

Manor Minutes
Volume 16 Issue 37
September 12, 2025

- Dartball – September 16, 7pm @ Home
 - Stewardship/Finance Ministry – September 17, 5:30pm
 - Choir Practice – September 18, 6:30pm
 - Funeral Service for Linda Martin – September 20, 11am
- Stay up to date at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



- School Kit Assembly – October 5
- Trunk or Treat – October 26



September 28
4pm
Front Lawn

DECEMBER

Our **DRIVE-THRU** Nativity will be Saturday and Sunday, **December 13 and 14**. Please mark your calendars now to save both dates. We will need 50 people to be characters as well as others to help in the many different ways to make this a great community event. Please ask relatives, neighbors, friends, to participate. Give Connie their contact information if they can help. Thank you very much!



Gift cards available for purchase this week:

- Bath & Body Works (1)
- Dick's Sporting Goods (1)
- Eat'n Park (2)
- Jimmy John's (1)
- Old Navy (2)
- Olive Garden (2)
- Outback (1)
- Panera (1)
- Texas Roadhouse (2)

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 ☺.



**“Look, here
is the Lamb
of God!”**

John 1:36, NRSV

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

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Gary Ford, Bread
Jackie Nelson, Cup

September 14, 2025 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Carol Daniels

Leader: The time is near!

People: The night is past.

Leader: Leave the darkness behind.

People: Live in the light of God's love.

Leader: Set aside selfish ways.

People: Share Christ's love wherever you are.

Leader: The time is near!

All: Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn

“Great Is the Lord”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just, by his power we trust in his love. Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true, by his mercy he proves, he is love. Great is the Lord and worthy of glory. Great is the Lord and worthy of praise. Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice; Great is the Lord, great is the Lord.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

O Lord, we lift our voices in song to you, for you have done marvelous things! Your love is steadfast. You are faithful to your promises. In you we find truth and mercy. If only the whole earth and everything in it could make a joyful noise to you! Every one of our instruments joining all our voices in praise to you! We sing a new song to you, for you are always finding new ways to love us and sustain us, new ways to make yourself known to us.

Almighty God, you love us. Forgive us when we do not love you. You call us. Forgive us when we do not listen: when we walk away from those in need, when we are too wrapped up in our own concerns, when we condone evil and prejudice, greed and violence. God of grace, lead us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us with mercy, we might repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness. O Lord, we want to follow Jesus, yet we often stumble and fall along the way. Praise be to you that you do not condemn us but instead lift us up to continue the journey. In you we are forgiven and loved. We lift our voices in song to you!

Thank you for this community where we belong, where we can practice living as a disciple of Jesus, joining in his ministry and his mission of love. Thank you for those who have led us to you. Thank you for those who have encouraged and challenged us as we've grown as your disciples. Thank you for those who shepherd us and guide us, who help us find the way through difficult and anxious times.

Please be with those who are looking for hope. Please be with those who are yearning for love. We ask your blessing on all of us who are gathered in worship, asking that you will meet the need each one of us has this morning. May we hear you calling our names, inviting us into your goodness and light. Make your presence known to those who worship you from their homes, from their hospital or care facility rooms, we pray. Hear our prayer for those on our prayer list. Please hear our prayers that we offer to you now in the silence...

You are our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, for you are with us. Hear our prayers in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, who teaches us to pray, 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

Psalm 98:1-5

Linda Reese

Anthem

“It Is Well with My Soul,” by Philip Bliss

Choir

Children’s Message

Pastor Gena

Today we are talking about how Jesus calls us to follow him, to do things the way he did them. He says that the way to follow him is to love God and to love other people. There are so many ways we can love God and love other people. I think that in this Sanctuary this morning, we could name so many ways that we have loved God and loved other people this week. Will you help me go ask some people how they have done that?

I wonder how you have loved God this week. And how you have loved someone else this week. I wonder how you have loved yourself as God’s child this week.

Dear God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for asking us to follow Jesus. Help us to show you that we love you. Help us to find ways to love other people this week. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

John 1:35-51

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“Come and You Will See”

Rev. Chris Stillwell

I am sure I don’t have to tell you that celebrities and athletes can make a lot of money. They don’t all make a lot of money, but if you are able to make it to the top of your respective industry or sport you can be one of the wealthiest people in the world. That is why fans get frustrated if a player is threatening to not play because they are upset if they are making only 4 or 5 million dollars. Their problems are definitely not our problems.

What I find interesting is that often their salary is only a small portion of their wealth. Michael Jordan might be the greatest man to ever play basketball, and for that he was handsomely rewarded with 93 million dollars over the course of his 15-year playing career, but do you know how much he has made in

endorsements? He has received 1.4 million dollars to sell a product, to recommend a game, to put his silhouette on a shoe, to appear in a commercial, or to lend his name, likeness, or approval to a product.

So, the greatest player of all time is probably the greatest pitch man of all time having earned more than 14 times his salary in endorsements. This is possible for many reasons. First, it is easy to do a commercial, so he could do a lot of them. Second, it is even easier to put your name or face on a product. It is simply a matter of signing a contract. Third, his career was long but still only a fourth of his life so far, whereas he can do endorsements all of his life. Finally, we as a society are really enamored with famous people.

There are some times when it makes sense. A basketball player endorses a basketball shoe, a musician an instrument, a movie star a jacket, a model a perfume, and we might think that we could be more like them if we owned those things, but whenever I see commercials of Shaquille O'Neal selling cut rate car insurance I have to wonder, who is this working on?

Often times celebrities and athletes endorse small things, because the truly great and valuable things in life need no such endorsements. If this is true then we would assume that Jesus and his followers needed very little advertising and yet, the gospels, all four of them, come off as extended infomercials for Christ and the grace, truth, pardon, and hope that he offers.

Now Jesus is no marketer, but he still must convince people who he is. He begins with incredible endorsements, first from God at his baptism, and then from John the Baptist who tells his own disciples when Jesus walked by, "Look, here is the lamb of God." These endorsements lead directly to Andrew and Peter becoming Christ's first disciples.

Still, with the best endorsements a person can get, Jesus only gets two converts. This is in large part because Jesus, himself, doesn't make a strong sales pitch. In fact, he realizes that there is no way to explain who he is and why they should follow, and no reason to believe that they would believe even if he could, so he simply says to Andrew and Peter when they want to know where he is staying, "come and you will see".

In other words, it is a no risk opportunity. They can come and if they don't see great things then they can leave, but Christ knows they will see great things so their satisfaction is guaranteed. It works so well that he tries it successfully with Phillip and then Phillip tries the same technique on a man named Nathaniel. First, Phillip tries the hard sell when he tells Nathaniel, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus, son of Joseph from Nazareth." This is a significant claim, one that on the surface is too good to be true and Nathaniel cynically responds, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

This is similar to the attitude that most people have about things advertised in our day and age. Can anything be good if it is advertised at 2:00 in the morning? Can anything be good for the low, low price of \$20? Can anything be good if it can be obtained in three easy installments?

It is also the typical outlook of one who believes that something is no good if it is local. Every important and famous person comes from somewhere. Everything invented was invented somewhere, but so many people believe that good things happen elsewhere, in some other town in the world, where most of the residents, themselves, believe nothing good can happen. It is funny that the part of the sales pitch Nathaniel finds too hard to swallow isn't that Jesus is the Messiah or the one written of in the prophets, but that he is from Nazareth.

It is obvious that Nathaniel cannot be talked into following, so Phillip tries the no risk approach. He doesn't argue or debate he simply does what Jesus did and says, "Come and See"

Come and see for yourself. Don't take my word for it. Try Jesus for yourself, and if you are not completely satisfied you can return. So, Nathaniel takes Philip up on his offer and meets Jesus who says,

Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Now truth be told this is no great claim of Christ. It stands to reason that Nathaniel would have sat under a fig tree at some point in his life just as you and I are likely to have set under an oak. In fact, scholars believe that this means Nathaniel was studying Torah. Again, it could reasonably be assumed that anyone who decided to see if someone was the Messiah was a student of the scriptures. It is a common trick of psychics to make a general statement that is likely to be true and let the other person fill in the blank because they want to believe.

Jesus knew this and laughed that Nathaniel's cynicism was so easily broken saying:

Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Now we get to it. The claim that no one else can make. The promise that can only be experienced to be believed. If Nathaniel followed and all he ever saw Jesus do was fun parlor tricks guessing people's names and what they were doing, would he have stayed? Not likely. It is because what Jesus said was true and Nathaniel and all the disciples saw greater things, things that could not have been described or even imagined let alone believed.

It is amazing how we can be so impressed with simple things, but non-plused by the truly great things. Magicians and marketers wow us with their illusions, and we too often don't notice the great things that are real. It is so often reflected in the things for which we ask God. We ask for simple things, money, football, signs, but too often don't ask God to open the heavens and let his Spirit pour down. God offers to change our lives forever, but too often we look for God to deliver small rewards or take care of small problems, and whether or not God can do this determines whether or not we will believe.

We live in a world that promises much more than it can deliver. Wars promise peace, drugs promise happiness, money promises security, advertising promises fulfillment. Failed promises lead many to become cynical and they cannot be argued into believing that greater things are possible.

Sometimes the reason that people do not believe in Christ is because the people who are selling him promise too much, or try to coerce and threaten, or sell a gospel of greed or hate that is obvious contrary to even the person with the most causal knowledge of Christ.

We are beginning our year long look at Biblical practices for faithful living, which simply means how should we act if we follow Christ. There are many things we should do, many patterns that should be developed in our life, but first among them is simply to accept Jesus' invitation to come and see. Come and see if God doesn't do great things.

All we need to do is what the disciples did, and that is, "come and see". Come and see if following Christ won't cause you to see greater things in your life. Come and see if he cannot transform your heart and being. Come and see if he cannot fill the void in your life and fulfill the promise of your heart. You have nothing to lose and much greater things to gain.

Call to Offering

Kevin Puskarich

We are called to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer, and contribute to the needs of the saints. With glad and generous hearts, let us share the offerings of our life with the Lord of all 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

God of light and love, you provide all that we need. As first you gave the gift of life and love to us, so now we bring our gifts to you. May they reflect the love and concern we have for our neighbors. May they represent our commitment to build communities of freedom and hope. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

If somebody we know and trust endorses something we are most likely to try it. When I want to buy a product I usually ask my friends for their suggestions. The more expensive the item the more recommendations I need. If I wanted to get something that was priceless I am not sure how many recommendations would need, but when I come to this table where the gifts that await are priceless I have only one recommendation. That is Christ who tells me to take, eat, take, drink do this in remembrance of me.

It is because he recommends it that I am here. Even Paul is careful to note that he passes on what was handed on to him. I can't think of anything so valuable that I would get with so few recommendations, but there are two differences. The first is the one recommending, the son of God himself. I trust his recommendations more than the average person. The other difference is that this meal costs me nothing, even though it cost him everything. As we share in this meal let us give thanks for the one who recommended it to us and let us leave the table ready to recommend to others as well.

Communion Hymn

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

Sam Johnson, organist

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Gary Ford

Heavenly Father, today's lesson is a simple one: Share the gospel with others! Jesus called the disciples, they shared the gospel and it changed the world. When we share the good news of Jesus Christ it strengthens our own faith. When we come to this table we strengthen our faith. When we take this bread and this cup we are sharing and strengthening our faith. Give us the strength and courage as disciples to make disciples. 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

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Sam Johnson, organist

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus—no turning back, no turning back.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

Go forth with confidence and hope, because God's love has been poured into your hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Puzzle!

Who made the following statements in the Bible?

1. "Am I my brother's keeper?"
Samuel, John, Cain, Andrew
2. "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you."
Peter, James, John, Paul
3. "What is truth?"
Herod, Pilate, Simon Magus, Cornelius
4. "Choose you this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!"
Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua
5. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
Nathaniel, John, Peter, Paul
6. "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"
Herod Agrippa, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas
7. "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go."
Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Rahab
8. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
Paul, Peter, James, Barnabas

Answers: 1. Cain (Genesis 4:9); 2. Peter (Matthew 16:16); 3. Pilate (John 18:38); 4. Joshua (Joshua 24:15); 5. Peter (Matthew 16:16); 6. Herod Agrippa (Acts 26:28); 7. Ruth (Ruth 1:16); 8. Paul (2 Timothy 4:7)



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
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Southminster Residents

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

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Washington PA 15301

Carol Brown, Rm 213

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

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