

Manor Minutes
Volume 16 Issue 34
August 22, 2025

- Stewardship/Finance Ministry – August 25, 5:30pm
- Choir Practice – August 28, 6:30pm

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

Memorial Brick Garden

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.

CWS School Kits

Please return **school kit items** to the Narthex by this Sunday, August 24 or let Pastor Gena know what items you may still intend to buy.

Sunday School News

Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 7, at 9am. There is a class for everyone!



Gift cards available for purchase this week:

- Bath & Body Works (1)
- Cracker Barrel (2)
- Dick's Sporting Goods (3)
- Eat'n Park (3)
- Jimmy John's (1)
- Nike (1)
- Old Navy (2)
- Olive Garden (3)
- Outback (1)
- Panera (4)
- Red Robin (1)
- Texas Roadhouse (5)

Each gift card has \$25 loaded on them. The church earns an average of 10% on each card sold. Please see Pastor Gena after worship if you would like to purchase a card or 2 😊.

Church Picnic!

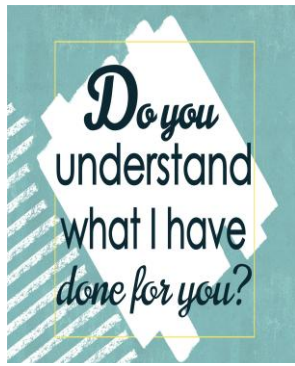
September 7
1:03pm
Washington
Park
Kiwanis
Pavilion



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. We are still in need of:

- 1 or 2 wrapped gifts for a Bingo prize
- Someone to pick up two boxes of pre-ordered, pre-paid chicken at Walmart at noon and take it to the park.
- Someone to make and bring lemonade in a drink cooler/dispenser (supplies available at the church)
- Someone to bring a small pot and supplies for coffee
- An additional person to help Tom Wallace arrange and cover tables in the Kiwanis Pavilion that morning (directions provided)
- One or two additional people to help Tom Wallace and Gary Ford clean up after the picnic
- Someone to return tables and other items to the church after the picnic

Pastor Gena will be making calls to see if she can find helpers for these items or you can sign up in the Narthex.



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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Gene Sheller, Bread
Connie Sheller, Cup
August 24, 2025 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Gary Ford

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord. Call on God's holy name.

People: Give thanks to the Lord. Sing to our God with shouts of joy.

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord. Proclaim God's mighty works.

People: Give thanks to the Lord. Proclaim the miracles of God's hands.

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord. Trust in God's saving love.

People: Give thanks to the Lord. Tell the wonders of God's glory.

Opening Hymn

"We Are Walking"

Jody Mullis, pianist
Charlotte Stillwell, drums

We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God. We are walking in the light of the light of God, we are walking, walking, we are walking, walking, we are walking in the light of God.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

O Lord, we long to hear a word directly from you, assuring us that we are yours, that you know us completely, that you have given us a name and a purpose in this life. O Lord, that you would put the very words in our mouths to speak when we are moved to comfort someone, words to speak when we are moved to challenge injustice, words to speak to live as the person you formed us to be. Reach out your hand to reassure and encourage and empower us this morning. Touch our lips with words that contribute to putting things right in this world.

Forgive us when our words and actions move against your purposes of love. We get caught up in what is right in front of us, in the movements of powers and the drama of life, in assurances that we know what needs to happen to push things along, that we forget to step aside to consider who you are and how you call us to follow you. Wash us clean again, O Lord. Even the parts of us that seem too far gone, too dirty, too embarrassing – wash them too. We want to be a part of you, a part of your work, a part of your world, so call us to yourself again and wash every part of us.

Help us to sense those moments when a part of life is coming to an end, when a big transition looms ahead, when a new beginning is unfolding. Help us to take time in those moments to reflect, to gather friends and family around us, to say goodbye well, to mark the occasion with meaning and purpose, to speak words of wisdom that we have gleaned, to count the joys and the sorrows. Change is hard for us, O Lord, and stopping to recognize it seems even more painful. But pausing to give thanks for one scene of life before the curtain opens on the next helps us to recognize that you are with us in what was and what is

and what will be. In you, we can hold the joy of the past in our hearts as we open ourselves up again to a new phase. May the joys of life become nourishing drops of goodness to savor.

Thank you for leading us in service, O Lord. Thank you for showing us that vulnerability and empathy, contemplation and caring are not instincts to be overcome but instead your promptings that show the way to life abundant. Thank you for friends and family and other angels of mercy who gather around us in our hour of need – those who wash us, those who encourage us, those who run our errands, and those who make us lunch. Thank you for those whose generosity allows us to be at home, to be comfortable, and to be safe.

Hear our prayers for dear ones who need a friend, who need company, who need loved ones to pay more attention, and who yearn for love. Hear our prayers for those who are afraid, those who are in pain, those who are without hope, and those who are anxious. Hear our prayers for all on our prayer list, especially those not able to be at home, all we have named aloud this morning, those unknown to us but known to you, and these ones we lift to you now in the silence of these moments....

Call our names with purpose and love, we pray. Give us the courage and grace to wrap your towel of your love and service around our waist this week, kneeling to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters. We pray this in the name of our Teacher and Lord, our Example in Service, Jesus the Christ, who teaches us to pray together...

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

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Donna Stenski

Special Music

“Day by Day,” by Brian Buda

Sam Johnson

Children’s Message

Rev. Stillwell

Last week we blessed the backpacks. I hope you know that when you go back to school God will be with you. You can always say a little prayer when you need some extra help or give thanks for something good that happens, but I hope you will also take Jesus with you to school.

How can you do that? Even if Jesus were standing right here you couldn’t take him to school could you? Or if you could you would have to take turns taking him, but Jesus once had a dinner with his disciples and did something very nice for them. He washed their feet. This was important because back then people often got around by walking on dusty roads and their feet would be filthy so it was common for there to be water to wash feet when you entered into a home, but when Jesus washed the disciples’ feet they were shocked. Usually a servant would do that but Jesus was their master.

Peter was so shocked he said, “You shall never wash my feet.” But by doing so Jesus said “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”

Whenever we help others we are being like Jesus. Now I am not expecting you to wash any feet at school, but if you help a new student who doesn't know where to go, share your lunch with someone who is hungry, help another student with some homework that they do not understand as well as you, or make a friend with someone who needs one, it is like you have brought Jesus to school with you.

Second Scripture Reading

John 13:1-17

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon **“Do you understand what I have done for you?”** Rev. Chris Stillwell

There are certain things that a person might consider beneath them. That's the phrase we use, beneath us, as if to say we are high and mighty and that thing or person is low and of little account. I remember applying for a job at a restaurant once and the last question the manager asked me was if I would be all right with getting dirty, because it can get pretty messy back there he said.

I looked him right in the eye and said, “I worked on a dairy farm for eight years. While I am sure it does get dirty back there, I am certain you don't have anything back there that can compare with that.” I got the job. While working there I learned that he hired a lot of teenagers who didn't like to get dirty and some who outright refused to clean the restrooms, so guess who got stuck with that job?

I can't say I like getting dirty only that it doesn't bother me so much, but I will say that it was one thing to clean an object and quite another to clean a person. That is a very intimate thing, and if we are talking about a person's feet it can be very smelly. And we are talking about cleaning a person's foot for on the night of the Last Supper, before his arrest and crucifixion, Jesus, knowing what was to come, got up from the table, removed his outer robe, tied a towel around himself, poured water into a basin, and began to wash the feet of his disciples.

Peter tries to object. Jesus seems to know that they will not fully understand but will understand at a later time. When he has finished and has sat back down, he asks them: “Do you know what I have done for you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right. So if I have washed your feet, so you also ought to wash another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”

Given this, you would think that foot washing would be something we would do more often, after all he gave us the command to observe the Lord's Supper, and we do, but I have been to only one foot washing service in my life. It is not very common and I imagine part of it is that we don't see it as being necessary. On a practical level washing one's feet when they entered home was common because in that time people often got around by walking on dusty roads and their feet would be filthy. Therefore, it was common for there to be water to wash feet when you entered into a home, but usually a servant would do that.

So our feet, dirty as they may be, are not nearly as dirty as the disciples feet would have been, but I also think the intimacy of washing feet is a bit much for many people. Oftentimes it is the person whose feet are being washed who are more uncomfortable than the ones washing them. As a result we do not follow Jesus' example of washing feet, but I also think that when Jesus said that he set an example for his disciples, it wasn't really about feet, specifically, but humbling oneself and serving others generally.

In effect, he's saying: “As those who call me Teacher and Lord and follow me, I am giving you this example of how you are to be. As I am for you, so you are to be for others.” The word “example” here really means “pattern.” Jesus is showing us the pattern that should now begin to show forth in life of each disciple. The same pattern of doing and being—for others.

When we work with Community Circle Food Pantry to help feed our community, we are washing feet. When we give our time to teach Sunday School, we are washing feet. When we visit the sick and the shut in, we are washing feet. When we collect school supplies for children we will never see, it is like we are washing feet.

Jesus does the same and asks if his disciples get it. “Do you know what I have done for you?” And when he asks, he's not, of course, simply asking about himself, do they get who he is? No—he's asking if they

know yet who they are to become, what kind of person they are to be, what service they are asked to freely offer. He's asking do you understand how you are to act when am gone.

This has been a sermon series about questions. Many of you have said how powerful it's been and because the questions are hard, they follow you around through the week, they keep working on you and in you. It's the kind of spiritual work that leads to growth, but it's not always easy or comfortable is it? That's the thing about Christianity. It is not a passive soaking up of what others teach and say, not even of what Jesus himself says.

Asking questions was central to Jesus' life and teaching. He does not give spiritual pointers or tips. He asks over 300 different questions in the gospels and of the questions he is asked, he only answers three directly. Instead, he is always requiring his disciples to do more than simply listen. The questions God asks us, the questions Jesus asks, challenge us to look into the hidden places of our own hearts and priorities, our values, our lives.

They bring to the surface unanswered or unaddressed questions within us which begin to give us glimpses into new depths of faith. This is what Christ has done for us. Jesus' questions model the life and pattern of faith---our God is relational and we share with God an alive, vital, life-giving relationship that includes wonder and struggle and thinking and reflection and sacrifice and service, always going deeper, always reaching farther, always stretching wider to participate in the great pattern of life that is Christ Jesus.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once wrote that "we are closer to God when we are asking questions than when we think we have the answers." If you aren't sure what that means look at Peter. When he thinks he has it all figured out he thinks that even Jesus can't teach him. He rebukes Jesus. Having some answers is great, but we never have all the answers, therefore, as Christians, part of the pattern of our life should always be asking questions.

Faith is an adventure, and it is one we experience profoundly personally and also together. We have one more question to look at together next week, but, as we move into the fall, we will begin a new series both in children's Sunday school and in the pulpit about biblical practices for faithful living. In other words if we believe that Jesus is the son of God, and we believe he has the power to give us eternal life, and if we are trying to follow his example, what should the pattern of our life be? How should we act?

For now it suffices to say that if we understand what Jesus has done for us then we will know that nothing and no one is beneath us. We do not have to go around washing everyone's feet, but we do need to be willing to get a little dirty if we think it can help someone else's soul get clean.

Call to Offering

Von Lacock

We all have different gifts, but we are members of one body. We are called to present ourselves as a living offering, holy and acceptable to God. This is our spiritual worship. Let us now offer our lives and our gifts to God, the giver of life.

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

Rev. Stillwell

Generous, compassionate God, accept these tokens of our gratitude for your many gifts. Bless them that they may go forth and bless the world. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

"Calvary" and "cavalry" are words that are commonly confused, mispronounced, and interchanged with each other. And, yes, they are sometimes confused in the religious community as well. A traditional member of the cavalry came to save people like Jesus did, but a cavalry man rode a war-horse, a symbol

of a cause promoted by force, bloodshed, and violence. Calvary, in contrast, is the symbol of a cause advanced by peace and self-sacrifice. Jesus rode into Jerusalem, not on a war horse, but on a donkey, on the way to Calvary knowing that the cavalry would not come.

Therefore, we gather to remember that at the Last Supper, although he knew who would betray him, Jesus ate with Judas. Although he knew his disciples would abandon him he washed their feet. Although he knew guards were coming to arrest him in the garden he rebuked his disciple for drawing a sword. Although he could have called a cavalry of angels to rescue him, he gave his life on Calvary.

When Jesus asked his disciples that night, “Do you understand what I have done for you?” they really didn’t then, but later they would understand that what he did for them was to disabuse them of the notion that might makes right and taught them that love conquers all.

As we bear our crosses in this day and age, we must remember his example and solve our problems with sacrifice and grace rather than with force and intimidation. We must remember to look to Calvary to save us rather than to the cavalry.

Communion Hymn

“Kum ba Yah”

Sam Johnson, organist

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord! Kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Gene Sheller

Dear God, it is good for us, as a group of your children, to be together in this place. It is good for us to be together at this table. You have promised to always be with us. Please help us to understand what Jesus has done for us. Please help us to continue to help each other as we have always done.

We come here to remember Jesus’ sacrifice of his body and blood to save us from our sins so that we can be with our three person creator for eternity. Please bless the bread we eat in memory of his body and the cup we drink in memory of his blood, and please bless us as we eat and drink together. In Jesus’ holy 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

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

Call to Discipleship

Rev. Stillwell

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

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

Closing hymn

"Jesu, Jesu"

Sam Johnson, organist

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who acts as a slave to them.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Having clothed ourselves in Christ, let us be Christ to a world that hungers and thirsts for love. In the name of the great giver of life, the one who is life itself and the breath of life; go in peace to love and serve the world. Amen.

WITH DEEPEST ♥
Sympathy

Fairhill Manor extends its sympathy to the families of Shirley Cavanaugh and Nancy McCann.

Nancy McCann passed away on August 17. Her funeral was private.

Shirley Cavanaugh passed away August 19. Her viewing will be Friday, August 22 from 2-4pm and 6-8pm in the Neal Funeral Home, Washington. Her funeral will be Saturday, August 23 at 2pm at the funeral home.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.



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
Angel Corbett
Ruth Cox
Dave Davis
Sue Donaldson
Craig Dotson
Benjamin Dube
Connie Faust
Kathy Moninger-Ford
Barb Graff
Doris Haniford
Irma Harper
Sheila Harris
Alberta Haught

Southminster Residents

880 S Main St
Washington PA 15301

Bo & Patty Pryor, Apt 102
Doris Sorice, Apt 336
Chuck Wiseman, Apt 214

Aryn Hess
Danni Iams
Ed Jackman
Kari Johnson
Brandon Keenan
Von Lacock
Marylee Lawrence
David Leonard
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

Premier Residents

36 Old Hickory Ridge Rd
Washington PA 15301

Carol Brown, Rm 213

John Samida
Gene Sheller
Valerie Shetler
Doug Smith
Darci Spowls
Wayne Starnes
Cathy Stewart
Jan Stillwell
Beth Teagarden
Jane Teagarden
Ginger Throckmorton
Candy Wasalasky
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.