness of your voice so that we may hear your whispers of love and comfort and be your presence in the lives of those who feel alone, afraid, and discouraged. Hear our prayers for loved ones.

Your voice causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare; in your temple our voices cry, “Glory!” You, O Lord, sit enthroned over the flood; you sit enthroned as ruler forever. Give strength to your people! Bless your people with peace! With boldness, we ask you to hear our voices as we pray. Amen.

*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**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

Donna Stenski

**Special Music**

“Amazing Grace,” contemporary arrangement

Vicki Sisson

**Children’s Message**

Rev. Stillwell

Good Morning! The Gospel lesson today talks a lot about worry. In life we have things that we worry about. We worry about being liked by our friends, who will sit by us at lunch, if we’ll be good on a sport’s team, if something’s wrong when we hear family members argue. What are some of the things you worry about?

Some worries seem bigger than others. Some people worry about being sick or being safe, but Jesus tells us not to worry. He’s taking care of us. He used examples in creation. God gives food to the birds. They don’t have to plant it themselves and harvest it. God gives them their food. We don’t need to worry about clothes. Look at how beautiful flowers are. Jesus tells us the King Solomon didn’t even have clothes as beautiful as the flowers. If God cares for things like the birds and flowers, isn’t God going to take care of you?

Worries can weigh us down and keep us from being the person God wants us to be. I have a backpack here that I’m going to put “worries” in. I need a volunteer to wear it. Here’s the backpack. Now let’s put in some worries. Tell me again some of your worries. Wow these are a lot of worries that weigh you down. How do you feel with that weight of worry? Although worries aren’t heavy books in a backpack, they still feel like they weigh us down. When we worry, we’re not letting God take care of things. Jesus tells us we can always trust him. We know we can because he always keeps his promises. Now let’s give those worries to Jesus.

**Second Scripture Reading**

**Matthew 6:25-34**

Rev. Stillwell

**Sermon “Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?”**

Rev. Chris Stillwell

A contest was once held in which people were challenged to depict the word “peace” in a painting. As you can imagine there were many paintings of serene and quiet fields, majestic and still mountains, smooth and glass-like lakes. All of these were appreciated but the winner of the contest was very different. This painting did include a field, a lake, and some trees, but it also included a bad storm that made the trees sway and their branches break while the lake had large waves. Why did this painting win? Because if you looked closely you would see in the middle of it a bird sitting quietly and contentedly unconcerned with all that was going on around it.

It might seem strange for this painting to be thought of as depicting peace but, after all what is peace? It is easy to maintain a sense of peace in the country next to a tranquil lake. It does not take much effort to be peaceful in the mountains alongside a gently moving stream. Real peace, however, is the ability to keep your mind while all around you are losing theirs. In the midst of turmoil and chaos the ability to keep your head is the true hallmark of peace.

Peace is essential in everyone's workplace. With the stress of having to get the job done, and bosses looking over your shoulder, or teachers who have a class full of rowdy students, true peace comes in the ability to thrive in the middle of a storm. It is important to note this distinction because Jesus brings a message of peace, but not one without turmoil. One day we will have peace like a river or a still lake, but for now, while we yet live in this world, the peace that Christ brings is one that is much more like the sparrow in the storm than the snow on the field.

In the midst of his own turmoil, Jesus gives us a message of peace. He has now begun his journey towards Jerusalem, and as he draws near to his terrible trial he is constantly beset by followers and would be followers asking him questions while Pharisees and lawyers set traps for him. Now in the middle of all this he tells us not to worry.

Our question that Jesus asks of us today is why do you worry, and if we look at this passage in Matthew as well as the corresponding one in Luke, we get a great many teachings about the futility of worrying. Luke records Jesus as saying:

Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>25</sup> Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?  
<sup>26</sup> Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

In this passage Jesus explicitly asks his followers, "Why do you worry about things you cannot control?" In Matthew Jesus gives a fantastic illustration when he asks:

And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

After so many thousands had come to him to hear his wisdom, He tells us to consider the lilies. Indeed, lilies are the perfect symbol of peace. They are beautiful and grow in still and placid waters. But even in harsh climates they can thrive. Many members of the lily order show adaptations to arid climates. During unfavorable periods, food and water are stored in the bulbs or the stem. When storms befall a lake trees can be toppled or uprooted but the lilies remain. So, consider the lilies if you want to know true peacefulness.

But peace isn't the only thing we want in our lives. We want beauty and possessions. We want to look good and attract others. We want to have nice things and wear nice clothes, and these desires often cause us to worry. We worry about how we look, and how others look. When I was young, I thought the world would end because I didn't have Nike shoes which cost \$50. Today \$50 shoes would be considered a bargain and so we worry about money.

But Jesus continues, "Consider the lilies even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like these." Even the great and wise king could not buy clothes that would make him look as beautiful as these simple flowers. Nothing that humans create, therefore, can match the splendor and magnificence of the natural beauty that God has created. So don't worry about your appearance or possessions rather, consider the lilies

Jesus is not saying that lilies and flowers are better than humans. It is an amazing thing for Jesus to say:

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!

It is not that the lilies are great that is the reason God makes them so beautiful. It is that God has so much love that God makes even the grass that will die within a year beautiful. If God will do this to something as insignificant as plants, doesn't it stand to reason that God will do at least as much if not more for us?

Jesus does not confine himself to speaking of things of little significance like lilies; he then jumps to nations and kingdoms. "For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things," referring to

wealth and power. Nations and kingdoms, as great as they think they are, are like the grass, for they too will be thrown into the oven tomorrow.

Nations rise and fall. Think of how many great powers there have been just since the time of Christ. First the Romans, who were conquered by the Goths and Visigoths, then the Byzantine Empire, thrived in Turkey, only to be conquered by the Ottomans. England, France, and Spain each had their turn ruling Europe. Germany took its stab at world domination along with Japan who had usurped China as the great ruling kingdom of the east. And now the United States stands alone after a Cold War with the Soviet Union. Nations come and go, their power waxes and wanes, but the love of God stands forever.

So, when we strive for power and wealth we should remember its impermanence. We should consider the lilies. Claude Monet, one of the greatest of all the Impressionist painters of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, considered the lilies. In fact, it might be said that no one considered the lilies more than he did. For the last twenty-five years of his life, he dedicated himself to painting pictures of water lilies and strived to catch the fleeting nature of their color when the light fell upon them. In painting lakes and rivers of incredible majesty he focused upon the water lilies saying that he hoped to understand the whole by means of a fragment.

When we consider the passage that we have read of Jesus' teaching we can do just that, understand the whole by means of a fragment. The message of these verses is that we should not waste our life worrying for life is a gift, God is good, and it is God's great pleasure to give us what we need and more.

Unfortunately, human nature can be warped by sin, and instead of being pleased with all we have we desire more, and this desire brings suffering because it brings greed, worry, and fear.

Above all we should not worry about small things that will not matter tomorrow but rather we should seek the kingdom. While this should be great news, we can misunderstand it and turn the kingdom of God into one more thing to worry about. We worry about whether we are good enough to inherit the kingdom. As the old gospel song goes, we worry whether there will be any stars in our crown.

Jesus tells us to make unfailing treasure in heaven, for where our treasure is; there our hearts will be also. In other words, seek the kingdom, and rejoice that it is God's good pleasure to give it to us. All of this message can be learned if we will but consider the lilies.

Monet's final masterpiece was a series of murals of water lilies that spanned 6 feet high by 25 feet long. He left his paintings behind so that we could study them and in doing we would learn to see as he the beautiful intransigence of nature and therefore, our own life. When people would go to Monet to learn his skill he would turn them away. One writer said, "If they followed him into the fields a veil could be lifted from their eyes as it had from his."

If we consider the lilies, we might learn to see that they neither toil nor spin, but flow where the water takes them. If we consider the lilies we can go where God takes us, and if we consider Jesus and the words that he teaches us, then a veil can be lifted from our eyes and we will be able to see all that God has in store for us.

When we are thankful for what we have and give thanks to God for God's provision, we aren't as worried about what's lacking. We aren't as worried about what we will eat, drink or wear. When we give thanks, we take time to consider the lilies in our lives, and that is good. That is what God is calling us to do. Let us remember the words of Corrie Ten Boom who helped her Jewish friends in Holland escape the Nazis. In her book, *Clippings from My Notebook*, she wrote, "Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength."

Let us not spend our strength on what we cannot control and what may or not happen. Rather let us use it to praise God for the blessings we have received, do what we can with those blessings to bless others, and make the most of each hour of our life.

## **Call to Offering**

Serena Dube

Where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. May our gifts bring justice and righteousness to God's children everywhere. Let us now bring the treasure of our love.

## **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

Dear God, we thank you for these offerings and all of those given online and through the mail. We thank you for those who have given these offerings. Help us to see clearly our gifts for ministry and the needs for our gifts in this time and in this place, that we might glorify you as we use these offerings. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## **Invitation to Communion**

Pastor Gena

Last Saturday during the Spaghetti Dinner, Kathy Moninger-Ford and I had the pleasure and delight of delivering meals, complete with bread and butter, salad and dressing, and a choice of desserts to members and friends of our congregation who could not physically make it to the dinner. One person's response was, "Really wonderful meal! Thank everyone for me!!! Mainly, being thought of by the church was a real joy."

When I visit people at home or in care facilities or in the hospital, I am very aware that I represent not only myself but that I bring our congregation with me into that space. I represent the Church in that moment; I bring the comfort and encouragement of being in community again with people who love and care for, value and remember them. That evening, delivering meals on behalf of our congregation while so many of you were at the church, preparing and serving the same meals, was really special. We were all in it together, serving and bringing joy in the same moments. It was a wonderful sense of energy and connectedness to get to feel and experience.

I hope we have the same sense of togetherness and community as we partake of this Communion meal this morning. We gather with those present, those joining us online, those worshipping in their rooms and apartments as they read the Manor Minutes, those remembering what Sunday mornings used to be like when they could be here. And we gather with so many others coming today to a table like this to commune with each other and with our Lord Jesus.

Let us enjoy the feeling of experiencing this meal, together.

## **Communion Hymn**

*"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"*

Sam Johnson, organist

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come, why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home, when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he: his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me; his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free, for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

## **Prayer for the Bread & Cup**

Linda Reese

As we come to this table, gracious God, we feel humbled that you have invited us to be stewards of your mystery. We pray that we may not take this meal, or your love, lightly, not expecting anything to happen. Instead, touch us at the depths of our hearts, so that we may realize the power of your love. In eating this bread and drinking this cup, we remember Christ's sacrifice, how his life was poured out for us. Bless us with the gift of your Spirit as we partake, so we might be worthy of your trust. Amen

## Words of Institution

Pastor Gena

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

Pastor Gena

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

“Living for Jesus”

Sam Johnson, organist

Living for Jesus a life that is true, striving to please him in all that I do; yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free, this is the pathway of blessing for me. O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee, for thou, in thy atonement, didst give thyself for me; I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne, my life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for thee alone.

## Benediction

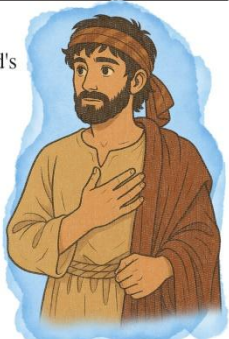
Rev. Stillwell

May the Lord our God bless you, may Christ the shepherd lead you, may the Holy Spirit sustain you this day and forevermore. Alleluia!

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

The book of Jonah tells the story of a prophet who ran from God, faced a storm and learned about God's mercy. Which of the following statements is **true**?

- A. Jonah told the sailors he was running from God, and they threw him overboard.
- B. The fish that swallowed Jonah washed up on the shores of Joppa.
- C. Jonah preached in Nineveh for forty days and forty nights.
- D. After the city repented, Jonah rejoiced and built an altar to the Lord.



Answer: A (See Jonah 1:9-15).



**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](http://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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Todd Barnhart  
Vanessa & John Berezney  
Jeff Caldwell  
Bryan Carter  
Wanda Chicone  
Angel Corbett  
Ruth Cox  
Dave Davis  
Sue Donaldson  
Craig Dotson  
Benjamin Dube  
Connie Faust  
Gary Ford  
Kathy Moninger-Ford  
Barb Graff  
Doris Haniford  
Irma Harper  
Sheila Harris  
Alberta Haught

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  
Nyka Rash  
Betty Riecks  
Jeannie Riffle  
Joan Riffle  
Lori Riffle  
Dee Ryan  
Mike Ryan

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.