

Manor Minutes
Volume 16 Issue 26
June 27, 2025

- Personnel Committee – July 2, 6pm
- Office Closed – July 4th

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



On Sunday, June 29, we will collect a 5th Sunday of the month offering for the **Funeral Dinner Fund**. Envelopes will be included in the bulletin. Please give as you can.

Board Reports are due to the office by July 2 for the July 9 Board Meeting.

!!!New Date!!!

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

August 2, 4-8pm

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for help needed before and during the dinner.

FMCC will be 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.



FMCC Night at
Washington Wild Things
Friday, August 22, 7pm
Fireworks Night

Tickets - \$10/person
Parking Pass - \$2/car

Sign up in the Narthex for tickets and parking passes.

Please turn in cash or check
(payable to FMCC) to the office by
August 3

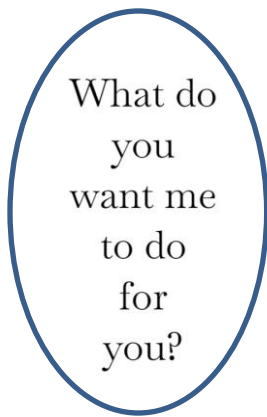


Gift cards available this week



Each gift card has \$25 loaded on it. 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 😊.

- Cracker Barrel (2)
- Dick's (1)
- Olive Garden (2)
- Outback (2)
- Panera Bread (1)
- Texas Roadhouse (7)



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
Jody Mullis, Cup

June 29, 2025 – 10:15am

Prelude

Sam Johnson, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Serena Dube

Leader: We will call to mind the works of the Lord,

People: And remember God's wonders of old.

Leader: In times of trouble, we cry out to God,

People: Longing for our souls to be comforted.

Leader: When our spirits are weary,

People: We reach for God's arms.

Leader: Even when we don't feel courageous,

People: We need to receive God's peace.

Leader: For God's ways are holy,

People: And God's grace is great.

Opening Hymn

"He Has Made Me Glad"

Jody Mullis, pianist

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart, I will enter his courts with praise. I will say
"This is the day that the Lord has made." I will rejoice for he has made me glad.

He has made me glad, oh he has made me glad, I will rejoice for he has made me glad.

He has made me glad, oh he has made me glad, I will rejoice for he has made me glad.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

Mighty God, your powers are beyond our comprehension, stronger than a whirlwind, and yet you are standing before each one of us, ready to listen and asking "What do you want me to do for you?" We praise you, for your care and concern for us astounds us. Give us the faith to search our hearts and answer you from the depths of who we are.

Forgive us when we pester ourselves and others with reminders that loss is coming, with lists of worst case scenarios, with warnings as if we can see the future, with all or nothing thinking. Give us instead the grace to encourage others to enjoy the moment that is at hand, to center ourselves in the present, knowing that you hold all moments in your hands and walk through each one with us. Bring a balance to our reminiscing about the past, our planning ahead, and our sitting in the gift of this moment.

We thank you for leaders who have gone before us. It is hard to imagine that we will be able to carry their legacy forward, yet you give us the gifts we need for ministry in this time and in this place. Help us

to feel both the weight and the opportunity of receiving the mantles they pass, for with you, all things are possible.

Thank you for faithful companions who bless in ways we don't expect, who make our way through difficulty a little easier, who brighten our days with joy and wonder.

Thank you for parting the waters when we aren't strong enough to pass through them, when we can't find a way around them. Thank you for moments when we look back upon, realizing that your hand was guiding us in an uncertain time, leading us so that we could get the help we needed or so that we were ready and nearby to help someone else in their time of need.

Hear our prayers now for those near and far who need your loving care. We pray for those who are experiencing major life events, whether with excitement or with apprehension, whether saying good-bye or greeting new adventure. We pray for those whose bodies can't do what they used to do, and for those whose minds can't remember what they want them to. We pray for those who are afraid, dreading the next blow. We pray for those in need of your healing and those who need to know that you love them and listen to their cries. Now please hear our prayers for those we have named aloud this morning, those on our prayer list, and those we know who need your care...

Thank you for hearing our prayers and answering them in your way and in your time. All of this we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, who taught 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

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Rita Puskarich

Special Music

"Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho"

Solo by Jody Mullis, accompanied by Sam Johnson

Children's Message

Pastor Gena

A Children Worship & Wonder Story: "Jesus and Bartimaeus" based on Mark 10:46-52.

From Young Children and Worship by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 10:35-52

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

"What Do You Want Me To Do For You?"

Rev. Chris Stillwell

What do you want me to do for you? This is a question that we are asked many times in our life and most of the time I expect that we have a ready answer. At a store we want our purchases rung up. At the restaurant we want our food to be brought to us. At the DMV we want our driver's license picture taken.

Other times we are less sure about exactly what will happen, we just know what we want the result to be. At the Dr. we want our pain to go away, but without a shot, surgery, or being asked to give up coffee. At

the garage we want the noise in our car to be resolved but without costing a lot of money. At the hairdresser we want to look good and different, but not too different and in a way that we can recreate in a couple of days when the hairdresser isn't there.

So many people ask us "What do you want me to do for you?" and we know that people asking the question can do one particular thing which is the reason we are standing in front of them, but what if that person were Jesus Christ? What would we say to him if he asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

I wonder how many times Jesus asks this question. By this time, Jesus and his disciples have been on the way to Jerusalem for quite some time. As soon as our passage for today concludes, Jesus will begin to make preparations for his entry into Jerusalem, so the cross is the lens through which Mark wants us to interpret what happens on the way. It is instructive that the journey to Jerusalem begins with the healing of a blind man and ends with the healing of another blind man. These two rhetorical book ends act as a commentary on the perception surrounding what it means ultimately to follow God.

What does that mean? Let's take a look at both ends of this journey. In chapter eight, prior to the first healing of the blind man, the disciples had just witnessed the feeding of the 4,000 and immediately after Jesus and his disciples get into a boat, but the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread. Jesus begins speaking about the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod and the disciples think Jesus is talking about the fact that they neglected to bring food for the boat ride, to which he responds, "Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear . . . Do you still not understand?"

Jesus scolds them about failing to see clearly, failing to understand so it is apropos that the first thing that happens when they land in Bethsaida is that Jesus heals a blind man. Next, we jump ahead to the second half of Mark's rhetorical bookend, the healing of blind Bartimaeus.

Mark employs a rhetorical inclusio which is the bracketing of similar stories at the beginning and end of a section of text. Mark's retelling of the journey to Jerusalem that includes, on both ends, a passion, a prediction, a misunderstanding of Messiahship, and a healing of a blind man, all in close proximity. The first part of the inclusio has the healing of the blind man, the misunderstanding of Messiahship, and the passion prediction. For the second part, Mark reverses the order giving us a passion prediction, a misunderstanding of Messiahship, and the healing of a blind man. The effect of the inclusio is to highlight the inherent potential of misunderstanding what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

This misunderstanding is perfectly demonstrated by the Jesus telling the disciples for a third time about his impending death. And how do they respond? James and John, in as great a display of cluelessness as is evidenced anywhere in the Bible, break up the discussion about Jesus being hung on the cross to ask him a favor, to which Jesus says, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Believing that their wish is his command they say, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.". Can't you see Jesus's face in your mind? He's just explained the humiliation he's about to endure being sentenced to die as a common thief and criminal. When James and John demonstrate that they're totally blind to the genius of this new kingdom by asking if they can have seats at his inauguration, to which Jesus says, "You do not understand what you ask."

Then, in another wonderful piece of scripting, Bartimaeus, another blind man shows up on the scene on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem, immediately before the triumphal entry and says, "Son of David, have mercy on me." Once again when asked a favor, Jesus says, "What do you want me to do for you?" Only this time, the answer isn't one that betrays the blindness of its speaker. Indeed, Barnabas, the blind man finally gives Jesus the right answer; the answer the disciples who have been with Jesus all this time should have been given all along. Bartimaeus says, "My teacher, let me see again."

The disciples who, of all people, should be able to see who Jesus is and what the implications for His Messiahship entail, are the very last ones to figure out what's going on. Even blind men who have never met him have more of a clue about his identity, and are more capable of seeing correctly the reality in the New Kingdom than the people who have signed up for the long haul.

Doesn't following God often turn out that way? We're so often sure where Jesus is headed, so certain of our ability to understand where Jesus is going. Our lives go along so smoothly. We go to church, give to charities, donate food to the local pantry. Our view of the world is constructed such that we may not always be heroes, but we're usually on the side of truth and justice. We may have our own issues, but when it's all said and done, we figure we have a pretty good handle on how the reign of God will play out, but what if Jesus doesn't share our perspective? What if we were to find out that following Jesus isn't about reconfirming all the things we already always believed but being given new sight that reorders our understanding of the way the world works so that we finally see the way that Jesus sees?

In effect, the healing of blind Bartimaeus, after the disciples asked Jesus for positions of power in the New Kingdom, and just prior to the triumphal entry, shows a relentless inability on the part of the followers of Jesus to understand that the New Kingdom is one that can only be grasped after relinquishing our command our common understandings of power. In other words, only when we begin to understand our blindness to the way God sees the world are we ever able to begin seeing how God seeks to embrace the world.

We think we have a pretty good understanding of how Jesus works so when Jesus asks, what do you want me to do for you? we believe we know how to respond. Give me healing, give me wealth, give me glory, give me peace. These are the things we think is what will enable us better to follow Jesus on the way. According to Mark, however, when Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" what we need to ask for is, "My teacher, let me see, again." One true glimpse through the eyes of Jesus can change our life, and indeed the world.

Call to Offering

Gary Ford

God has given us a calling and equipped us with an abundant share of God's own Spirit. These are gifts for us to use and to share.

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

Gracious God, you have put your Spirit within us and laid your mantle upon us. These are gifts we could never earn and can never repay. Yet we are filled with your love, joy, patience, peace, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And so we offer them all to you, grateful to pass them on to your people and to your world. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

I imagine that Jesus had to ask the question, "What do you want me to do for you?" hundreds of times. Everywhere he went people came up to him with request upon request. "Heal me, feed me, forgive me, bless me, let me sit at your right hand," are all response recorded in the Bible but I am sure there were many more. The thing that strikes me most about this question is that Jesus asks it at all.

Surely the messiah, whom we believe was God, knew the people's needs? I do not think that the question was a search for knowledge, like a doctor appraising his patient. Rather, I think that Jesus asked the question as an opportunity for the person to respond. We ask God for so much that if we were to keep

track of our prayers they would look like a shopping list of things much more important than groceries, but when asked by Jesus what they want, inevitably people respond with just one thing. Asking the question therefore puts the person on the spot to declare what it is they want the most. Sometimes, in the case of a person blind or unable to walk, or a mother whose child has died the answer is obvious. Other times perhaps it isn't clear to the person until they are asked.

I don't know that we need to say anything specific to God if God knows our very thoughts, but it helps us to verbalize them. It helps us to speak our needs so we see what is truly important to us. We may not encounter Jesus face to face as Bartimaeus did, but every time we come to this table we do so to ask God's help and always the question is before us, "What do you want Jesus to do for you?"

There are things that we might ask like Bartimaeus did that would be granted us and things that we might ask like James and John to which Jesus might say, "You do not know what you ask" It is important the we consider carefully what we want, and always consider what Christ would want of us. In all of our petitions, however let us also be sure to ask of Christ what do you want me to do for you? I think if that question is always a part of our prayers it will go a long way to us seeing the results we wish to see.

Communion Hymn

"See Ye First"

Sam Johnson, organist

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Gary Ford

Lord, we ask for mercy, forgiveness and guidance. Today we learned of the physical healing of Bartimaeus when he appealed to Jesus and his sight was restored, because of his faith. But, here at your table, we are asking for a spiritual healing. Open our eyes to see your presence in our lives and help us to follow you more closely. As we take this communion may it strengthen our faith, but our love for you. 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

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

Sam Johnson, organist

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms. Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms, leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

May the joy of the Lord warm your hearts, may the peace of the Lord calm your spirits, and may the word of the Lord direct your ways.

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 (Acts 3:6); 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!

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Cathy Stewart
Beth Teagarden
Jane Teagarden

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.